



# Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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2020 FEB 13 P 12: 56

## MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,  
MASS.

### Date, Time, Location:

January 30th, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M., BPW Administration Building, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA.

### Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of last meeting minutes
3. Overview of the FY Cherry Sheet
4. Overview of Capital Fund Project Plan
5. Meeting close

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### -Key-

#) = Issue being discussed

\* = Notes

\*\* = Specifies issues voted on if multiple are voted on within a section

- = Votes (Nom/Second)

! = Change in attendance

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### Member Attendance (7):

\* Padraic Elliott, Chris Fidalgo, Kathi Carter, Bernard F. Roderick, Tracy Diggins, Carolyn Roberts, Jessica Dwelly

### Town of Fairhaven (2):

\* Mark Rees (Town Administrator), Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director)

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Meeting called, 7:00PM

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### 1) December 12th Meeting

! Tracy, Jessica, 5-0-2 abstaining

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### 2) PSC sheet review

\* PSC

\* Chris explains the chart

\* Note: Costs are estimates based on spoken discussion

\* will be a living document

### 3) Cherry Sheet Overview

- \* Governor budget vs our own budget analysis
- \* Increase of 1.5% over FY 20, was hoping for more
- \* Ch.70, had hoped we'd get more but didn't occur
- \* Assessments taking away from budget
- \* School Choice, increase in 40k
- \* Chapter School, similar cost issue
- \* Receiving slightly less than 70% increase
- \* Bernie: Estimate of how many students? Mark: Superintendent will get back with more numbers
- \* Projected: 3% in Ch.70 increase, only 1.7%, deficit 90k
- \* Net decrease of 194k increase over what was projected
- \* Pad: Veterans came down? Mark: Provided less, trying to get more on Federal vs. state
- \* Pad: State-wide changes to education cost? Mark: Revamped the formula, urban school systems are the main beneficiary; Ch.70 went up, but redistributed differently
- \* Carolyn: Set or estimate? Mark: Firm numbers based on census data, Ch.70 is likely to change, almost always increases, won't be till after town meeting
- \* Pad: Sending as total or per student? Mark: Formula driven process based on models

### 3) Capital Fund Project Plan

- \* Departments submit plans
- \* Received less than 8.7m
- \* Doesn't include the PSC or renovations to historic properties
- \* Capital Planning rank based on 8 criteria (see plan included), also meet with department heads
- \* 2.7m for FY21
- \* Bernie: Athletic fields artificial? Mark: Yes
- \* Bernie: Seems like a high price
- \* Jessica believes it was already renovated
- \* Chris comments about using the criteria to understand the cost
- \* Wendy mentions of the field flooding now
- \* Free cash, little more than 2m after last town meeting, projects are funded through this amount
- \* Recommend to raise 200k for school, borrow for 1.2m for project
- \* 4.3m in capital stabilization, reserving amounts for FY22 and PSC (land acquisition)
- \* FY22 Capital stabilization funds used for projects
- \* Tracy: 200k can be raised? Mark: Yes, can be raised and in trust fund
- \* Carolyn: Can we use non-profit money? Mark: We explore grants and please pass on information to others
- \* Pad: 1.2m falls into debt services? Mark will explain more
- \* Breakdown of the debt service repayment of turf (1.2m)
- \* Breakdown of non-excluded debt added over the years
- \* Paying off debt from fire truck can allow for more debt to be paid
- \* Using debt service as a financing tool to take care of large projects
- \* Can't rely on free cash, so using financial policies/debt services to figure out how to pay off bigger ticket items
- \* Fairhaven has not used debt servicing as a financing source previously
- \* Carolyn: Figures don't include PSC? Mark: Not included
- \* Jessica: How are debt services structure? Mark: Treasurer sets, talks with finance advisor

- \* Bernie: Ball park for debt exclusion on PSC? Wendy: No hard figure yet
- \* Chris: Additional to tax payer now? Mark: Within the budget of the 2.5% levy increase
- \* Debt services takes away from operating budget, main trade-off

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### Closing Remarks

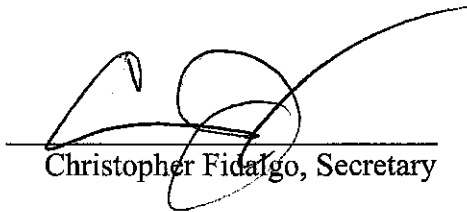
- \* Discussion of figure heads to meet between Pad, Wendy, and Mark
- \* Doesn't include enterprise funds
- \* General Fund Operating Budget goes before Selectmen Feb. 14
- \* Jessica: Didn't we just do radios? Mark: Problem for many different departments
- \* February 6th would review capital budget with department heads
- \* Pad requests Wendy to set up meetings
- \* Won't be discussing the PSC right away, need to take care of standard documents and projects first
- \* February will mostly be budget discussions, March will be discussing the articles
- \* End of March will be voting more
- \* Deadline will be April 2nd for the book
- \* Chris: PSC an article? Mark: Selectmen discussed how to handle the PSC in executive session

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Close Meeting

! Chris, Bernie 6-0, unanimous 7:50



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary