

TOWN MEETING WARRANT and REPORT  
of the  
TOWN of FAIRHAVEN  
MASSACHUSETTS  
FOR THE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TO BE VOTED UPON  
**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.**



**PRECINCT MEETINGS:**

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.  
(classroom locations posted)

**TOWN MEETING PREVIEW:**

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.  
*Immediately following precinct meetings*

**Location:** Auditorium at the  
ELIZABETH HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
30 SCHOOL STREET

***Please bring this copy to Town Meeting***

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## Calendar year 2024 Salaries are in the 2024 Annual Report

The Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School building is accessible and designated parking is available. Requests for ADA accommodations can be reviewed by calling the Town Clerk’s office at least one week before the Town Meeting.

***Please bring this copy to Town Meeting***

## Letter from the Town Moderator

Dear Town Meeting Member:

On Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., we will convene the 2025 Annual Town Meeting in person at Hastings Middle School in the Silveira Auditorium.

In advance of Town Meeting, our precinct meetings and the Town Meeting preview will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Hastings Middle School in the Silveira Auditorium. Town Meeting members will meet in classrooms designated for their precinct (see below) beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed immediately by the Town Meeting preview. At your precinct meeting, you will elect the chair, fill vacant town meeting seats and discuss matters important to your precinct, including any vacancies on the Finance Committee. **It is important to note that precinct meetings require a quorum of members to conduct official business.** During the Town Meeting preview, we will run through all of the articles contained in the Annual Town Meeting warrant and elected and appointed officials will be on hand to answer questions you may have.

To ensure that the precinct meetings are easily accessible, we have designated classrooms at Hastings Middle School for these meetings. These same classrooms will be available to the precincts the morning of Town Meeting beginning at 8:30am in the event individual precinct meetings are necessary. Below are the room assignments. Each of the classrooms is in close proximity to Silveira Auditorium.

Precinct	Class Room	Location
1	34	Main Hallway to the right of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade wing
2	35	
3	36	
4	37	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade wing – closest to Auditorium
5	23	
6	24	

## TOWN MEETING INFORMATION

You can also find information about Town Meeting including warrants, minutes, etc. on the Town Moderator or Town Meeting member webpages (links below). The warrant and other information will also be mailed to you in advance of Town Meeting. There will also be an orientation video available on the Town Moderator webpage to learn more about the town meeting process.

<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/town-moderator>

<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/town-meeting>

An email distribution list of town meeting members has also been created as an additional way to share information and updates about Town Meeting. To add or update your contact information please use the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsYhT2FfRO58ci1PKgSVV06xyfXR1UwZKb5ccVpv5p-AVVAw/viewform>

I look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting on May 3, 2025. As always, please contact me with any questions you may have at (508) 858-7123 or via email at [msylvia@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:msylvia@fairhaven-ma.gov) or [msylvia11@comcast.net](mailto:msylvia11@comcast.net).

Sincerely,



Mark D. Sylvia  
TOWN MODERATOR

## Letter from the Finance Committee

To Fairhaven Town Meeting Members:

The duty of the Finance Committee is to thoroughly review all articles on the warrant that call for appropriations of money and any articles that may affect the finances of the town. Once complete, the Finance Committee provides written recommendations to Town Meeting.

Entering this year's budget season, we were once again faced with a General fund deficit. Seeing expenditures outpacing revenue, the administration requested all General Fund departments provide a budget that was 2% less than last year.

The response was mixed. Some departments provided budgets that were only slightly less than last year, others more than 2% less, while some provided an increased budget over last year.

Decreases were achieved in large part by budgeting closer to the actuals of the past 3 years. There are also some cuts to training and seminars along with an expected lower fuel price. There is no added staffing and the only staffing cut is a part time Deputy in Marine Resources.

The budget cuts along with an early pay-off of the Fire engine debt facilitated a balanced General Fund budget for FY 26.

The General Fund Capital plan is funded at \$1,753,084 containing the usual replacement of existing vehicles and upgrades for safety. Of note, is the money set aside for road work, which continues to be lower than historical levels.

For many years, now, we have been faced with budget shortfalls. To address these shortfalls, the administrations have used one time money, a failed tax override, and raising trash fees.

In December, the Finance Committee met to discuss the re-occurring financial challenges and solutions to address them. The committee made several recommendations to the administration. These included a hiring freeze, a capital spending freeze, tightened labor contracts, use of outside services, regionalization and controlling legal costs among many other ideas.

If faced with a choice of raising taxes or cutting budgets, the Finance Committee took a straw vote strongly in favor of budget cuts.

Though we have a balanced budget this year, it will only get tougher next year. The time has come for the incoming Town Administrator to take a long-view of financial stability to put the Town of Fairhaven on solid ground for the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Fairhaven Finance Committee

## Finance Committee

The Member at-large is appointed by the Moderator, the Chair of the Select Board and the Chair of the Finance Committee in joint session

### PRECINCT 1

Padraic Elliott, Chair	39 Union Street	Term Expires 2026
Robert Grindrod	48 Center Street	Term Expires 2025

### PRECINCT 2

Claire Millette, Vice-Chair	138 Main Street	Term Expires 2025
Ken Blanchard	126 Adams Street	Term Expires 2026

### PRECINCT 3

Stephen Levesque	42 Daniel Street	Term Expires 2026
David Patterson	271 Alden Road	Term Expires 2025

### PRECINCT 4

Peter Gardner	20 Bellvue Street	Term Expires 2025
James Souza	60 Hacker Street	Term Expires 2026

### PRECINCT 5

Steve Riley	6 Leeward Way	Term Expires 2026
Lisa Plante	5 Harvard Street	Term Expires 2025

### PRECINCT 6

Linda Gallant	361 Bridge Street	Term Expires 2025
Pattie Pacella	11 Forestview Drive	Term Expires 2026

### MEMBER AT LARGE

Chris Fidalgo	47 Union Street	Term Expires 2025
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## Warrant

The inhabitants qualified as Town Meeting Members shall meet on  
**Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 9:00 am**  
in the Walter Silveira Auditorium at the Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School  
to Act on the following Articles in the Warrant:

### ***Majority Vote needed unless stated otherwise***

#### **ARTICLE 1: MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK**

To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Select Board to appoint a Measurer of Wood and Bark.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption

#### **ARTICLE 2: TOWN REPORT**

To receive the Annual Report of Town Officers.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption

#### **ARTICLE 3: REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

To hear and act upon the reports of any committees, or committee appointed in Town Meeting and to choose any committees or committee the Town may think proper and to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the expense of same, or to take any other action with relation to either of said matters, as the Town may deem necessary and proper.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption

#### **ARTICLE 4: FY25 FUND ADJUSTMENTS**

##### **ARTICLE 4A: BILLS OF PRIOR YEAR**

To see if the Town will vote to pay the unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash). And others that may be brought forward, or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Unum (Blue Cross Blue Shield)	\$636.34	Human Resources

Select Board: Recommend Adoption

Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

***Vote Required: Four-Fifths (4/5) Vote***

#### **ARTICLE 4B: FY25 GENERAL FUND ADJUSTMENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 5 of the May 4, 2024 Town Meeting “General Fund Operating Budget-FY25” as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

1. Transfer from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) as follows:
  - A. \$132,500 be transferred from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) for the separation agreement with Prior Town Administrator (Department: Select Board)
  - B. \$57,000 be transferred from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) for the Interim Town Administrator salary (Department: Select Board)
  - C. \$70,000 be transferred from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) for Legal Cost (Department: Select Board)
  - D. \$32,000 be transferred from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) to fund retroactive payment under an arbitration settlement with the Police Department (Department: Police Department)

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption for B and C  
Yield to Petitioner for A and D

#### **ARTICLE 5: AMEND ARTICLE 9A-19 FROM THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, MAY 4, 2024**

To see if the town will reallocate the \$25,000 in funds for the zoning bylaw consultant to include funds for additional legal consulting and 3rd party environmental consultant services for:

- i. Contingency funds for the Community Planning Grant project, which these funds were originally requested.
- ii. To provide additional funds to allow for the addition of the property at the corner of Alden Road and David Drown Boulevard (Map 28, Lot 022B) to the 40R Plaza District.
- iii. To provide additional funds to address potential legal issues related to managing the current situation with the property located at Map 28C, Lot 071

*Petitioned by: Land Use Director*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

#### **ARTICLE 6 TOWN OPERATING BUDGETS -FY26**

##### **6A: GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET-FY26**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the amounts listed on the accompanying table to fund the Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund Operating Budget or take any other action relative thereto:

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator*

*See Appendix A, page 28 for full budget description  
any changes will be distributed at Town Meeting*

<b>Dept. Name/Function Totals</b>	<b><u>FY2025 Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2026 Budget</u></b>
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		
General Government Salaries & Wages	\$2,133,179	\$2,034,930.24
General Government Operating Expenses	\$1,027,339	\$1,028,100.50
<b>Subtotal General Government</b>	<b>\$3,160,518</b>	<b>\$3,063,030.74</b>

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

	<b><u>FY2025 Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2026 Budget</u></b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		
Public Safety Salaries & Wages	\$9,049,221	\$9,082,702.83
Public Safety Operating Expenses	\$880,772	\$774,937.78
<b>Subtotal Public Safety</b>	<b>\$9,929,993</b>	<b>\$9,857,640.61</b>

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: At Town Meeting

	<b><u>FY2025 Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2026 Budget</u></b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
Subtotal Fairhaven Public Schools	\$24,702,183	\$25,256,166
Subtotal New Bedford Regional Technical HS	\$2,626,000	\$2,631,268
Subtotal Bristol County Agricultural HS	\$310,100	\$332,694

\$28,220,128.00

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: At Town Meeting

	<b><u>FY2025 Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2026 Budget</u></b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>		
Public Works Salaries & Wages	\$1,612,579	\$1,616,296.95
Public Works Operating Expenses	\$2,766,432	\$2,753,404.00
<b>Subtotal Public Works</b>	<b>\$4,379,011</b>	<b>\$4,369,700.95</b>

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

	<u>FY2025 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY2026 Budget</u>
<b>HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Board of Health Salaries & Wages	\$172,797	\$172,559
Board of Health Operating Expenses	\$22,710	\$17,500
Subtotal Board of Health	\$195,507	\$190,059

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

	<u>FY2025 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY2026 Budget</u>
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>		
Community Services Salaries & Wages	\$542,295	\$609,716.49
Community Services Operating Expenses	\$1,586,994	\$1,465,605.53
Subtotal Community Services	\$2,129,289	\$2,075,322.02

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

	<u>FY2025 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY2026 Budget</u>
<b>NON-DEPARTMENTAL</b>		
Non-Departmental Salaries & Wages	\$0	\$500,000
Non-Departmental Operating Expenses	\$11,669,792	\$12,240,672
Subtotal Non-Departmental	\$11,669,792	\$12,740,672

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

	<u>FY2025 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY2026 Budget</u>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>		
General Fund	\$1,094,605	\$945,820

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

#### **6B: WATER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the Water Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2026 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<u>FY2025 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY2026 Budget</u>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	807,523	806,042
Operating Expenses	2,145,338	2,210,904
Debt Service	295,725	364,251
Subtotal Water Enterprise Appropriations	3,248,586	3,381,197
Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund	516,795	570,909
<b>TOTAL WATER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>3,765,381</b>	<b>3,952,106</b>

<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Water Revenue	3,550,000	3,454,106
Water Retained Earnings	215,381	498,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>3,765,381</b>	<b>3,952,106</b>

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator and Board of Public Works*

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

#### **6C: SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the Sewer Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2026 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<u>FY2025 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY2026 Budget</u>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	1,397,067	1,423,640
Operating Expenses	1,591,826	1,674,325
Debt Service	956,904	839,862
Subtotal Sewer Enterprise Appropriations	3,945,797	3,937,827
Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund	838,700	822,268
<b>TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>4,784,497</b>	<b>4,760,095</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Sewer Revenue	4,704,497	4,750,000
Sewer Retained Earnings	80,000	10,095
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>4,784,497</b>	<b>4,760,095</b>

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator and Board of Public Works*

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

#### **6D: TOWN CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the Town Cable Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2026 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<u>FY2025 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY2026 Budget</u>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	184,773	189,130
Operating Expenses	30,700	31,525
Debt Service	0	0
Subtotal Town Cable Enterprise Appropriations	215,473	220,655
Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund	24,671	25,565

<b>TOTAL TOWN CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>240,144</b>	<b>246,220</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Town Cable Revenue	202,665	202,079
Town Cable Retained Earnings	37,479	44,141
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>240,144</b>	<b>246,220</b>

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator*

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

#### **6E: SCHOOL CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the School Cable Enterprise Fund for FY26 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<b>FY 2025 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY2026 Budget</b>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	115,214	127,027
Operating Expenses	28,840	21,667
Debt Service	0	0
<b>Subtotal School Cable Enterprise Appropriations</b>	<b>144,054</b>	<b>148,694</b>
<b>Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund</b>	<b>12,849</b>	<b>15,865</b>
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>156,903</b>	<b>164,559</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
School Cable Revenue	156,903	156,919
School Cable Retained Earnings	0	7,640
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>156,903</b>	<b>164,559</b>

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator and School Committee*

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

#### **ARTICLE 7: GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PLAN**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following sums of monies to fund the capital equipment and projects listed below, or take any other action relative thereto:

<b>Line</b>	<b>Department/Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
	<b>Public Works Department</b>		
1	Road Work	\$160,000	Free Cash
2	Vehicle Replacement (6 Wheel Dump)	\$250,000	Free Cash
3	Vehicle Replacement (Replace 2007 Utility Truck)	\$62,000	Free Cash
4	Vehicle Replacement (Replace #8 and #39)	\$28,000	Free Cash

5	Vehicle Replacement (Tractor Mower Deck Mower)	\$60,000	Free Cash
6	Cold Storage Rehab (Building)	\$30,000	Free Cash
7	Tree Maintenance	\$30,000	Free Cash
	<b>Fire</b>		
8	Transfer to Ambulance Stabilization Fund	\$70,000	Ambulance Fund
9	Ambulance	\$465,000	Stretcher Art, Amb. Stabilization Fund
10	Lucas Replacement (Chest Compression Device)	\$32,000	Free Cash
11	Free Fire Fighting Gear	\$116,500	Free Cash
	<b>School</b>		
12	FHS Elevator Replacement	\$175,000	Free Cash
	<b>Police</b>		
13	Cruiser Replacement	\$150,473	Free Cash
14	Body Worn Cameras	\$10,742	Free Cash
15	Firearm Upgrade	\$33,369	Free Cash
	<b>Information Technology (IT)</b>		
16	Replacement of Equipment	\$30,000	Free Cash
17	BPW Camera System	\$50,000	Free Cash
	<b>Total recommended General Fund Capital Budget</b>	<b>\$1,753,084</b>	
<i>\$70,000 Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, \$161,179 Ambulance Stabilization, \$303,821 Ambulance Stretcher Article 13C, Annual Town Meeting June 18, 2022, \$1,218,084 Free Cash.</i>			

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption for 1-11 and 13-17  
Recommend At Town Meeting for 12

#### **ARTICLE 8: WATER ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL BUDGET**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$800,000, or any other amount, to pay costs of water main replacement on Glenhaven Avenue 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 other action relative thereto; and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following sums of monies to fund the capital equipment and projects of the Water Enterprise Fund: Wolf Island Road Pump Station Generator, Cold Storage Building and Vehicle Replacement #33, or take any other action relative thereto:

<b>Line</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
1	Glenhaven Avenue Water Main	\$800,000	Borrowing Authorization
2	Wolf Island Road Pump Station Generator	\$200,000	Water Retained Earnings
3	Cold Storage Building	\$30,000	Water Retained Earnings
4	Vehicle Replacement #33	\$60,000	Water Retained Earnings

*Petitioned by: Board of Public Works*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

***Glenhaven Ave. Water Main Vote Required: Two-thirds (2/3) Vote***

**ARTICLE 9: SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following sums of monies to fund the capital equipment and projects of the Sewer Enterprise Fund listed below, or take any other action relative thereto:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
1	Inflow and Infiltration Study	\$250,000	Sewer Retained Earnings
2	Vehicle Replacement #49	\$130,000	Sewer Retained Earnings

*Petitioned by: Board of Public Works*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

**ARTICLE 10: OTHER BUDGET ITEMS – APPROPRIATIONS – FUNDING OF ARTICLES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of monies for the following purposes or take any action relative thereto.

<u>Line</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>
1	Vessel Repair	\$4,200	Waterway Fund
2	Transfer to Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust Fund	\$250,000	Free Cash
3	Capital Stabilization	\$150,000	Free Cash
4	Compensated Absences (retirement payouts)	\$130,000	Free Cash
5	Clerical Tuition (per Collective Bargaining Agreement)	\$10,000	Free Cash
6	Shellfish Propagation	\$23,000	Free Cash
7	Procurement Consultant	\$9,500	Free Cash
8	Replacement of Equipment (Recreation Center)	\$10,000	Free Cash
9	Debt Payment	\$370,650	Free Cash
10	Public Works Electrical Breaker Replacement	\$10,300	Free Cash
11	Increase Retiree COLA from \$17k to \$18k	\$85,000	Free Cash
12	Increase Life Insurance from \$5k to \$15k for active employees and \$5k to \$10k for retirees	\$24,000	Free Cash
13	FEMA Grant-PPE 5% Match	\$8,022	Free Cash
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,084,672</b>	

*\$1,080,472 from Free Cash, \$4,200 Waterway Fund*

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator*

***Article Description Line 11:***

To increase the COLA base for retirees, beneficiaries and survivors beginning 7/1/25 from \$17,000 to \$18,000 consistent with Chapter 188, Section 19 of the

Acts of 2010. This would result in an annual increase in pension benefits of \$30 per retiree.

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

**ARTICLE 11: STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS, CHAPTER 90**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Public Works to accept and enter into contract for the expenditure of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of Town roads, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Board of Public Works*

**Motion: To adopt as written in the warrant.**

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

**ARTICLE 12: FY26 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPROPRIATIONS**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or to reserve for later appropriation, and to authorize the Community Preservation Committee to expend or reserve, from the Community Preservation Fund available funds and FY26 Estimated Receipts as set forth herein, the following amounts for community preservation purposes, with such expenditures to be subject to conditions to be specified in applications and award letters from the Community Preservation Committee, with each item considered a separate appropriation:

***See Appendix B, page 32 for Article Summary and Descriptions***

<b><u>PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET</u></b>	
<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>	
	<b><u>Recommended Amounts</u></b>
<b><u>Reserve for Appropriation</u></b>	
A. Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space, and its rehabilitation and restoration. (OS/R or OS or R) Estimated Receipts	\$70,000
B. Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Historic Resources (H) Estimated Receipts	\$70,000
C. Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Community Housing (CH) Estimated Receipts	\$70,000
D. Emergency Reserve Account Estimated Receipts	\$100,000
<b>Total Reserves for Appropriation</b>	<b>\$310,000</b>
<b><u>Spending Appropriations</u></b>	
E. FHA – Academy Building Repairs (H) (\$103,137 from existing Hist. Reserve Bal. and \$2,563 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Bal.)	\$105,700

F.	Millicent Library - HVAC Engineering and Design Project (H) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.	\$115,000
G.	FHS - Window Preservation, Phase 7 (H) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.	\$90,360
H.	WMFS - Cultural Center Phase 4 (H) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.	\$25,660
I.	Tennis/Pickleball - Cushman Park Court Repair (R) (\$70,594 from existing Open Sp. Bal. Reserve and \$29,406 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Bal.)	\$100,000
J.	BPW – Park Equipment (OS/R) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.	\$30,000
K.	BPW – Park Assessment (OS/R) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.	\$50,000
L.	FHA – Ash Street Windows (CH) Existing Community Housing Reserve Bal.	\$100,000
<b>Administrative Spending Appropriation</b>		
M.	To fund the Community Preservation Committee’s annual expenses for: Personal Service; Purchase of Services; Supplies; Other charges/expenditures (Estimated Receipts)	\$10,000
<b>Total Recommended Spending Appropriations</b>		<b>\$936,720</b>

*Petitioned by: Community Preservation Committee*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

### **ARTICLE 13: REVOLVING FUNDS**

#### **ARTICLE 13A: NEW REVOLVING FUND – ROGER A. GRIMSHAW PARK**

To see if the Town will authorize a “Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Account” under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ by adding the following paragraphs to §2-6 of the Town Bylaws:

#### **Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund**

- (1) Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund. There shall be a separate fund called the “Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund” authorized for use by the Council on Aging Director.
- (2) Revenues. The Town Accountant shall establish the Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund as a separate account and credit to the fund 15% of all fees received from events located at Roger A. Grimshaw Park received by the Council on Aging in connection with the use of and events held at Roger A. Grimshaw Park.
- (3) Purposes and expenditures. During each fiscal year, the Council on Aging Director may incur liabilities against and spend monies from the Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund for the purpose of funding the upkeep, maintenance, and improvement of Roger A. Grimshaw Park, or act in any other manner related thereto.
- (4) Fiscal years. The Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund shall operate for fiscal years that begin on or after July 1, 2025

and to see if the Town will vote to authorize a total amount that may be expended from the Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2026.

*Petitioned by: Council on Aging Director*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

### **ARTICLE 13B: REVOLVING FUNDS**

To see if the Town will authorize or re-authorize the following Revolving Accounts under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ by adding the following and to amend General Bylaws Section 2-6 terms or take any other action relative thereto:

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Authorized to Spend</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>FY26 Limit</b>
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	Disposal fees/charges	\$100,000
Sustainability	Sustainability Committee	Fees/charges	\$10,000
Hoppy’s Landing	Marine Resources	Fees/charges from users of Hoppy’s Landing	\$25,000
Town Hall Auditorium	Town Administrator	Town Hall Auditorium rental fees	\$3,000
Park Utilities	Board of Public Works	User fees	\$2,000
Shellfish Mitigation	Marine Resources	Mitigation fees	\$25,000
Mooring Fees	Marine Resources	Mooring fees	\$4,000
Mattress Recycling	Board of Health/ Sanitation	Fees from mattress disposal	\$3,000
Hoarding Remediation	Board of Health	Revenue from textile recovery boxes	\$2,000
Supportive Social Day Program	Council on Aging Director	Receipts from supportive social day program	\$250,000
Roger A. Grimshaw Park ( <i>NEW</i> )	Council on Aging Director	Receipts from events at Grimshaw Park	\$5,000

*Petitioned by: Interim Town Administrator*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

**ARTICLE 14: RESCIND AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED BALANCE OF BORROWING**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorized, but unissued, balance of \$18,000,000 from borrowing authorized to pay cost of constructing, equipping and furnishing the Leroy L. Wood Elementary School, approved by vote of the Town under Article 3 of the Warrant at the Special Town Meeting held on October 25, 2011, which authorized and unissued balance is no longer needed in order to complete the project; or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Treasurer*

Select Board:	Recommend Adoption
Finance Committee:	Recommend Adoption

**ARTICLE 15: HOME RULE PETITION: AMEND BYLAW CHAPTER 160 OF THE ACTS OF 2003**

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a Home Rule petition to amend Chapter 160 of the Acts of 2003 for the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers, to allow retired police officers to work until the age of 70 instead of 65 as is currently allowed and to clarify the appointing authority by striking some of the existing language as indicated in strikethrough, or adding language as indicated in bold/underlined below; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Request to amend as follows:*

SECTION 1. ~~The Board of Selectmen~~ **The Chief of Police** of the Town of Fairhaven, **with Town Administrator approval**, may appoint, as they deem necessary, retired Fairhaven police officers as special police officers for the purpose of performing police details or any other police duties arising therefrom or during the course of police detail work, regardless of whether or not related to the detail work. The retired police officers must have been regular Fairhaven police officers and retired based on superannuation. **No retired police officer shall be appointed as a special police officer pursuant to this act if that officer has been retired for more than five (5) years.** The special police officers shall **NOT** be subject to the same maximum age restrictions as applied to regular Fairhaven police officers under chapter 32 of the General Laws, **but shall not be eligible to serve as special police officers if they have reached the age of 70.** A special police officer must pass a medical examination, by a physician or other certified professional chosen by the town, to determine that he is capable of performing the essential duties of a special police officer; the cost of which shall be borne by the special police officer, prior to performing police details.

SECTION 2. Special police officers appointed under this act shall not be subject to chapter 31 of the General Laws, ~~or to section 99A of chapter 41 of the General Laws~~ **or chapter 150E of the General laws.**

SECTION 3. Special police officers shall, when performing the duties under section 1, have the same power to make arrests and perform other police functions as do regular police officers of the Town of Fairhaven.

SECTION 4. Special police officers shall be appointed for an indefinite term, subject to removal by the Board of Selectmen **Chief of Police, with Town Administrator approval**, at any time with 14 days written notice. Upon request, the Board of Selectmen **Chief of Police** shall provide reasons for removal in writing. **A special police officer's appointment shall automatically terminate upon the officer reaching the age of 70.**

SECTION 5. Special police officers shall also be subject to the rules and regulations, policies and procedures and requirements of the Fairhaven police department and Chief of Police of the Town of Fairhaven including restrictions on the type of detail assignment, requirements regarding medical examinations to determine continued capability to perform the duties of a special police officer, requirements for training, requirements for firearm licensing and qualification and requirements regarding uniforms and equipment. Special police officers shall not be subject to section 96B of chapter 41 of the General laws.

SECTION 6. Special police officers shall be sworn before the town clerk of the Town of Fairhaven who shall keep a record of all such appointments.

SECTION 7. Special police officers appointed under this act shall be subject to section 100 and section 111F of chapter 41 of the General Laws. The amount payable under said section 111F of chapter 41 shall be calculated by averaging the amount earned over the prior 52 weeks as a special police officer working police details, or averaged over such lesser period of time for any officer designated as special police officer less than 52 weeks prior to the incapacity. In no event shall payment under said section 111F of chapter 41 exceed, in any calendar year, the limitation on earning contained in paragraph (b) of section 91 of chapter 32 of the General Laws. Payment under said section 111F of chapter 41 shall terminate ~~when a special police officer reaches the age of 65. In the event the age limitation applicable to regular police officers serving the town is increased from the current 65 years of age, the termination of benefits under said section 111F of said chapter 41, as the benefits extend beyond the age of 70 for any special police officer.~~ **in accordance with said section 111F of said chapter 41 or at the conclusion of the employment term, whichever occurs sooner.** Special police officers appointed under this act shall not be subject to section 85H of said chapter 32, nor eligible for any benefits pursuant thereto.

SECTION 8. Appointment as a special police officer shall **NOT** entitle any individual appointed as such to assignment to any detail.

SECTION 9. Retired Fairhaven police officers serving as special police officers under this act shall be subject to the limitations on hours worked and on payments to retired town employees under paragraph (b) of section 91 of

chapter 32 of the General Laws.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Petitioned by: Police Department*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE 16: HOME RULE PETITION: TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN CHARTER**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a Home Rule Petition with the Massachusetts General Court to adopt the Town of Fairhaven Charter submitted by the Charter Committee in accordance with Article 48 of the June 12, 2021 Annual Town Meeting; or to take any other action relative thereto.

*\*Appendix C containing language will be provided at Town Meeting*

*Petitioned by: Charter Committee*

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE 17: AMEND BYLAW, CHAPTER 164, SOLID WASTE**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 164 Solid Waste by adding to the existing language indicated below in bold/underlined; or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Request to amend as follows:*

B. General Prohibition and Regulation.

No retail establishment, retail food establishment, nonprofit and/or Town facility food provider shall transfer merchandise to end consumers in a thin- film single-use plastic bag, and shall only use check- out bags that are:

a. Reusable checkout bags

**i. Reusable checkout bag shall be defined as the following:**

**“A bag that is not made of plastic film and that is made from any other natural or synthetic fabric, including, but not limited to, woven or nonwoven nylon, polypropylene, polyethylene-terephthalate, or Tyvek, shall satisfy all of the following:**

**(1) It shall be sewn.**

**(2) It shall be capable of carrying 22 pounds over a distance of 175 feet for a minimum of 125 uses.**

**(3) It shall have a minimum fabric weight of at least 80 grams per square meter.**

*Petitioned by: Board of Health*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE 18: AMEND BYLAW, CHAPTER 50, § 3, MEETING TO ELECT TOWN OFFICIALS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 50 § 3, Meeting to elect Town officials by striking some of the existing language as indicated in strikethrough, or adding language as indicated in bold/underlined below; or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Request to amend as follows:*

The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the first ~~Monday in April~~ **Saturday in May, unless otherwise specified by the Select Board, at which time all articles in the warrant will be considered,** ~~at which time the election of all Town officials and Town Meeting members shall take place, and thereafter said meeting will be adjourned to another day for the consideration of all other articles in the warrant.~~ **The Annual town election of officers and town meeting members will be adjourned until the 2nd Tuesday in June.**

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE 19: AMEND BYLAWS CHAPTER 198 ZONING**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 198 Zoning of the Fairhaven Town Code, as follows:

- (i) by amending Section 198-14, entitled “Establishment of districts,” at the end of Subsection A, to amend the following new overlay district:

Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District (FSGOD)

and

- (ii) by amending Appendix A, Section 3.1 to read “The Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District, herein after referred to as the “FSGOD,” is an overlay district having a land area of approximately 89.32 acres in size that is superimposed over the underlying zoning districts and on the Zoning Map as set forth on maps entitled “2025 Update to the Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay Smart Growth Zoning Map”, amending the existing map entitled “Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay 4-2 Smart Growth Zoning Map (Plaza Area SGOD), dated 6/19/2024.

and

- (iii) and, further, to amend the “Town of Fairhaven Zoning Map,” as referenced in Section 198-14(B) of the aforementioned Code, by adding the map entitled “2025 Update to the Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay Smart Growth Zoning Map,” and prepared by Dodson & Flinker.

*Petitioned by: Director of Land Use*

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE 20: PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX STABILIZATION FUND**

**ARTICLE 20A: CREATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to create a Public Safety Complex Stabilization Fund under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for fiscal year 2026, beginning on July 1, 2025. This fund will be utilized for the acquisition of land and for the preliminary design of a Public Safety Complex; or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Fire Chief and Police Chief*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: At Town Meeting

***Vote Required: Two-thirds (2/3) Vote***

**ARTICLE 20B: PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,500,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to be deposited in the Public Safety Complex Stabilization Fund as authorized by MGL Chapter 40, Section 5B, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Fire Chief and Police Chief*

Select Board: Recommend Adoption  
Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

***Vote Required: Two-thirds (2/3) Vote***

**ARTICLE 21: DONATION OF PARCEL ID 27-334, 0 WASHBURN AVE., FAIRHAVEN, MA**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept a deed to acquire by gift the real property located at 0 Washburn Avenue, Map 27, Lot 334, from the current private owner, the estate of Sidney Feldman (“The Estate”), or take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Select Board / Conservation Commission*

Select Board: At Town Meeting  
Finance Committee: Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE 22: CITIZENS PETITION – AMEND BYLAWS, CHAPTER 88, FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SHADE TREE BYLAW**

To have the following language added to Chapter 88, Fairhaven Public Shade Tree Bylaw:

**Addition to Chapter 88 Public Shade Tree Bylaw**

6) **Shade Tree Planting Board**

A Shade Tree Planting Board will be created by the town. It shall consist of three members. Members shall be town residents with demonstrable qualifications in the area of urban forestry management. The board shall be appointed by the select board and the term of a Shade Tree Board Member will be 2 years. At least one member of the board will be a current Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden. The boards responsibilities shall be thus

- a. In conjunction with the Tree Warden identify planting sites and species for new shade trees.
- b. Purchase public shade trees with monies designated by the town for such purposes.
- c. Raise funds for the purchase of new public shade trees
- d. Facilitate planting and care for the new public shade trees until reaching a diameter of 6 caliper inches at breast height.
- e. Approve the removal of public shade trees that are viable and not evaluated to be imminent risk.

7) **Damage reporting**

Any damage to public shade trees by vehicles, vandals, town departments or any other entity shall be reported to the police department, whom shall provide a police report to the Tree Warden who in turn shall provide it to the Shade Tree Planting Board. The Tree warden shall be responsible for pursuing compensation for any damage to public shade trees deemed appropriate by the Shade Tree Planting Board.

8) **Damages Usage**

Any monies recovered for damage to town infrastructure in the form of public shade trees shall be placed into the shade tree planting fund.

9) **Shade Tree Value**

A value of \$500 per caliper inch at breast height will be used as a value for public shade trees.

10) **Fines and Fees**

Any fines or fee payments issued by the Tree Warden shall first be reviewed and approved by the Shade Tree Planting Board.

*Petitioned by: Don Carlos Collasius*

Select Board: Yield to Petitioner  
Finance Committee: Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE: 23 CITIZENS PETITION – AMEND BYLAW, CHAPTER 83**  
**ALCOHOL, BEVERAGES & DRUGS SECTION § 5**

To amend the Fairhaven Town Bylaw Chapter 83, Alcohol, Beverages & Drugs Section § 5 to allow the sale of glass 100 milliliter single use containers effective May 12, 2025. All 100 milliliter single use containers made from glass will be permitted to sell.

*Petitioned by: Kelly Smith*

Select Board:                      Yield to Petitioner  
Finance Committee:              Yield to Petitioner

**ARTICLE 24: CITIZENS PETITION – HARD SURFACE-WITHDRAWN BY**  
**PETITIONER**

To see if the Town will vote to reconstruct hard-surface of Chase Road from Crescent to Raymond:

*Petitioned by: Richard Spoor*

**ARTICLE 25: STREET ACCEPTANCE: ALVES WAY**

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public street Alves Way, or take any action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Antonio Alves*

**ARTICLE: 26 OTHER BUSINESS**

To act upon any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

And 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, seven days at least prior to the date of the meeting.

**List of Appendices**

Appendix A, Article 6A General Fund Operating Budget FY26 ..... 28  
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Committee Appropriations Project Summary and Descriptions ..... 32  
Appendix C, Article 16 Home Rule Petition: Town of Fairhaven Charter\* ..... 34  
*\*To be provided at Town Meeting*

**NOTE: Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Salaries can be found  
in the 2024 Annual Report**

# **APPENDIX A - Article 6A General Fund Operating Budget FY26**

Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY 2025 Budgeted	FY 2026 Requested Budget
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT (MISC.)</b>			
114	<b>Moderator Salary</b>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
122/195/405	<b>Select Board/Town Adm./Town Report/Engineering</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$364,716.00	\$352,693.20
	Operating Expenses	\$40,590.00	\$31,440.00
153	<b>Human Resources</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$178,123.00	\$151,065.00
	Operating Expenses	\$64,465.00	\$78,695.00
113/131	<b>Town Meeting/Finance Committee</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
	Operating Expenses	\$7,830.00	\$6,400.00
	Reserve Fund	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
151	<b>Legal</b>	\$285,277.00	\$300,000.00
192	<b>Town Hall</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$174,516.00	\$178,426.00
	Operating Expenses	\$81,890.00	\$79,777.00
155	<b>Consolidated Information Technology</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$345,271.00	\$371,169.00
	Operating Expenses	\$226,205.00	\$221,760.00
<b>General Government Salaries &amp; Wages</b>		<b>\$1,065,126.00</b>	<b>\$1,055,353.20</b>
<b>General Government Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$781,257.00</b>	<b>\$793,072.00</b>
<b>Subtotal General Government</b>		<b>\$1,846,383.00</b>	<b>\$1,848,425.20</b>
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT (MUNICIPAL FINANCE)</b>			
135	<b>Accounting</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$204,997.00	\$205,498.00
	Operating Expenses	\$66,357.00	\$64,480.00
145	<b>Treasurer/Collector</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$292,995.00	\$256,307.00
	Operating Expenses	\$66,175.00	\$63,155.00
141	<b>Assessors</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$140,022.00	\$144,395.00
	Operating Expenses	\$51,125.00	\$43,121.00
<b>Municipal Finance Salaries &amp; Wages</b>		<b>\$638,014.00</b>	<b>\$606,200.00</b>
<b>Municipal Finance Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$183,657.00</b>	<b>\$170,756.00</b>
<b>Subtotal Municipal Finance</b>		<b>\$821,671.00</b>	<b>\$776,956.00</b>
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT (TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS)</b>			
161/163	<b>Subtotal Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>\$189,606.00</b>	<b>\$168,127.04</b>
161/163	<b>Subtotal Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$35,245.00</b>	<b>\$44,651.50</b>
<b>PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b>			
175-00	<b>Planning Board</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00

175-01	<b>Planning and Economic Development</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$128,528.00	\$129,567.00
	Operating Expenses	\$12,530.00	\$8,171.00
175-02	<b>Economic Development Committee</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
176	<b>Board of Appeals</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$3,060.00	\$0.00
	Operating Expenses	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
171	<b>Conservation Commission</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$108,845.00	\$75,683.00
	Operating Expenses	\$9,350.00	\$6,150.00
122	<b>Buzzards Bay Action Committee</b>	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
<b>Planning &amp; Development Salaries &amp; Wages</b>		<b>\$240,433.00</b>	<b>\$205,250.00</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Development Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$27,180.00</b>	<b>\$19,621.00</b>
<b>Subtotal Planning &amp; Development</b>		<b>\$267,613.00</b>	<b>\$224,871.00</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b>General Government Salaries &amp; Wages</b>		<b>\$2,133,179.00</b>	<b>\$2,034,930.24</b>
<b>General Government Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,027,339.00</b>	<b>\$1,028,100.50</b>
<b>Subtotal General Government</b>		<b>\$3,160,518.00</b>	<b>\$3,063,030.74</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			
210/292	<b>Police Department/Animal Control</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$5,094,121.00	\$5,046,874.83
	Operating Expenses	\$462,530.00	\$409,679.78
220/225/291	<b>Fire Department/Emergency Management</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$3,574,110.00	\$3,613,442.00
	Operating Expenses	\$377,697.00	\$322,460.00
241	<b>Building Department</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$195,655.00	\$237,253.00
	Operating Expenses	\$4,030.00	\$4,481.00
298	<b>Marine Resources</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$178,195.00	\$177,993.00
	Operating Expenses	\$36,140.00	\$38,017.00
244	<b>Weights &amp; Measures</b>		
	Salaries & Wages	\$7,140.00	\$7,140.00
	Operating Expenses	\$375.00	\$300.00
<b>Public Safety Salaries &amp; Wages</b>		<b>\$9,049,221.00</b>	<b>\$9,082,702.83</b>
<b>Public Safety Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$880,772.00</b>	<b>\$774,937.78</b>
<b>Subtotal Public Safety</b>		<b>\$9,929,993.00</b>	<b>\$9,857,640.61</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
300	<b>Fairhaven Public Schools</b>	<b>\$24,820,213.00</b>	<b>\$25,256,166.00</b>
301	<b>NB Regional Technical HS</b>	<b>\$2,626,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,631,268.00</b>
302	<b>NB Regional Technical HS</b>	<b>\$310,100.00</b>	<b>\$332,694.00</b>
<b>Subtotal Education</b>		<b>\$27,756,313.00</b>	<b>\$28,220,128.00</b>

PUBLIC WORKS			
421	Administration Division		
	Salaries & Wages	\$86,615.00	\$88,731.95
	Operating Expenses	\$19,375.00	\$8,375.00
403/420	Highways Division		
	Salaries & Wages	\$1,329,321.00	\$1,364,760.00
	Operating Expenses	\$742,137.00	\$721,252.00
	Snow & Ice	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
650	Parks Department		
	Salaries & Wages	\$162,261.00	\$162,805.00
	Operating Expenses	\$53,000.00	\$56,500.00
294/295	Tree Department		
	Salaries & Wages	\$34,382.00	\$0.00
	Operating Expenses	\$38,145.00	\$68,945.00
431	Sanitation - Operating Expenses	\$1,792,775.00	\$1,776,332.00
424	Street Lighting	\$61,000.00	\$62,000.00
Public Works Salaries & Wages		\$1,612,579.00	\$1,616,296.95
Public Works Operating Expenses		\$2,766,432.00	\$2,753,404.00
Subtotal Public Works		\$4,379,011.00	\$4,369,700.95
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT			
510	Board of Health		
	Salaries & Wages	\$172,797.00	\$172,559.00
	Operating Expenses	\$22,710.00	\$17,500.00
Subtotal Board of Health		\$195,507.00	\$190,059.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES			
541	Council on Aging		
	Salaries & Wages	\$153,873.00	\$154,338.00
	Operating Expenses	\$35,497.00	\$35,247.00
543	Veterans Services		
	Salaries & Wages	\$91,433.00	\$94,302.18
	Operating Expenses	\$564,350.00	\$545,021.96
611	Millicent Library	\$797,302.00	\$770,528.00
640	Recreation Department		
	Salaries & Wages	\$215,138.00	\$302,971.31
	Operating Expenses	\$146,975.00	\$51,900.00
189	Tourism Department		
	Salaries & Wages	\$81,851.00	\$58,105.00
	Operating Expenses	\$18,570.00	\$41,308.57
691	Fine Arts - expenses	\$1,000.00	\$850.00
670	Historical Commission - expenses	\$15,800.00	\$15,200.00
692	Memorial/Veterans Day - expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
690	Cultural Council - expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,250.00
190	Commission on Disability - expenses	\$1,000.00	\$900.00

191	Belonging Committee	\$1,000.00	\$900.00
122	Rape Crisis Project - expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Community Services Salaries & Wages		\$542,295.00	\$609,716.49
Community Services Operating Expenses		\$1,586,994.00	\$1,465,605.53
Subtotal Community Services		\$2,129,289.00	\$2,075,322.02
NON-DEPARTMENTAL			
911	Contributory Retirement	\$4,134,792.00	\$4,334,352.00
924	Group Insurance	\$5,250,000.00	\$5,445,000.00
913	MA Employment Security	\$66,000.00	\$100,000.00
925	Town General Insurance	\$1,112,000.00	\$1,234,320.00
918	Medicare Taxes (Employer Share)	\$482,000.00	\$502,000.00
122	Wind Turbine Electric Expense	\$625,000.00	\$625,000.00
122	Salary Reserve	\$0.00	\$500,000.00
Non-Departmental Salary & Wages		\$0.00	\$500,000.00
Non-Departmental Operating Expenses		\$11,669,792.00	\$12,240,672.00
Subtotal Non-Departmental		\$11,669,792.00	\$12,740,672.00
DEBT SERVICE			
710	Debt Service		
Subtotal Debt Service		\$1,094,605.00	\$945,820.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$60,315,028.00	\$61,462,373.32
GRAND TOTAL BREAKDOWN			
Salaries & Wages - Town		\$13,510,071.00	\$14,016,205.51
Operating Expenses - Town		\$6,284,247.00	\$6,039,547.81
Educational Services		\$27,756,313.00	\$28,220,128.00
Non-Departmental Costs		\$11,669,792.00	\$12,240,672.00
Debt Service		\$1,094,605.00	\$945,820.00
Grand Totals		\$60,315,028.00	\$61,462,373.32

**DESCRIPTIONS**  
**2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**CPC FY26 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**APPROPRIATIONS**

- A. **Open Space Reserve:** This is to reserve at least the minimum 10% of anticipated revenues to remain in compliance with the Community Preservation Act.
- B. **Historic Preservation Reserve:** This is to reserve at least the minimum 10% of anticipated revenues to remain in compliance with the Community Preservation Act.
- C. **Community Housing Reserve:** This is to reserve at the least the minimum 10% of anticipated revenues to remain in compliance with the Community Preservation Act.
- D. **Emergency Reserve Account:** A reserve account for emergencies that need funds but fall outside of the normal CPC Application and Review process. Projects would still need to be approved by Town Meeting.
- E. **Academy Building Repairs** Project will include the installation of new shingles on the East, North and West faces of the building and the tower. It will also include some repairs to the exterior and interior with painting, repair and install a new bulkhead. The bathroom will be renovated and brought up to ADA compliance, as well as an ADA compliant push- button door opener for the back door.
- F. **Millicent Library - HVAC Engineering and Design Project** The next phase of the overall upgrade, which is to complete the design and engineering of the new heating and air system.
- G. **FHS - Window Preservation, Phase 7** Final Phase of the window renovation and preservation of windows at FHS. This includes windows on the ground floor of the building.
- H. **Whitfield Manjiro Friendship Society - Cultural Center Phase 4** Finish interior work in this final phase of renovation. Including flooring, painting and handicap access ramp.
- I. **Tennis/Pickleball - Cushman Park Court Repair** Resurfacing and repair of courts at Cushman Park. Also includes painting and restriping.
- J. **BPW – Park Equipment** - Replace park equipment at different parks including but not limited to bleachers, benches, and other outdoor replacement furniture.

- K. **BPW – Park Assessment** Complete park assessment of 12 different parks in town, focusing on the 3 larger parks. Assessment will determine the condition and needs for improvements.
- L. **FHA - Ash Street Windows** Fairhaven Housing Authority- Replace all windows at all three buildings on Ash. Street
- M. **Administrative services and operating expenses:** Personal Service; Purchase of Services; Supplies; Other charges/expenditures (Estimated Receipts)

**MOTIONS**

Move that the Town vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for community preservation projects, committee's administrative expenses, and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

- A. Move Adoption and to Reserve for future appropriations \$70,000 from Estimated Receipts for acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space, and its rehabilitation and restoration.
- B. Move Adoption and to Reserve for future appropriations \$70,000 from Estimated Receipts for acquisition, creation, and preservation of Historic Resources.
- C. Move Adoption and to Reserve for future appropriations \$70,000 from Estimated Receipts for acquisition, creation, and preservation of Community Housing.
- D. Move Adoption and to Reserve for future appropriations \$100,000 from Estimated Receipts for the Emergency Reserve Account.
- E. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$103,137 from the existing Historic Balance Reserve and \$2,563 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Balance for the Academy Building Repairs.
- F. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$115,000 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Balance for The Millicent Library HVAC Engineering and Design Project.
- G. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$90,360 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Balance FHS - Window Preservation, Phase 7.
- H. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$25,660 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Balance WMFS - Cultural Center Phase 4.

- I. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$70,594 from the existing Open Space Balance Reserve \$29,406 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Balance for Tennis/Pickleball - Cushman Park Courts Repair.
- J. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$30,000 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Balance for BPW – Park Equipment.
- K. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$50,000 from the existing Unreserved Undesignated Balance for BPW – Park Assessment.
- L. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$100,000 from Community Housing Reserved Balance for FHA – Ash Street Windows.
- M. Move Adoption and to appropriate \$10,000 from Estimated Receipts to CPC Administrative Spending Appropriation.

**APPENDIX C - Article 16: Home Rule Petition: Town of Fairhaven Charter**  
To be provided by the Charter Committee at 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.

**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."



**Town Clerk**  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

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