

Town of Fairhaven

Draft 4
10/14/25

WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, the nineteenth of November, 2025 at 7:00p.m. in the
Walter Silveira Auditorium at the Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School,
then and there, the following articles will be before you for a vote.

*The Finance Committee has reviewed and provided their recommendation as custom.
Contact the Select Board/Town Administrator's office for more information.*

Majority Vote needed unless stated otherwise

ARTICLE 1: BILL OF PRIOR YEAR

To see if the Town will vote to pay the unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year and any others that may be brought forward, or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by: Accounting/Finance Department

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funded From</u>
Polydyne Inc.	\$221.70	Sewer Retained Earnings

Select Board:

Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

Vote Required: Nine-Tenths (9/10) Vote

Motion: To approve as listed in the warrant

ARTICLE 2: FUND FY26 LABOR CONTRACTS AND NON-UNION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to fund the FY26 Labor Contracts for the following bargaining units: Fire Department, Highway Department, Clerical and the FY26 Non-Union Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

**Motion: To waive § 50-9 D of the Town Bylaw, Collective Bargaining Agreements Section in
accordance with subsection F**

Motion: To fund the FY26 Labor Contracts as follows:

<u>Bargaining Unit</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funded From</u>
Fire	\$35,000	\$15,000 Wage Reserve Fund \$20,000 Reserve Fund, Amb. Rcpts. Reserved for Approp.
Highway	\$15,500	\$15,500 Wage Reserve Fund
Park	\$1,185	\$1,185 Wage Reserve Fund
Clerical (General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund)	\$14,000	\$240 Sewer Retained Earnings \$460 Water Retained Earnings \$3,300 Wage Reserve Fund \$10,000 Article 10-5 May 3, 2025 Town Meeting
Non-Union COLA	\$16,500	\$11,793 Wage Reserve Fund \$2,077 Sewer Retained Earnings \$1,697 Water Retained Earnings \$933 Town Cable Enterprise

		\$2,317 Sewer Retained Earnings \$2,157 Water Retained Earnings \$933 Town Cable Enterprise \$10,000 Article 10-5 May 3, 2025 Town Meeting \$20,000 Reserve Fund, Amb. Rcpts. Reserved for Approp. <u>\$46,778 Wage Reserve Fund</u> \$82,185 TOTAL
TOTAL	\$82,185	

Petitioned by: Select Board

Notes: Amounts are subject to change for any labor contracts that have not been executed as of the date of printing of this warrant. Any changes will be reflected in a substitute motion presented at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 3: SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Retained Earnings the amount of \$297,803 which was generated from the Sewer Capital Fee from FY25 and transfer into the Sewer Nitrogen Plant Article 15A of the June 18, 2022 Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

Petitioned by: Board of Public Works

Select Board:

Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

Motion: To transfer from the Sewer Retained Earnings the amount of \$297,803 which was generated from the Sewer Capital Fee from FY25 and transfer into the Sewer Nitrogen Plant Article 15A of the June 18, 2022 Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 4: REQUEST TRANSFER OF FUNDS: TOWN HALL EAST RETAINING WALL EMERGENCY REPAIR

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) the sum of \$40,000 back into General Fund Reserves and \$30,000 back into the Preventative Maintenance Article 10-5 of the May 3, 2025 Town Meeting for Town Hall East Retaining Wall emergency repairs, or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by: Facilities

Select Board:

Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

Motion: To transfer as written in the warrant.

ARTICLE 5: REQUEST TRANSFER OF FUNDS: PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Public Safety Complex Stabilization Fund the amount of \$50,000 to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator for the purpose of hiring a third party consultant to conduct a site evaluation and/or feasibility study for the potential Police Station or Public Safety Complex including options for leasing or purchasing property, or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by: Public Safety Complex Committee

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Motion: To transfer as written in the warrant

ARTICLE 6: GLENHAVEN AVENUE WATER MAIN PHASE 2

To see if the Town will appropriate \$500,000 to fund additional costs of Phase Two of the water main replacement on Glenhaven Avenue to supplement Article 8-1 of the May 3, 2025 Town Meeting and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise provided, or take any action relative thereto.

Petitioned by: Board of Public Works

Select Board:

Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

Vote Required: Two-Thirds (2/3) Vote

Motion: To appropriate \$500,000 to pay costs of water main replacement on Glenhaven Avenue, Phase 2 and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(4) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore While this borrowing shall constitute a pledge of the Town's full faith and credit, it is expected that it will be repaid, in the first instance, from amounts in the Water Enterprise Fund.

ARTICLE 7 AMEND BYLAWS CHAPTER 206 ANIMALS

To see if the Town will vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 206 Animals Section 1 Fee structure as outlined below by replacing existing language in strikethrough with language in bold or take any action relative thereto.

Chapter 206, Part 1 Animal Control Fees [Adopted 5-26-2015]

§ 206-1. Fee structure. The animal control fee structure is as follows:

Type	Fee
Boarding fee	\$25 \$50 per day
Adoption fees	
	Cat \$200 \$300
	Dog \$300 \$600

Petitioned by: Police Department

Select Board:

Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption (9-1-0 Favorable Vote)

Motion: To adopt as written in the warrant

AND, to transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

FURTHER, you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting an attested copy thereof on or near the front or main entrance of the polling place for all Precincts at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue, fourteen days, at least, prior to the date of the meeting.

DRAFT

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this warrant to the Town Clerk at the time and place of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this fourteenth day of October in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Five

CHARLES K. MURPHY, SR., CHAIR

ANDREW ROMANO, VICE CHAIR

NATALIE A. MELLO, CLERK

ANDREW B. SAUNDERS

KEITH SILVIA

SELECT BOARD OF FAIRHAVEN

Posted on the official town website, at polling location (Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue)
and at Town Hall (40 Center Street).

_____, 2025.
Constable

Warrant must be posted by **November 5, 2025**
(at least *fourteen days prior* to the **November 19, 2025**, Special Town Meeting).

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Appropriation: An authorization to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is granted by Town Meeting and is usually limited in time and amount as to when it may be expended. Any part of the general appropriation not spent or encumbered by June 30 automatically reverts to surplus, which may become Free Cash. A specific appropriation is carried forward from year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by Town Meeting vote to another account.

Assessed Valuation: A valuation set upon real or personal property by the Board of Assessors as a basis for levying taxes.

Budget: A plan of financial operation consisting of an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the means of financing them. The budget voted at Town Meeting is for the fiscal year that begins July 1st.

Capital Budget: A multi-year plan of spending for large capital items requested by Town Departments. Most of these items are voted on individually as special or capital warrant articles.

Cherry Sheet: Named for the cherry-colored paper on which they were originally printed, the Cherry Sheet is the official notification to cities, towns, and regional school districts of the next fiscal year's state aid and assessments. The aid is in the form of distributions, which provide funds based on formulas and reimbursements that provide funds for costs incurred during a prior period for certain programs or services.

Community Preservation Act (CPA): The Town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2006. This Act allows the town to collect up to a 3% surcharge (Fairhaven has voted 2%) on property tax bills (the funds can be matched by the state when funds are available), which creates the Community Preservation Fund, to use for Community Preservation purposes. Each year, the town must appropriate, or reserve (but not necessarily spend), 10% of the funds for each of the three Community Preservation purposes: Open Space, Historic Resources, and Community Housing. The remaining 70% of the funds can be appropriated or reserved used for any of the three purposes and for Recreation and for administration.

Debt Service: Payment of interest and repayment of principal to holders of the Town's debt instruments.

Enterprise Fund: A type of fund used by a municipality to account for activities that provide goods or services to the general public, where the costs are recovered through user fees rather than taxes.

Fiscal Year: A 12-month period, commencing July 1 and ending June 30, to which the annual budget applies. Fiscal years are often denoted FYXX with the last two numbers representing the calendar year in which it ends, for example, FY19 is the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Free Cash: Free cash is the portion of unreserved fund balance available for appropriation. It is not cash but rather is approximately the total of cash and receivables less current liabilities and earmarked reserves also reduced by reserves for uncollected taxes. This is also referred to as "surplus revenue". The amount is certified annually by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

General Fund: The major town-owned fund which is created with town receipts and which is charged with expenditures payable from revenues.

Grant: A contribution of assets by a governmental unit or other organization for specific purposes. Typically, these contributions are made to local governments from the state and federal governments.

Line-Item Budget: A format of budgeting that organizes costs by type of expenditure such as expenses, equipment, and salaries.

Overlay: The amount set aside to allow for uncollected property taxes. An amount for the overlay is added to the appropriations and other charges.

Property Tax Levy: The amount produced by multiplying the assessed valuation of property by the tax rate. The tax rate is expressed “per thousand dollars” of assessed valuation.

Reserve Fund: Money set aside by Town Meeting to be allocated by the Finance Committee for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.

Stabilization Fund: A special reserve funded by Town Meeting for future expenditures.

Tax Classification: Before setting the tax rate each year, a classification hearing is held by the Select Board to determine the shares of the tax levy to be paid by each class of property in the community, and whether to allow an open space discount, residential exemption, or small commercial exemption. The Assessors provide information about the impact of these options at the hearing. The decisions of the Select Board are reported to the Bureau of Accounts and are referred to as the “Classification Tax Allocation.”