



# Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

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## MEETING NOTES

FAIRHAVEN,  
MASS.

### Date, Time, Location:

June 4th, 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 COVID impact on town meeting
4. Overview of new articles from Town Administrator
5. Discussion on Sewer Enterprise Capital Plan Projects with BPW
6. Rescind of General Fund Capital items
7. Closing Remarks
8. Meeting Close

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### -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

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### 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 (4):

- Mark Rees (Town Administrator, Wendy Graves (Collector/Treasurer/Finance Director), Vinnie Furtado (BPW), Derek Frates (Public Access Director)

Meeting called, 7:00PM

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### 1) Recording Secretary Lisa

◆ Bernie, Kevin, unanimous (8 - 0)

- Carolyn Roberts and Chris Fidalgo were not present yet

### 2) March 12th minutes

- Lisa having issues finding them, will continue to investigate

### 3) 5/21 Minutes

- Revision to town meeting date
- Added comments for rescind vote

◆ Lisa, Bernie, 10 - 0 Unanimous

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### 4) Discussion on developing COVID situation

- Started w/ 1/12th budget discussion, selectmen would vote on month-by-month basis
- Town meeting would need to vote on operating budget
  - Month-by-month voting is not feasible
- Required need to vote on 1/3rd budget, which could carry the town out further
  - More informed budget plan
- Only discussing budget and articles that require attention (other articles have been cut to deal with them at a later date)
- Moderator makes the call ultimately
- General consensus is to postpone due to challenges for general public
- Moderator required to meet with departments (selectmen, police, others), then formal paperwork

#### ! Chris Fidalgo joins

- Bernie: Approval of Zoom? Mark: Before the senate
- Lisa: If a Zoom meeting, would FinCom members need to be present? Pad: Chairman would be, but not others

### 5) Vote for Secretary role to be transferred back to Chris Fidalgo

◆ Bernie, Lisa, 10 - 0

### 6) Discussion for tonight's meeting

- Take votes on what is possible before Town Meeting, given the limited time available
- Lisa: I thought Articles w/ salaries would not be voted on? Mark: Need further direction
- Mark: Need to get back to the selectmen, hold on on Articles 6, 7, 8 and go over the others

### 7) Overview of Selectmen votes from Mark

- Board of selectmen met recently
- Article 1: Approval
- Article 2: Approval
- Article 3: Passover
- Article 4: Passover (no financial impact)
- Article 5: Bills of Prior Year: Approval
  - Just 1 bill, \$9k
- Article 6: At town meeting
  - Bernie: Raises and COLAs? Mark: Town meeting approves salary and then article to appropriate
- Article 7 & 8: Hold on

- FY 21 is 3rd and final year of all contracts
- Since contracts were settled, legally required to follow through, unless we reopen the contract
- Mark had a meeting with unions for raises (particular to non-union employees); unions are discussing with members
- Pad: If finances take a turn for the worse, could result in lay-offs? Mark: That is the worst case, but need budgets for a more complete picture (reserves are strong)
- Kevin: How much money is the total for cost of living increases? Mark: Don't have it right now, but can deliver it, ballpark is \$100ks (very rough guess)
- Lisa: Last meeting, it was stated no new raises or positions, does this include the town assistant? Mark: Currently not in the 1/3rd budget
- Article 9: Request to appropriate \$516k at town meeting
- Article 11: Approval
- Article 12: Approval
  - Social Daycare Center: Request offset by income
- Article 13: Transfer to surplus revenue, to be made at Town Meeting
  - Not going to appropriate, but want options open
- Article 14: Approval
  - School Department Agreement for reimbursement homeless children
- Article 15: Zoning
  - Need planning board discussion first
  - No budgetary impact (might impact tax base)
- Article 16: Hard surface, Yield to the petitioner
  - Would have a cost for material and labor
- Article 15 & 16 citizen articles would not wait for later town meeting
- School unions and municipal unions are separate, so separate discussions
  - School doesn't need to be approved at town meeting

#### 8) Sewer Enterprise Capital Plan Projects

- Took most of Mark's recommendations for cuts of Articles, except for 3 of them
- 5 line items were approved, Vinnie is looking for 3 approvals
- \$2m borrowed for the nitrogen upgrade to the treatment plant
  - Goal is to fulfill obligations to the EPA
  - 5 year timeline, delaying could cause more issues later
- Ultraviolet light bank rehab
  - One bank needs rehab
  - All banks should be operational
- Pumps for Causeway Road pump stations
  - On West Island, moves it to treatment plant
  - Pumps from 1998, parts are no longer sold
- Kevin: Where would the \$2m be borrowed? Not comfortable, given with the current economic state of the world
  - Lisa: Agree with Kevin, could the regulation be changed?
  - Vinnie: Not aware of any changes to revenue yet to water or sewer, but the EPA deadline cannot be moved at this time, federal obligation & administrative order

- 8 years was already pushing the timeline
- Bernie: How would the borrowed amount be paid? Vinnie: Capital fees money or retained earnings from sewer enterprise (not water)
- Kevin: EPA waited 7 years, so why were they angry at 8 years? The situation has evolved, Affordability analysis was done before this
- Chris: What would be the worst outcome if we go back to the table? Vinnie: They say no, but no further penalties

9) Motion to reconsider votes on General Fund Capital

◆ Lisa, Bernie, 10 - 0

10) Motions to rescind these items, see articles for specific amounts

- AC Replacement
- Computer replacement
- Stadium athletic turf field
- Radio upgrade
- BPW Dumptruck
- Fire response staff vehicle
- Police Cruisers
- Storage garage
- Information technology upgrade, phone system
- Bike path overlay

◆ Lisa, Bernie, 10 - 0

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**Closing Remarks**

- June 18th for next meeting
- Kevin: Could we discuss with the selectmen or others for congressional discussion over the compliance schedule for the nitrogen upgrade? Pad: Free to do so, committee doesn't need to vote

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◆ Meeting close, Lisa, Bernard, 10 - 0 (unanimous), 8:24 PM

  
Christopher Fidalgo, Secretary