

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
August 9, 2021**



Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Frank Coelho, Commissioner
Cameron Durant, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Ken Pottel, Fairhaven Pickleball
Sean Powers, Fairhaven Pickelball
Brandon Luscombe, AMP
Tyler Perry, SSMC Interview
Seth Arruda, SSMM Interview
Doug Brady, 97 Pleasant Street

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. July 26, 2021

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of July 26, 2021. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. July 12, 2021 – Executive Session

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of July 12, 2021 – Executive Session. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. July 26, 2021 – Executive Session

Mr. Coelho motioned to approve the minutes of July 26, 2021 – Executive Session. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Ken Pottel, Pickleball Court Livesey Park

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Mr. Pottel – I am the President of the Fairhaven Pickleball Association. A year ago, the Board of Public Works voted in favor of putting a pickleball court at Cushman Park. Our association has grown to over 100 members that play every week and for that reason we are here tonight to ask for your support to put 5 pickleball courts at Livesey Park.

Mr. Hobson – What size is a pickleball court?

Mr. Pottel – it is 1/3 the size of a tennis court.

Mr. Powers - The sport is growing and people are always joining us and taking free lessons. We thought we could put the new courts next to the courts that are currently there. We are open to suggestions of other possible locations if the Board does not want them at Livesey Park. We thought this would be a great place because one of the items in Fairhaven's Master Plan is to expand Livesey Park.

Mr. Hobson – Have you thought of any other locations? We have Macomber Park down Sconticut Neck that no one uses.

Mr. Wotton – Were you able to secure a grant for the funding?

Mr. Hobson - What do you think that this will cost?

Mr. Pottel - Around \$150,000.

Mr. Coelho - I know when I drive by there in the morning there are plenty of parking spots. I have heard a lot of good things about pickleball and I know that everyone that I spoke with that lives by there thinks that this is a good idea.

Mr. Wotton - I think that this is a great spot and by grouping the courts together it will be a lot easier when we have to resurface and reline the courts.

Mr. Hobson - Maybe someone could go and see the Town Planner, as he is the one that gets the grants for the Towns.

Mr. Pottel - We are planning to raise as much money as possible to pay for the courts.

Mr. Wotton – You have our support. Feel free to reach out if there is anything that we can help with.

B. Pattie Pacella, Longworth Little Library, Bike Path at Shaw Road

Ms. Pacella - I am the President of the Fairhaven Rotary Club and as many of you know Carolyn Longworth was the Librarian at the Millicent Library for the past 40 years and she was the first woman member of the Fairhaven Rotary Club. She retired right before Covid and we would like to donate a Little Library in her name and place it somewhere in East Fairhaven. We came up with a few locations and we think that the best place to put it would be on the bike path at the Shaw Road entrance. We

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thought that this would be a good place because Ms. Longworth likes to go there and bird watch as she has done for many years.

Mr. Coelho - I think that this is a good idea and it also helps with recycling books.

Ms. Pacella - Do you have a preference of where we should place it.

Mr. Wotton - We will have Mr. Charbonneau mark out the best location that is out of the way.

Mr. Coelho motioned to approve the Longworth Little Library at the entrance of the bike path at Shaw Road. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Brennan Luscombe, AMP's Public Community Solar

Mr. Luscombe- I am a commercial sales associate for AMP Solar Energy. We currently have 13 active community solar farms in Massachusetts as well as 25 Municipalities that are subscribed to our projects. We have a new project that we are developing in Sandwich that is designated for public entities. I have reached out to Whitney in the Sustainability Office to see if the Board of Public Works may be interested in off-site solar. Since water and sewer pumping stations have a lack of available space this would be a great opportunity. The first year is estimated at a savings of \$31,000 and over 20 years we estimate a savings of about \$700,000 if the Board of Public Works chooses to participate in our program.

Mr. Furtado – Are these estimates based on the invoices that we sent you?

Mr. Luscombe – Yes, these estimates are based on the 27 Eversource bills that I received. Over the past 12 months, we estimated that you spent approximately \$345,000. Using those numbers, we could save you around \$31,000. That would make your new amount that you spend around \$314,000.

Mr. Furtado – The reason I brought that up is because we will be embarking on an upgrade to our Wastewater Plant and that is going to cost us between 40 and 50 million dollars.

Mr. Luscombe – The project that we are developing on the cape is estimate to be finished in 2023. We can apply the credits to those new bills as well.

Mr. Furtado – I know that the Board is looking to save the residents as much money as possible.

Mr. Luscombe- This is a free program that falls under the Massachusetts Smart Program and we are guaranteeing these savings. Also, we are bringing the project to you so you do not have to worry about any equipment or maintenance.

Mr. Wotton - What do you need from us to move forward?

Mr. Luscombe - We sent over a credit purchase agreement and the next step would be for Town Counsel to review the documents and give us feedback. If this is something that the Board is interested in moving forward with we would like to see it finalized within the next few months.

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Mr. Wotton - We will send the purchase agreement to Town Counsel and once we hear back from him we will reconvene.

D. Interview for Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman

Mr. Furtado- As you are aware we had a few employees retire and then we had a few promotions internally, which has led to a few vacancies. A few weeks ago, we transferred one employee from the Highway Department to the Sewer Department. We have posted this job externally and Mr. Perry applied for that position. Currently Mr. Perry has a Grade 1 wastewater license and understands that he does need to get a higher license. Before the Board interviews him, I checked with Town Counsel on what needed to be done because we are related. Attorney Crotty recommended that I make full disclosure that we are related by marriage and if the Board decided to hire him you would have to vote.

Mr. Perry - I grew up in Acushnet, I then moved to New Bedford and attended New Bedford Voke Tech. After graduation, I attended college in Indiana on a Bowling Scholarship and graduated with an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice and Bachelor's in Homeland Security. During the summers, I worked at the wastewater plant and I did that for 6 years. Currently I have been with the Fairhaven Police Department as a dispatcher for a year and a half now. I am looking to be hired as a Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman to better myself and work normal hours.

Mr. Hobson - I think that this is a great choice for you to come here. There is room for advancement within the department and you seem like a very intelligent young man.

Mr. Coelho - We received a letter of support from the Sewer Superintendent and I think that you will make a great addition to the department.

Mr. Coelho motioned that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from Mr. Furtado and to hire Mr. Perry as a Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman at a Grade 9 Step 1 pending pre-employment screenings. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Interview for Sewer System Maintenance Man

Mr. Furtado - Mr. Robillard and I interviewed Mr. Arruda and we both feel that he is more than qualified for the position. His family has been in the sewer business for years.

Mr. Hobson - You come from a hardworking family and I think that you will be a great addition to the sewer department.

Mr. Arruda - I am a hard worker and I want to expand and get my licenses.

Mr. Coelho - I think that he will be a good asset to the Town of Fairhaven.

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Mr. Wotton - We will continue pushing you to get your license and the town will help you as much as possible.

Mr. Hobson motioned to hire Mr. Arruda at a Grade 7 Step 1 pending pre-employment screenings. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Interview for Highway Department Heavy Motor Equipment Operator

Mr. Furtado – We can skip over this because the gentleman that we were going to recommend to the Board for hire withdrew his application.

V. Item for Action

A. Authorized Signatures

Mr. Wotton – This is something that we do every year for the Town Accountant to verify our signatures.

B. Sign BPW Superintendent's Contract Agreement

Mr. Coelho motioned to sign the BPW Superintendent's Contract Agreement. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. BPW Superintendent and BPW Office Manager Vacation Carryover

Mr. Furtado – Just like we have done with some of the other Employees we both are requesting to carryover five vacation days each.

Mr. Coelho motioned to allow the BPW Superintendent and BPW Office Manager to carryover five vacation days each. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Hart Engineering, West Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades, Change Order #1 \$149,100.00

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Hart Engineering's Change Order #1 in the amount of \$149,100.00 for the West Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Hart Engineering, West Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades, Payment #2 \$178,134.50

Mr. Coelho – How close are we to finishing this project?

Mr. Furtado - The substantial completion date is September 16th.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Hart Engineering Payment #2 in the amount of \$178,134.50 for the West Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

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F. North Fairhaven Improvement Association Car Show

Mr. Furtado – North Fairhaven Improvement Association is having their annual car show on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m. They would like to request that the Board send a few trucks to the event as we have in the past.

Mr. Wotton - I think that we should send a few trucks. Possibly the vac truck and the frontend loader.

Mr. Coelho motioned to send a few trucks to the North Fairhaven Improvement Association Annual Car Show. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. Stantec Consulting Service, Town-Wide Sanitary Sewer Force Main Condition Assessment, Payment #4 \$10,118.36

Mr. Coelho motioned to approve Stantec Consulting Services Payment #4 in the amount of \$10,118.36 for the Town-Wide Sanitary Sewer Force Main Condition Assessment. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. Water & Sewer Rates

Mr. Furtado - Following the plan that the Board voted on a few years back when we did the water and sewer rate study I recommend that we continuing following the consultants plan. The last time we raised the water rates were in 2019. At that time, we raised the rates 10%. Last year we did not raise the water rates due to Covid. As for the sewer rates they were raised 5% in both 2019 and 2020. Based on the recommendation from the consultant I recommend that we raise the sewer rates 5% and the water 10%. If you do not want to raise the water rate 10%, you could raise them 5% this year and 5% next year.

Mr. Coelho - I agree with you since we are still coming out of the pandemic and a lot of people are still not back to work I think it will be helpful to the residents if we went up 5% on both.

Mr. Wotton - I agree with raising the water rates 5% this year and next year.

Mr. Coelho motioned to raise the water and sewer rates 5%. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Ti-Sales, Inc., Water Meter and Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Payment #2 \$648,349.54

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve payment #2 in the amount of \$648,349.54 to Ti-Sales Inc. for the Water Meter and Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

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VI. Tabled Matter

A. N/A

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

Mr. Wotton - At our last meeting without our knowing an employee's name was brought up during this part of the meeting and we never meant to put our employee at risk. We whole heartily apologize to that employee for the inconvenience that this has caused you.

Mr. Brady – I know that the BPW was not originally recognized to be on the Town Administrator Screening Committee. I was hoping that the Board would vote to have one of your commissioners to be on the Town Administrator Screening Committee.

Mr. Wotton - Thank you Mr. Brady for your comments they are greatly appreciated. Selectmen Espindola contacted me today and asked me to discuss this with the Board. This would have to be done tonight because the Selectboard is discussing at their meeting tonight if they want to change this Committee from 7 members to 9 members. My recommendation is to nominate Mr. Durant for this Committee. I think with his background in Human Resources and all the qualifications that he has that he would be a huge asset to this committee.

Mr. Coelho nominated Mr. Durant to be the Board of Public Works Representative for the Town Administrator Screening Committee. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for August 9, 2021

- Meet with Water Engineer – sign MRV contracts for hydrologic study and filter upgrade work
- Issue with Beach Personnel
- Meet with State – re SRTS Grant – Town Mill and Overlay section – ROW
- Work with Kathy and schedule HHW day – contract forthcoming
- Meet with Town Counsel re: employment contract
- Frank and I meet with Landfill engineer at Bridge St and attend zoom meeting with engineer and DEP
- Attend Selectmen Meeting re Tree Warden

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- Attend Meeting with 2 Chiefs, Town Counsel, TA, Town Accountant, Stasia Powers and Tree Warden re: Tree Warden responsibilities
- Meet with Town Counsel re: disclosure issue for sewer dept. hire
- Attend Dept. head meeting – Town update
- Attend Recovery Act Meeting – monies available for projects
- Email Rep Straus – he is scheduled to attend our September 20 meeting – premise is his assistance with getting DEP approval of Bridge St for the recycling center and Recovery Act monies
- Rene and I interview sewer dept candidates
- John and I interview HMEO candidate
- Meet with Army Corps – annual barrier inspection
- John orders plaque for Cooke Park anchor after we get wording from Historical Committee
- Send Beth David info re: Causeway Bridge project
- Redo water abatement policy per last Board vote
- Attend to various logistics re: agenda and payments on agenda

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

Mr. Furtado - The FYAA asked the school if they could donate the old bleacher section to them.

Mr. Hobson - That is a lot of work. I am wondering who is going to pay to have them moved.

Mr. Coelho - Where are they going to put them?

Mr. Furtado - Livesey Park.

Mr. Wotton - I think I need more information before I make a decision about this. What kind of conditions are these bleachers in, who will be relocating the bleachers, etc.

B. Board Members

Mr. Coelho - I think that we should invite the employee in to the meeting in either open session or executive session whatever he prefers.

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C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – We have not met since the last meeting.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date for the next meeting on August 23, 2021 at 6:15p.m. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn & Executive Session

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on August 23, 2021