

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 31, 2025**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
Jeffrey Furtado, Water Superintendent
Sam Dungca, Full Bloom Festival
Alexis Costa, Full Bloom Festival
Brian Messier, 82 Pleasant Street



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Wotton reconvened in open session at 6:40 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. March 17, 2025

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of March 17, 2025. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. March 17, 2025 – Executive Session A

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of March 17, 2025 – Executive Session A. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. 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 (Sewer Department Personnel)

B. 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 (14 Cherrystone Road)

V. Appointments

A. Soul Flower Yoga & Wellness, Full Bloom Festival at Cushman Park on June 29, 2025

Ms. Dungca – This will be our 5th hosting the Full Bloom Festival at Cushman Park, this year we would like to host the event on Sunday, June 29, 2025. This event is a free community event which will have vendors, food, music and a lot of different things for the whole family. We like to host this event to show the community different ways to get everyone engaged.

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Mr. Wotton – There has been a slight change since last year. This year in order to use the bathrooms there will be a refundable \$350 deposit and as long as there are no issues with the bathrooms after the event then you would receive your deposit back.

Ms. Smith – Also, it would be your responsibility to stock the bathrooms with the necessary supplies.

Ms. Duncga – This year we are looking to put up a large tent for shade in front of the stage. Would that be an issue?

Mr. Furtado – This would not be an issue, as long as the stakes are in the grass and dirt.

Ms. Smith – Was it you folks who put in the gardens?

Ms. Duncga- Yes, it was us in collaboration with another group. We will be getting to attend to the gardens and get everything fixed up.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the Full Bloom Festival at Cushman Park on Sunday, June 29, 2025. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Hire for Highway Department Working Foreman Maintenance Man Position

Mr. Furtado – We have two foreman positions in the Highway Department and one of them is vacant due to an employee leaving. We posted the position inhouse and we had four applicants apply for the position. If you look at the current collective bargaining agreement it states that we must hire the senior person.

Mr. Hobson – It seems like the language in the CBA leaves us no choice but to hire the senior applicant. I recommend that we hire him with a 90-day probation.

Mr. Furtado – Yes, that is in the CBA and we are going to follow it.

Mr. Lopes – How do you feel about job site safety?

Mr. Lawrence – Job safety is definitely a priority. Digsafes have to be all set and ready to go and everything is safety first with the team. Everyone is going to go home at night with ten fingers and ten toes.

Mr. Furtado – I recommend that Mr. Lawrence is promoted once he returns to work without restrictions.

Mr. Hobson motioned to promote Mr. Lawrence to a Foreman in the Highway Department starting at a Grade 9 Step 3 once he returns to work without restrictions and with a 90-day probationary period. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Item for Action

A. Town of Acushnet Transferable Beach Passes

Mr. Wotton – The Town of Acushnet is looking to purchase two transferable beach permits that they would leave at the library. These permits would be signed out on a daily basis.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the Town of Acushnet to be able to purchase two transferable beach permits at \$200 each. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Eversource Subcontractor Permission to Work in Public Way

Mr. Furtado – When Eversource Works in Town they either use their own crew, Feeney Brothers or Riley Brothers. In the past Riley Brothers Work has not been up to Town standards and we would have to call them to come back to fix their work. We are looking for the Board to vote that Riley Brothers is not able to work in Town.

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Mr. Crabb - When I came in and the experience I had with other places, I don't think that Riley Brother's should be working in this town with the amount of stuff that they broke. I'll let the other adjacent communities be the guinea pigs. We are looking for a motion to ban Riley Brothers from working as an Eversource subcontractor and remove their permissions to work in the public way.

Mr. Lopes motioned to ban Riley Brothers to work as an Eversource Subcontractor removing their permission to work in the public way in the Town of Fairhaven. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Sign Contract Agreement, GCG Associates, Survey Services Sconticut Neck Road Corridor Improvement Project
\$147,900.00**

Mr. Crabb – This Agreement is for the existing condition survey for the entire corridor beginning at Route 6 going all the way down to Goulart Memorial Drive. It is for the existing conditions, the right of way property lines, the pavement, trees, everything that's there that will be used as the basis for the eventual design of the corridor improvements for Sconticut Neck Road.

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with GCG Associates in the amount of \$147,900.00 for Survey Services for the Sconticut Neck Road Corridor Improvement Projects. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Tighe & Bond, Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan Payment #9 \$46,200.00

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tighe and Board Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan Payment #9 in the amount of \$46,200.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Graffiti Policy

Mr. Furtado – In the past Bristol County Sherriff's Department used to remove the graffiti in Town, they no longer have this unit, so last year we bought a machine to remove the graffiti. Currently the Board of Public Works / Town of Fairhaven does not have a Graffiti Policy.

Mr. Crabb – We need a policy that lists the protocol when we receive a complaint.

Mr. Smith – I have done a little bit of research. It shows that removing graffiti within 48 hours is an acceptable time frame. I think it is important to remove all graffiti in an acceptable timeframe. The truth is the longer you leave it the more you are going to get. Also, residents need to know how to report an issue.

Mr. Crabb – It seems logical that it gets reported to the BPW since we are the ones funneling it, then we can report it to the police department so there is documentation.

Mr. Wotton – Draw up a policy, submit it to the facilities director and safety officer at the police department and get their input. Once everyone agrees then we can move forward with it on our end.

F. Tour de Crème Bike Ride Event, Sunday, June 1, 2025.

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Tour de Crème Bike Ride Event on Sunday, June 1, 2025. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. Hire West Island Town Beach Summer Help

Mr. Furtado – We are looking to rehire everyone that is listed on the sheet in front of you for the 2025 season. All of the applicants listed are returning from last year. Also, we are looking for two to three more lifeguards.

Mr. Hobson motioned to hire the presented applicants for the 2025 West Island Beach Summer Help pending preemployment screenings. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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H. Board of Public Works ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) Policy

Mr. J Furtado – Last week I went to a meeting in Somerset regarding ADU's. Their attorney advised them that they cannot deny anyone to tie into public utilities and to create a policy that would eventually have to become a Town by-law. With the new train access to Boston these ADU's are starting to pop up. We have received 3 requests in the last month and there are another 3 being developed right now. It is fairly new and a lot of people do not know about this yet, but once it goes around and get out, you are going to find a lot more garages with these units above them.

Mr. Hobson – I believe that West Island should be different than the rest of the Town.

Mr. Furtado –Correct, there is already a restriction from DEP.

Mr. Wotton – Once we have a draft policy then bring it back to the Board and we will approve the policy and then put it on the warrant for Town Meeting to approve it as a By-law.

I. Sign Engineering Agreement, GCG Associates, 431 Sconticut Neck Road \$1,585.00

Mr. Wotton – We are going to skip over this.

J. Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrade Project, Change Order #2 \$228,168.13

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrade Project Change Order #2 in the amount of \$228,168.13. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Table Matters

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

Mr. Messier –There is some working being done in front of my house by LAL. They are doing a fantastic job, they are keeping all the neighbor informed on what is going on. On another note there is a tree between my house and the neighbor's house and I am just wondering if it can be moved somewhere where it can grow since it is directly under powerlines.

Mr. Wotton – Mr. Crabb and the utility company will take a look at it and get back to you.

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for March 31, 2025

- POTW upgrade Change Order Meeting
- Highway Union negotiations
- Chair BBAC Monthly meeting
- Sewer Force Main upgrade meeting - work began last week
- MRV loan logistics satisfied
- Chair monthly MRV Meeting
- First loan payment for treatment plant upgrade due July 2026

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- Continue Labor Counsel matter
- Interview Sewer Department Candidate
- Numerous interviews for Water Dept Admin
- Continue with CWMP Review
- Meet with Insurance Attorney re Cherry Stone sewer stub
- Working on FY 26 Water/Sewer Revenue projections
- Met with AFSCME re Foreman vacancy
- Bridge St Meeting (Design) moving forward
- Pre-construction meeting for 431 SN Rd
- Pre-construction meeting for Spring St Water Main

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

B. Board Members

Ms. Smith – Any updates on the Bridge Street Project?

Mr. Crabb – We have parted ways with Kimley Horn because they were not keeping up with the project. We have received another proposal and we will be moving at full speed this summer.

Mr. Wotton – Perfect, just keep us informed.

Ms. Smith – I have seen a lot of discussion online about the legality of appointing an Elected Board as the Tree Warden.

Mr. Furtado reviewed how the Elected Board of Public Works was appointed as the Tree Warden and how the Select Board approved her appointment.

Mr. Hobson – There are potholes that need to be filled on Dogwood Street, Karen Avenue, Bayberry Street and Potter Street.

Ms. Smith – The trees that had to come down for the library project did they pay for it?

Mr. Crabb – No, the Town paid for it.

Ms. Smith – The trees came down due to their project, they should have had to pay to have them removed.

Mr. Crabb – They are going to pay to put the new trees in.

Mr. Furtado – That was part of a CPC project.

Ms. Smith – They did not have anything in their application about tree removal. I am upset that they did not have to pay for them to be removed.

The Board discussed sending a bill to the Millicent Library for the removal of the 3 trees on Union Street.

Mr. Lopes – Do we have any updates for the water upgrade project?

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Mr. Furtado – Yes, everything is still on scheduled to be completed by April 30th. Once complete we will have to flush the whole Town.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date for the next meeting on April 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. and to enter into executive session to discuss Sewer Department Personnel and 14 Cherrystone Road and to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Ms. Rotondo in favor. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on April 14, 2025