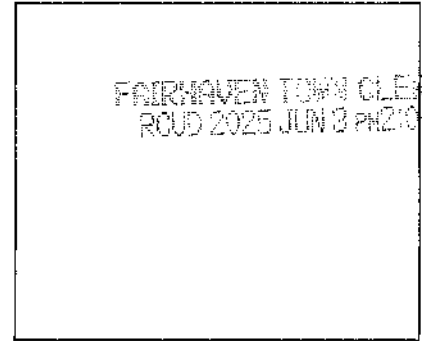


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
May 19, 2025**



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
Theresa Bides, Sewer Department
Kent Hakanson, West Island Beach Request
Max Medina, 20 Holcomb Street
Cory Raposa, Sewer Department
Jared Amaral, Sewer Department

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. May 5, 2025

Mr. Wotton – We are going to skip over this until the next meeting.

IV. Appointments

A. Theresa Bides, Sewer System Maintenance Craftsperson

Mr. Furtado – Ms. Bides was hired back on March 24, 2025 as a part time employee because we could not hire her as a full-time employee because she was going to school and could only work 32 hours per week. She has finished school and she is now able to work 40 hours per week. I would like to recommend that the Board hire her at a Grade 9 Step 7 and retro her pay and her time back to her original hire date of March 24, 2025.

Mr. Hobson motioned to hire Theresa Bides as a Sewer System Maintenance Craftsperson as a Grade 9 Step 7 and have her pay, time and permanent hire date retroactive to March 24, 2025. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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B. Kent Hakanson, Fairhaven High School Class 1976 50th Class Reunion, Request to Use West Island Town Beach, Friday, June 26, 2025

Mr. Hakanson – I was the Fairhaven High School Class President back in 1976 and next year is our 50th Class Reunion. We are planning on kicking off the weekend at Cisco Brewery on Thursday night, raising the flag in front of the High School on Friday, tour the High School and attend the Homecoming Fair on Saturday and then attend the alumni breakfast on Sunday morning. We were hoping to go to the West Island Town Beach on Friday, June 26, 2026 and we understand that we would have to compensate the Town. Also, we maybe adding a few other things to do during the weekend.

Ms. Smith -I think that this is a great idea, I know that you mentioned that you would compensate the Town and I think that we should discuss that.

Mr. Wotton – How many people do you plan on having?

Mr. Hakanson – I do not see more than 100 people.

Mr. Wotton – How does \$150 sound for the fee?

Mr. Hakanson – That sounds great.

Mr. Wotton - Could you provide us a list of people that maybe attending for our gate attendant?

Mr. Hakanson – Absolutely.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the Fairhaven High School Class of 1976 50th Class Reunion, Request to Use West Island Town Beach on Friday, June 26, 2026 for \$150 for the day. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

Ms. Rotondo entered the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

A. Max Medina, 20 Holcomb Street, Sewer Callout Charge Dispute

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Medina had a backup on a Saturday, we followed the Board of Public Works Protocol which is when someone has a backup during off hours we make it known to the Resident that if we are going to respond that there could be a charge if the blockage is in the private line during off hours. When the on-call person from the sewer department responded to the callout he checked the main and it was flowing freely. The on-call person than had the property owner sign the paper acknowledging that there would be a fee for the callout and now Mr. Medina is here tonight to appeal the fee for the service call that he received.

Mr. Medina – I just have a couple of corrections. I was not home at the time and I was trying to do it remotely. My wife was home and we had water in our basement and it was a concerning situation so she called the sewer department. The whole reason for this dispute is because at the end of the visit they confronted her with the service report and before she signed it she asked if she was going to be

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charged for this and the guy said no you will not be charged so she immediately signed the document without reading it. On the report it makes no mention of a specific cost. I then received a bill for the service call and called the BPW several times to get this resolved and I could not get any movement from a person and kept getting different answers. I then got frustrated and went into the office, which I had to go to a few different places because of renovations. This specific charge does not feel right to me and because it happened in August of last year there is now a demand charge because I could not get a human to walk me through what is going on here and the lack of communication on your side.

Mr. Furtado – This is the first time that I am hearing of this. I find it difficult to believe that there was a lack of communication on our side. I'm not saying that it didn't happen but I confirmed with the employee that responded to your property and he said that he did not say that there would be no charge and also at least the one time that you talked to the sewer department administrative assistant you indicated to her that you weren't going to pay the bill.

Mr. Lopes motioned to uphold the bill of \$155.61 and abate the demand fee of \$30.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Item for Action

A. Dig It Construction, Spring Street Water Main Replacement, Payment #1 \$310,267.81

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Dig It Construction Spring Street Water Main Replacement Payment #1 in the amount of \$310,267.81. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Graffiti Policy

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this until the next meeting.

C. Tata & Howard, Meter Pit Evaluation, Payment #57 \$369.66

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tata & Howard, Meter Pit Evaluation Payment #57 in the amount of \$369.66. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #21 \$808.94

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory Payment #21 in the amount of \$808.94. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #17 \$1,395,913.22

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Methuen Construction WPCF Upgrades Payment #17 in the amount of \$1,395,913.22. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. DEP Pay Req #17(Loan CWP-22-67) \$1,395,913.00

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Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve DEP Pay Req #17 (Loan CWP-22-67) in the amount of \$1,395,913.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades Construction Services, Payment #23 \$97,359.18

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades Construction Services Payment #23 in the amount of \$97,359.18. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. DEP Pay Req #17A (Loan CMP-22-67A) \$97,359.00

Ms. Smith motioned to approve DEP Pay Req #17A (Loan CWP-22-67A) in the amount of \$97,359.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Tata & Howard, Water Supply Capacity Evaluation and Test Wells, Amendment #2 \$21,600.00

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Water Supply Capacity Evaluation and Test Wells Amendment #2 in the amount of \$21,600.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

J. Union Wharf Trash

Mr. Cox – Mr. Crabb has come to me about the issues with the trash barrels at Union Wharf. We are trying to figure out who is causing the issues but have not been able to pinpoint exactly who it is. I was there last week and observed how bad it actually was and we need to have them removed because we do not have time to babysit the garbage barrels.

Mr. Hobson - This all came up because I called Mr. Crabb about the trash overflowing on Union Wharf and he said he would not pick them up. I think that we need to come up with some kind of agreement and resolution.

Mr. Cox – There are 10 lobster boats, 10 scallop boats and 2 charter boats. They are all aware that they are not supposed to be dumping their trash in the barrels and that they should be using the dumpster.

Mr. Wotton – I agree, I think that we should remove the barrels because the residents should not have to pay for commercial boats to get rid of their trash.

The Board agreed in conjunction with the Harbor Master that the barrels at Union Wharf should be removed.

VI. Table Matters

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

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VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for May 5, 2025

- POTW upgrade Change Order Meeting
- POTW Upgrade Meetings
- TM Prep
- Teamsters CBA Negotiations
- AFSCME CBA negotiations
- Continue with Rec Director Interviews
- DEP re landfill inspection
- Numerous pre -Town Meeting Meetings
- Continue Labor Counsel matter
- Continue with CWMP Review

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson - There is a sink hole on Middle Street by Artistic Autobody.

Mr. Crabb – I was informed of that today, we will fix it this week.

Ms. Smith – There are some concerns about the safety at Sconticut Neck Road and David Drown Blvd is there going to be anything else done there?

Mr. Wotton – That project should be complete within the next few months and both ways will be narrowed down to one lane each way.

Mr. Lopes – Do we have any updates on the pump track?

Mr. Crabb – We are just going out to bid and hopefully the work will start in July.

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- C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters**
- D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters**
- E. Town Administrator Search Committee**

Mr. Lopes – We are going to be starting interviews tomorrow.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date for the next meeting on June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting and enter into executive session and not to reconvene in open session at 6:22 p.m. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Ms. Rotondo in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on June 2, 2025