



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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MEETING NOTES

2020 SEP 23 P 2:38

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Date, Time, Location:

April 30th, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M., Banquet Room at the Town Hall, 40 Center Street & remotely through ZOOM

Meeting Overview:

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes
3. Discussion of Reserve Budget items
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 Elliot, Lisa Plante, Chris Fidalgo, Bernard F. Roderick, Tracey Diggins, Jennifer Dupras, Carolyn Roberts, Jessica Dwelly, Kevin Gallagher, Kathi Carter

Town of Fairhaven (6):

- Mark Rees (Town Administrator, Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Chief Timothy Francis (Fire), Todd Correia (Fire), Vinnie Furtado (BPW), Chief Mike Myers (PD)

Meeting called, 7:00PM

1) Approval of Minutes: March 5th

! Lisa, Carolyn, 10 - 0 (unanimous)

2) March 12

- Need Lisa to recirculate
- No vote made

3) Introductory remarks from Mark

- Reserve fund transfers are being requested, per COVID-19
- Additional money being requested by Fire, \$5,000
- Trend analysis suggests that reserve fund should be sufficient and not overdrawn on top of other items

4) Fire Reserve Fund Request

- Additional vehicles have been affected, repairs requested, \$15,000
- \$18,000 would be left in reserve, accounting for the additional \$5,000 being requested

! Kevin, Carolyn, 10 - 0 (unanimous)

5) \$6,750 not added to contract from November

- Money that is owed for contract negotiations (clothing allowance)
- Missed b/c of oversight, focus was on overall contract cost, item slipped through

! Chris, Bernard, 10 - 0 (unanimous)

6) Omitted overtime cost based on old rates

→ Lisa: How did we miss so much? Mark: Items came in close to town meeting, which made tracking difficult

! Chris, Carolyn, 10 - 0 (unanimous)

7) Capital Budget Item, allocated for police cruiser & resource officer cars

- Items were approved separately, so they are done separately on paper
- Jump in cost in cruisers (Ford update)
- Base price is \$32,900 (base pkg), \$36,100 (hybrid)
- Final price tag is \$52,000
- Resource officer cars \$44,000 (each); \$75,000 budgeted

Cruisers

! Chris, Kevin, 10 - 0 (unanimous)

Resource Officer Cars

→ Pad: How is this vehicle used? Chief: Still used as cruisers, fully outfitted, weapon storage concerns

! Kevin, Chris, 10 - 0 (unanimous)

8) In preparations of reopening the town, plexiglass and safety measures

- Expected to be fully reimbursed through FEMA grant
- Lisa: This is after quarantine is over? Mark: Being down now
- May 18th for non-essential, expecting conditional requirements for buildings to open, request is preventive based on those requirement costs
- Pad: Please put forth the articles ahead of the meeting if possible, some departments have gone into the negative; Mark agrees with this stance and will make an effort going forward

! Chris, Kevin, 10 - 0 (unanimous)

9) BPW request for additional article, automatic water reading system

- Need awareness of where 90% of the water is going
- Need meters to be less than 10 yr old, majority are


- Engineers discovered that automatic vs. fixed were \$200k apart, making the phased system more of a waste of money
- Losing money and water now because it is not fully accounted for
- Pad: Why did the driveby system cost increase so much? Vinnie: Unclear, but the fixed cost hasn't inflated
- Pad: What about saved labor cost, if meter readings are less required? Vinnie: Current system is archaic, rates currently support this, better for town and the BPW staff, mgmt, water savings cost
- Bernie: This is an article for Town Meeting, not the actual financial cost? Mark: Yes, purpose is to make people aware of the change of scope
- Pad: Would this cause rates to rise? Vinnie: No, follows an 8 year schedule
- Bernie: Separate from EPA? Vinnie: Yes, completely separate
- Kevin: 1.5m has been appropriated? Vinnie: Yes, so additionally 1.8m, for 3.3m total
- Kevin: Has this cost been factored into the cost of water rates? Vinnie: This wouldn't per se, because the BPW follows the 8 year plan
- Wendy: Will help with billing (4 instead of 2)

Closing Remarks

10) Covid-19 Impact, Mark Rees

- Different than traditional emergency, impact is on revenue than expenditure
- When the economy shuts down, it impacts revenues, such as meal and hotel tax
- Motor vehicle excise is lessened
- State aid, sales tax
- Reserves are in a strong position--over \$5m--which helps brunt some of the impact
- Hold off on votes until we can better see the outcome of this emergency
- Not probable to have a revised budget for late Ma, could use the 1/12th measure to keep the town operational in the meantime

Close Meeting, 8:43 Chris, Jennifer, 10 - 0 (unanimous)



Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary