



Town of Fairhaven

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Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

February 13th, 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 General Fund
4. Letter from Mark Rees
5. PSC Update
6. Closing Remarks
7. Meeting close

-Key-

#) = Issue being discussed

* = Notes

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

- = Votes (Nom/Second)

! = Change in attendance

Member Attendance (9):

* Padraic Elliott, Chris Fidalgo, Lisa Plante, Kathi Carter, Bernard F. Roderick, Carolyn Roberts, Tracey Diggins, Jessica Dwelly, Kevin Gallagher

Town of Fairhaven (2):

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

Meeting called, 7:00PM

1) February 6th, Meeting

* Attendance count changes for members and guests (was miscounted)

- Bernie, Carolyn, 4 Approve, 0 Do not Approve, 3 Abstain

2) Overview of the General Fund work for FinCom from Pad

* General idea for FinCom is to go over the budget

* Please read through the document over the next few months

* If you have questions about various departments, please request

3) Letter from Mark Rees

- * 1st benchmark is free cash is 3-5%, 3.9% being recommended
 - * Maintain stabilization 5%, 5.8% currently proposed
 - * Capital Stabilization kept at 2-3%, 5.8% after recommendation
 - * Health insurance trust fund 1.6m, 1.98m currently
 - * Overlay reserve 300k, maintained
 - * Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) increase appropriation to 50k, offsets liability
 - * Budgets are structurally balanced
 - * "Status quo" budget
 - * Property tax increase of 918k, conservative new growth 172k
 - * State aid increase of only 1.5%
 - * Expected 3% for Chapter 70, only receive 1.7%
 - * Budget fully funds agreements
 - * Fairhaven Schools, 21m
 - * \$7000 placed for Parks Department
 - * Group insurance reflects a 5% which is less than 8% recommended by consultant
 - * Lisa: Licenses and permits gone down but building has gone up? Mark: Prior we received building permits for town development, but those have dropped down, residential doesn't bring in the fees that the commercial does
 - * Kevin: OPEB increase, has that been consistent over the last few years? Mark: Started 4 years @ 150k, adding 50k afterwards, liability is in the 10m range
 - * *Pad requests for general review of the sections, Mark explains the different sorts of sections*
 - * Summary pg. 5-9 is overview of the budgets, majority of the pages are each department's evidence for why a request is being made
 - * Lisa: Legal fees of projected vs. last year? Mark: Similar amount to last year with a small increase
 - * For Selectmen 298k? Consistent with all departments, you can see the personal line items broken down
 - * Kathi: Do you have an Assistant? Mark: Yes, and a licensing clerk
 - * *Mark discuss reclassifications for Town Administrator's office, Town Manager for HR Director*
- "Ongoing discussion"

4) PSC Update

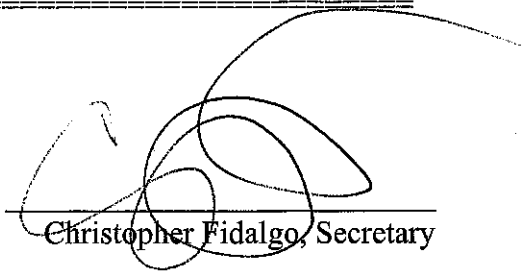
- * Knowles property was suitable for the building
- * Knowles has rescinded his offer to pursue other offers
- * Choices going forward:
- * ... Reopen the search for other pieces of land, unlikely to produce results...
- * ... 2 separate buildings, but would add significant cost...
- * ... Or, Eminent Domain for FMV
- * Lisa: Could we remediate? Mark: Yes but will be additional cost
- * Bernie: If eminent Domain doesn't work, back to square one? Mark: Yes
- * Pad: PD/FD leading this? Mark: Yes, working group led by Mark and chiefs, additional staff
- * Bernie: Taxes are low, but increasing taxes would negatively impact low income citizens
- * Capital stabilization would be used for land and architecture
- * Debt exclusions would be request at Town Meeting to pay back the debt

Closing Remarks

- * Wendy will inform the FinCom on which departments are coming so we can read ahead
- * Send questions in advance to Wendy
- * Articles so far, only 2 have financial implications

Close Meeting

- Chris, Lisa, Unanimous 9-0



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary