



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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TOWN CLERK

MEETING NOTES 2020 SEP 23 P 2:38

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

February 27th, 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. Budgets Discussed
 - a. Sewer
 - b. Water
 - c. BPW Administration
 - d. Highway
 - e. Sanitation
 - f. Parks
4. Closing Remarks
5. Meeting close

-Key-

#) = Issue being discussed

* = Notes

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

- = Decrease in detail budget item

+ = Increase in detail budget item

● = Note on detail budget item

◇ = Votes (Nom/Second)

! = Change in attendance

Member Attendance (9):

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

Town of Fairhaven (5):

* Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Mark Rees (Town Administrator), Linda Schick (Sewer Superintendent), Jeffrey Furtado (Water Superintendent), Vinnie Furtado (BPW)

Meeting called, 7:00PM

1) February 20th, Meeting

◆ Bernie, Lisa, Unanimous 8-0

! Carolyn Roberts arrive

2. Sewer

* Mostly level budgeted

- + Small Tools and Repair, based on FY19 spending
- + Repairs & Equipment maintenance, everything is very old and requires expensive replacements
- + Contractor Assistance, extra testing is required
- Oil and grease went down because digester went down
- + Office supplies, prices going up
- + Uniforms, due to new contract negotiations
- + Replacement equipment, sampler, spare pumps for pump stations, welder over 30 years, muffler furnace is 30 years old

* Sewer capital budget, some funded through retained earnings and some through borrowing, prioritized based on capital planning methodology

* Inflow & infiltration study, investigation and replacement for the system

* Treatment plant design, 2m for compliance schedule

* UV Building Bank, replaced the chlorine disinfection system, 35k for a bank

* Replace Causeway Road Pumps, outdated

* Muffin Monster, chomps up rags and flushable wipes

! Kathi Carter arrives

* Pad: How is the treatment plan being paid? Mark: Pg.14 Borrowing, impact of borrowing on Pg.15, borrow for 10 yr

* Pad: How will it be paid? Mark: Debt paid from user fees

* Kevin: Summary of revenue earnings? Vinny: Pg.2, summaries based on prior years, people paying on time, retained earnings as well, capital fee has never been spent

* Bernie: Did the user fees increase? Vinny: In 2019 rates increased by 3%

* Bernie: User fee increase for the entire project over what period of time? Vinny: Hard to tell because its based on the entire project fee

* Bernie: Rates goes based on a schedule or at one time? Vinny: Will be increased at a set rate

* Vinny, my best guess is at least \$10 per 100 cubic feet, likely 20m dollars

* Chris: What's the pressure outside of the town? Linda: Based on EPA negotiated timeline, October 2026, Vinny: Nitrogen is now a concern and the plant was constructed when it wasn't a concern, due to permit renewal, town had its hand forced, worked with an attorney to stretch out the cost due to the town

* Kevin: 2m is for the design, what's the 23m? Linda: 23m is a placeholder for what the total price could be

* Bernie: Aid for help from the state? Linda: Positioning ourselves for a lower interest rate (2%)

* Pad: Cause was the renewal? Vinny: Yes, mostly because we're the inner harbor, whereas New Bedford discharges to the outer harbor

* Bernie: Can we move discharge to the outer harbor? Vinny: Could move the pipes to outer harbor and hope it doesn't come under EPA again, could move pipes to New Bedford to have them treatment but they have restrictions, or Upgrade the plant (Vinny's recommendation)

3. Water

- + Salaries and wages, contract agreement
- * Why the jump from FY19 to FY20? Continued repairs
 - + Water assessment, DEP increase the fees, repeat force analysis
 - + Water testing, new regulations EPA requires new chemical testing (expensive), per well (we have 4), lead and copper samples also coming up, should go down next year
- * What is PFAS? Polymer chemical that doesn't deteriorate, when they fought with foam in the 90s, that couldn't be removed, and it's still in the water
- * If we find it, do we need to pay more to remove it? We suspect it isn't in our water due to testing in 2013, but now the standard has gotten stricter
 - + Hydrant parts up due to more flushing of hydrants
 - + Advertising, EPA requires consumer confidence report
 - + Raw Water cost, NEW, (100k), main producing well is being replaced, capacity has been lost in that well, Mattapoisett has been making up for us, they require reimbursement
- * Kevin: Temporary or permanent? Temporary, based on new well being placed
- * Tinkan Lane was the main producer, but now need to pay for the consumption and the raw water
- * Likely to keep some money on this line item for the future
- * Pad: Will people pay more in water? Jeff: Our wells cannot feed the amount of water we consume for a day, wells are losing capacity, they used to feed us for high usage, but we're losing capacity and can't feed back
 - + Training, employees getting more license, increases in number of classes to diversify their skill set
 - + Contracted services, legal fees
 - + Gas & Diesel, new dump truck uses more fuel
 - + Dues & Gathering, further diversification for employees
 - + Water district, MRV increase
- * Kevin: MRV, does that include Rochester? Vinny: They get money from Marion
- * Kevin: MRV Voted by District Commission, how is that made up? 3 representatives per community
- * MRV District by-laws state the makeup of the Commission
- * Wendy: Contracted services
- * Capital Budget items
- * Well Capacity
- * Replacement of a 2006 Ford van that's falling apart
- * Re-do of pavement on Farmfield and Harborview, pipe needs replacement
- * Hydrant likely to go at the end of Farmfield so it can be flushed

4. BPW Administrative

- + Salaries, step increase for Admin Assistant
 - Request Misc for Legal, but that was cut
- + Mileage, clerical staff when they go to town hall

5. Highway

- * What are subdivision management fees? Maintain tension ponds
 - + Salaries and wages, step increase, retirement longevity (benefit payout)
 - Repair and Maintenance Building
 - + Phone, cost increase
 - + Stormwater Mgt Compliance, NEW, unfunded mandate, requires more scrutiny of the Stormwater system, reoccurring line item
- * Kevin: How is this implemented? Vinny: Paperwork side, things we need to draft, then actual fieldwork; focuses on waste and stormwater
 - + Gas & Diesel doubled, based on analysis of the department, highway under budgeted
- * Pad: Why is usage off? Mark: Centralized system may not accurately charge at the correct time within the purchase
- * Lisa: Why did we not see an increase in the request? Mark: We're improving the analysis
- * Pad: Gasoline & Diesel likely to meld into one budget? Mark: Yes
- * *Wendy passed for gasoline and diesel that covers the last 5 years*
- * Mark recommends \$40k, there's \$42,960, so there's \$2,960 that can be pulled back from the budget sheet
- * Mark will straighten this out for next meeting
- * Kevin: Can we track expenses vs. the usage for this department vs. other departments? Mark: Currently have an internal billing system, charges different departments within there, supposed to better track the usage for each department
 - + Office Supplies, 200 bucks for material cost increase
 - Asked for 12k for signs, but that's been cut
- * Jessica: What happened with Roadwork? Vinny: Roadwork is a capital expenditure
- * Highway Hard Surfacing is all level funding
- * Mark is going to have Wendy look into Roadwork line item

6. Sanitation

- * Second year we've consolidated disposable into one budget
 - + Trash Contracted Services, 3% increase from ABC contract
 - + Recycling Contracted Services, contract increase & amount for China increases cost for rejection, won't pay surcharge without documentation of the increase in cost
- * Pad: Based on Fairhaven's approval of recycling rate? Vinny: Yes
 - + Semass Contracted Services, contract increase, Rochester
 - + Landfill Contracted Services, additional cost for Engineer
 - + Transfer Station/Landfill, reflects the increases in the prices of processing
- * Bernie: How much do we take in for permits? Vinny: Not much in the big picture, but Vinny will get Bernie some numbers
- * Jessica: Why can't we mow the grass? Vinny: Because it requires special equipment due to terrain

7. Parks

- + Salaries, contract agreements
- + Beautification, NEW, maintains cost for keeping the town's appearance good, funding purchase of the plants and materials, volunteers would help

* Kathi: Have we used volunteers before? Mark: Yes, committee, but they haven't been around for a little while

- + Playground, went up due to wood chip cost
- + Beach expense, supply cost
- Misc, not getting a new employee, so can be lowered to \$800, \$200 at least for material cost, will be revised
- Contracted services, can be amended to \$250 (only 1 person, not 2)
- + Supplies, mutt mitts mostly

* Kevin: How does Pg.353's over-time's +80% increase square with the personal sheet Pg.359? Mark: All employees are totaled and then over-time is factored as a percentage of total personal budget

* Pad: FY20 was based on a 2.8%, but this year is 4.8%? Pad: Over-time is put into the overall, regular pay on Pg.359

Closing Remarks

* For the General Fund Operating Budget...

* Last week, went through budgets at the high level for where we have questions

* Want to go through HR, as an example, not just questions but to actually go through it

* HR, Conservation, Board of Health, Tourism, IT

* Town Clerk, increase for 3 elections this year

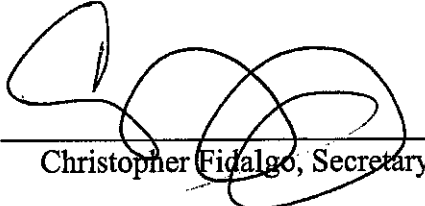
* As we go through this, keep in mind your disagreements so we can square those in Committee

* If you want an increase, find where it comes from (no free money)

* Mark: Want a consensus budget between various stakeholders, so want we can go to town meeting in agreement

Close Meeting

◆ Chris, Lisa, Unanimous 8-0



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary