

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
December 29, 2025**

**Present**

Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner  
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner  
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager  
Keith Hickey, Town Administrator  
Anne Carreiro, Town Accountant  
Jody Donnelly

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2026 JAN 13 AM 10:21

**Absent**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

Mr. Hobson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. December 15, 2025**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of December 15, 2025. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Keith Hickey – FY27 Budget and Trash Fee**

Mr. Hickey – Mr. Hickey reviewed what he requested in developing the FY27 Budget. We are in the process of putting together a financial forecast. I wanted to come in to get a sense of how the Board of Public Works wanted to proceed with the trash fee. The amount of money we collect plays a significant role and I do not expect the Board to vote tonight. If you need any information Anne and I would be happy to provide you with that information.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the Comparison of the Annual Cost of Collecting and Disposing of Household Trash Fees Collected (attachment a). The money shown is what is actually collected not what is actually billed.

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Mr. Hobson – I appreciate you coming in. A lot of residents are not happy with the fee and the Board does not want to see anyone laid off. The most important thing we have are our employees, it is hard to find good employees. I think the Board is willing to help you out if we can.

Ms. Smith – In the memo you suggested that we increase to \$110. What does that have to do with the override.

Mr. Hickey – Every little bit helps. We are looking at an override of 1.5 million.

Ms. Carreiro – We would love to see more of an increase, since every little bit helps.

Mr. Lopes – My only concern is we went so many years with the general fund coving the whole cost of the trash contract.

Mr. Hickey – We unfortunately do not have the growth in our taxes. We will come back in the future if you want us to come back to discuss it in the future.

Ms. Carreiro – Our fixed cost, along with salary increases are going up and the state is not providing additional funds.

Ms. Smith – If people are not paying their bills than we should not be servicing the property.

Mr. Hickey – If the bill doesn't get paid that we lien it to the property.

Ms. Carreiro – We could ask other municipalities what they do if people don't pay their bills.

Mr. Hobson – We can continue this at our next meeting once Mr. Wotton is back.

**B. Interview / Hire Water Department Water System Maintenance Man**

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Donnelly has been with the Town in the Highway Department for about y years now. Mr. Donnelly has just received his Grade 1 Water Distribution License and has applied for the position.

Mr. Donnelly - I applied for the position because I am always looking to better myself.

Mr. Crabb – Mr. Donnelly is a great employee and I am glad to see him better himself but sad to see him go.

Mr. Lopes motioned to hire Mr. Donnelly as a Water System Maintenance Man at a Grade 5 Step 4 with a 6-month probationary period. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**V. Item for Action**

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- A. Stantec Consulting Services, Town Wide Sanitary Sewer Force Main Condition Assessment, Payment #41 \$2,076.55**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Stantec Consulting Services, Town Wide Sanitary Sewer Force Main Condition Assessment Payment #41 in the amount of \$2,076.55. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

- B. Tata & Howard, Test Well Investigation, Payment #24 \$869.54**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Test Well Investigation Payment #34 in the amount of \$869.54. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

- C. Speakman Excavating, Livesey Park Skate Park**

- 1. Payment #4 \$11,409.00**
- 2. Sign Certificate of Final Completion**

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over these two items until the next meeting.

**VI. Tabled Matters**

- A. n/a**

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

- A. Superintendent**

**Superintendent Report for December 29, 2025**

- MRV Loan documents
- POTW Upgrade Meetings
- Attend Dept Head Meeting
- Meet with TA re FY 27 Capital
- Meet with AFSCME re union policy
- Chair monthly MRV Meeting
- Meet with TA re FY 27 trash
- FY 27 various budgets

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- Tour POTW Upgrade with SB Member
- Cell Tower Meeting
- Meet with Counsel re POTW Change Orders
- Met with Counsel re: MCC Claims

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board has regarding the Superintendent Report.

**B. Board Members**

Ms. Smith – When are we going to be discussing the tree report? I think the cost is of interest.

Mr. Crabb – We can put it on the next agenda if the Board is ready.

Ms. Smith – We have a bylaw about people shoveling the sidewalks.

Mr. Furtado – If the police or building department deem it a hazard then we would go and clear it and send a bill to the property owner.

Ms. Smith – I was just wondering if this is something that we should consider doing in the future. I understand that we would have to amend the by-law at Town Meeting. If it could come to the BPW in the future I would like to see it.

Mr. Crabb – Right now we report all issues to the Police Department for them to enforce.

Mr. Lopes – Do we have any new information for a new potential recycle center location?

Mr. Furtado – The past Town Administrator asked us not to proceed. Mr. Hickey is still new and I haven't brought this to his attention.

Mr. Crabb – Representative Silva asked us if there were any environmental projects in Town to be restored and/or cleaned up and we mentioned Bridge Street.

**Mr. Hobson – There are items on the curb on Grandview Avenue that have been there a few weeks.**

**C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters**

**Mr. Hobson – The Marine Resources Committee has not met since our last meeting.**

**D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters**

**IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting**

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Ms. Smith motioned to set the date of the next meeting on January 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. and enter into executive session and not to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Ms. Rotondo in favor.

**XI. Executive Session**

- A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Highway Employee)**

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Business Manager

Minutes approved on January 12, 2026