



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719 2020 SEP 23 P 2:38

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

March 5th, 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. Tourism
 - b. School
 - c. General Government
 - d. Human Resources
 - e. Various small discussions: Town Clerk, Elections, Town Hall, Town Meeting, Finance Committee, Reserve Fund, Water Reserve, Sewer Reserve, Planning Board, Economic Development, Board of Appeals, Conservation
4. Closing Remarks
5. Meeting close

-Key-

- #) = Issue being discussed
 - = Notes, indentation for more notes
 - = Decrease in detail budget item
 - + = Increase in detail budget item
 - = Questions and discussions below
 - ◇ = Votes (Nom/Second)
 - ↓ = Change in attendance
-

Member Attendance (10):

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

Town of Fairhaven (9):

- Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Mark Rees (Town Administrator), Dr. Bob Baldwin (Superintendent), Christopher Richard (Director of Tourism), Tara Cohler (Assistant Superintendent), Pam Kuechler (Vice Chair of School Committee), Stasia Power (School Committee), Kyle Bueno (School Committee), Darlene McKenney (School Committee?)

Meeting called, 7:00PM

1) February 27th, Meeting

- Added Mark Rees to the guest list
- Finalize Jeffrey Furtado name

◆ Bernie, Lisa, Unanimous 9-0

* Added Vinnie Furtado

2) Tourism

- + Salary, sick day, buy back, step increase
- + Prices increase for additional ads through social media; cost for this year still unknown, but based on previous years increases
- Telephone, (phone and internet) lower due to comcast savings (town internet savings)

! Carolyn Roberts arrives

- Discussions on Huttleston Market at the High School
- Generated surplus (+\$9k)
- Pad: Do you track the rate of visitors per year?
 - ◆ Chris: Really difficult to track, do have data on Hotels/room tax money
 - ◆ +\$230k in room tax this year
 - ◆ 2010 meal tax data as well (\$69)
 - ◆ +\$350k in meal tax now

3) School

- "0 Based Budget", figuring out salaries, teachers per students, bargaining agreements, etc.;
- Based on need and current supply
- Same process for operational side
- Look at the revenue projection and align with that
- Chargebacks affected the cherry sheet
- Expecting a reduce of \$200k
- Basic Calculation: $\text{Students} / \text{Class Size Goals} = \text{Teachers Required} \times \text{Teacher Salaries} = \text{Budget Total}$
- + +519k, or +3.15%
- Large items: Transportation, Out of District Tuition
- 2000's on operational is done similar based on Class Size Goals
- 3000's are services
- 4000's are maintenance
- 9000 is Out of District Tuition
- Kevin: 9000's, are there trends?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Based on sending a student to a proper environment for their learning, special education only
 - ◆ Circuit breaker discussion
 - ◆ Can be as large as +\$1m up/down, use circuit breaker to offset
 - ◆ Doesn't include transportation cost within the 3000's

- Kevin: Surprising we transport homeless children
 - ◆ Tara: We have several kids who are homeless, respite children
- Bernie: Town is responsible for transportation, not the state?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Now required to transport children who move in (McKinney-Vento)
- Bernie: DCF, how does the state provide help on the homeless children cost?
 - ◆ Tara: Financial cost falling on the town, based on best fit
 - ◆ Hampton Inn = 5 new students
- Kathi: Mileage requirements?
 - ◆ Tara: Goal is for stability
 - ◆ State usually sides with the child
- Chris: Field, will it be public use?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Too early to answer that question, this project creates opportunity where we currently do not have any
- Lisa: Why can we not re-roll the grass?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Field is currently unplayable, and this is currently akin to throwing money away
 - ◆ We don't have turf because it wasn't the standard when the field was last updated
- Kevin: \$1.4m, 10 yr, operational savings?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: 300k/10 yr, along with the benefit of the field itself
- Carolyn: Grant as well?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Offset the cost down to \$1.2m
 - ◆ Will follow-up with the Patriots for the grant
- Bernie: How long until operational?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Theoretically, a spring from now, 3-6m process
- Pad: Leadership, up and down, 12% increase?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Negotiation year so more in legal and software combined
- Pad: School leadership, up to \$45k?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Sometimes offset with grants, but need to budget for the worser case
- Pad: Athletic student activities, \$25k increase?
 - ◆ Tara: Transportation for away games
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Transportation, officials, etc. cost increases
- Pad: Overall budget, \$200k difference, justification?
 - ◆ Mark: School department is a set amount, look at overall budget with school vs. other budgets
 - ◆ New Bedford charge, cherry sheet changes as well
 - ◆ Out of district is the most troublesome charge, which is why it's handled in a unique way now (special education fund)
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: If Chapter 70 adjustments come, we'll adjust as we go
 - ◆ Tara: Major increase at the HS in the last few years, losing \$200k could impact the desire for a new science teacher, which is desirable
 - ◆ Stasia: This impacts school choice, increasing cost elsewhere
- Kathi: Can you elaborate on out of school experiences?
 - ◆ Tara: School to career, increased the class sizes so people can reach their requirements by graduation, trying to develop "in-house" ways to fulfill credits without increasing class sizes

- ◆ Looking for new science teacher because of class size caps
- Bernie: Is the increase due to families moving in?
 - ◆ Baldwin: No, this is choice by families
- Bernie: Vocational sell?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Attendance is down, but an increase of \$100k, want to dig in further
- Bernie: Does the school department do its own negotiations?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Hired Counsel, counsel does the negotiations
- Jessica: Maintenance, 31%?
 - ◆ Dr. Baldwin: Due to classification change, used to be administration, facilities director
 - ◆ Needed to add a director of finance (20%)
- Pad: \$200k in discussion, more on that later? FinCom will want follow-up
 - ◆ Pam: We'll be handling this as we go through our process

4) General Government

- Information on town grants
- Slightly over \$1m
- In FY20, \$1.6m
 - Dredging
 - Wharf
 - Conservation and sustainability
- + Regular pay, Mark, Licensing Clerk
- + Selectmen Salaries, increased at town meeting
- + OPEB, slowly increasing by 50k
- Pad: Where is that going?
 - ◆ Mark: Liability in \$20m, currently at \$1m
- + Reclassification
- Lisa: Why do we need this?
 - ◆ Mark: Currently in a study, so cannot answer right now
- Lisa: Sounds more like a new position
 - ◆ Mark: Yes, but in a study
 - ◆ Money is reserved for the possibility
 - ◆ All positions are reclassified under the reclassification plan
- Lisa: Where did the study request come from?
 - ◆ Mark: From me
- Lisa: Request feels unnecessary for the town
 - ◆ Mark: Cannot answer at this time, waiting on the study
- + COLA will be redistributed through operating budgets
- Kathi: Sister cities, do we support this?
 - ◆ Mark: Yes, money is put aside for it
- Jessica: Rogers-Oxford Maintenance?
 - ◆ Mark: Company needs to produce sufficient of financial backing

5) Human Resources

- Level funded
- + Contracted services, Last year, \$4,600 request for town-wide personnel sign off software

- + \$7,500 for wellness program
- Jennifer: Is the \$4,600 something on going?
 - ◆ Mark: To buy software with likely annual maintenance cost
- Bernie: On mileage, how do we pay that? Set amount or reimbursement?
 - ◆ Mark: Reimbursement based on the mile, set by IRS (Kevin comment)

6) Town Clerk

- + For clerical position in that office
- Otherwise level funded
- Lisa: COLA for Town Clerk
 - ◆ Mark: Yes recommending
 - ◆ Jessica: 4.8% increase

7) Elections

- + More elections next FY

8) Town Hall

- Electricity going down, offsets from solar panels

9) Town Meeting

- Level funded

10) Finance Committee

- Level funded

11) Reserve Fund

- Decreased dependency on Reserve Fund

12) Water Reserve

- Level funded

13) Sewer Reserve

- Level funded

14) Planning Board

- Level funded

15) Economic Development

- Level funded

16) Board of Appeals

- Less meetings

17) Conservation

- Level funded

- Pad: Increases in advertising, postage, mileage?
 - ◆ Wendy: Details on pg. 102, 103
 - ◆ Mark: Mileage increase due to increased activity
 - ◆ Wendy: Previously was underestimated

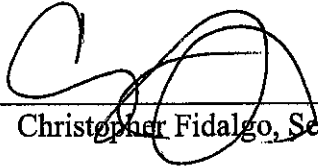
- Bernie: Wellness committee?
 - ◆ Mark: Aides employee health, adds savings to the town
 - ◆ Incentives for health programs (FitBit, tracking walking, etc.)

Closing Remarks

- Pad: When will selectmen take votes?
 - ◆ Mark: Monday night
- Close to taking votes, going through the whole budget once more
 - Comments, concerns, say "Hold" on that item
 - Then when we get to the motion, we approve what isn't held
 - Then, we go back to what is held
 - Deal with the less controversial material first, then controversial
 - As selectmen votes come in, we try to match what they are voting on
- Further questions...
 - Board of health
 - IT
- If no Selectmen votes, then likely to postpone
- Capital budget will be an article

Close Meeting, 9:10 PM

◆ Chris, Lisa, Unanimous 10-0



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary