



## FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2025 AUG 12 AM 10:16

**Present:** Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Keith Silvia, Andrew B. Saunders, George Samia and Anne Carreiro

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 6:32pm

#### **JOINT WITH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)**

**ZBA Members present:** Ruy daSilva, Kenneth Kendall, Bob Hannan, Daryl Manchester, Peg Cook and **Present via zoom:** Patrick Carr and Kristen Russell. **Not Present:** Derek Furtado

Mr. daSilva opened the ZBA meeting at 6:35pm, the ZBA will adjourn immediately following discussion.

#### **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Promotion Process**

Discussion ensued regarding the process and procedure on the promotion of an associate member to a full member. Each member was given an opportunity to speak to the process, concerns and suggestions for moving forward.

Mr. Kendall spoke about being on the ZBA for eighteen years, past reappointments being automatic and changes where he had to come before the Select Board.

Mr. Hannan referred to his email to the Board from June 9, 2025 regarding suggestions for a policy change (*Attachment A*), ZBA members having a right of first refusal for a full member vacancy and clear, objective criteria.

Mr. Manchester addressed the Board about the process, Select Board purview, past process of moving an associate member up to full member, notification to members, experience with statutory requirements and past chairs that were tenured.

Ms. Cook said to clarify the process and that experience can come from serving on other boards.

Ms. Russell addressed the Board via zoom, she said she agreed with what had been said and that a fresh look from members willing to step up should have the opportunity and to add diversity to boards as well.

Mr. Carr addressed the Board via zoom and said the reason this matter was raised was to allow members to express their concerns about advancement and not to look retroactively. He said a policy is needed with guidelines to follow and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Mr. daSilva addressed the Board and said as all members have said, a process is needed and referred to past members being dropped down or attempted to be dropped down.

Mr. Murphy thanked the volunteers for their time and service. He said the process was followed and that the office will reach out to the Chair regarding vacancies.

The Board discussed aspects of the process including: resignation notifications to the Chair, liaison and Department Head, past reappointment process for a member in good standing, asking an applicant questions prior to appointment, statutory boards and their members' expectation and duty to follow regulations and uphold citizens' rights, deference given to an Associate Member when a Full Member vacancy exists but not as a de facto rule, whether an associate moves up automatically or is identified as next in line,

**Select Board Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned that the Select Board office will email the Chair of boards, committees or commissions when a resignation is sent to the Select Board or Town Administrator. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joan Fye of New Bedford and a volunteer at the Animal Shelter, said donations are being kept in the Police Department and not for animals, and questioned why the Town would close down the only no-kill shelter.

Beth Luey of Middle Street addressed the Board, she said the recent unpleasantness is not just one individual but symptomatic of the Town's larger problem with bullying and incivility on social media and on several elected and appointed boards. She hopes when the next members are appointed to the Historical Commission that the Board chooses people who will work collegially, respectfully and civilly.

Matthew McDonald of New Bedford and Vice President of the Fairhaven Village Militia addressed the Board about a militia member who started controversies. He submitted a letter to a board member and the previous Chair of the Historical Commission apologizing for that member's behavior on July 4<sup>th</sup> and would like to set the record straight and is open to speak further on the matter and work with the Historical Commission to promote local history.

Paul Sullivan of Washington Street addressed the Board about speeding on Washington Street in front of his house and dead animals left in the road; he has a turkey crossing sign posted. He said no one gets stopped there and he thinks better signs are needed.

Ray Saraiva of Washington Street addressed the Board. He said he wrote a letter to Police Chief Silva back in 1999 and has a petition about the speeding (***Attachment B***). He also commented on the number of dead animals and speeding on Washington Street. He added that he helps elderly people cross because there are no crosswalks at McGann Terrace.

Erin Carr of Mattapoisett and owns a business on Middle Street in Fairhaven addressed the Board about the Board's proposal for a statement on expectations for behavior by Town volunteers and residents that participate in public meetings and on social media. She said it was not reasonable or realistic to suggest the Board oversee and regulate resident's speech on social media. The Board can demonstrate and encourage the behavior they would like to see and questioned addressing the behavior of residents without addressing the Fairhaven Neighborhood News (FNN) and financially supporting them by choosing them for legal notices. Ms. Carr handed the Board a packet containing excerpts from the FNN that she said show examples of the editor's articles and opinions that are blatantly biased and asked the Board to consider finding a more fair and equitable news source (***Attachment C***).

## **APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS**

### **Town Meeting Survey Results: Anne Carreiro**

Ms. Carreiro reviewed a presentation showing budget projections and survey results from Town Meeting Members at the Annual Town Meeting in May, 2025. (***Attachment D***). The slides show potential deficits and what the potential impact could be. Police, Fire, Public Works and the School Department were asked to review and list losses to their department.

The survey was provided to the representative Town Meeting members asking what residents want to do: hold meetings, form a committee, support a full override, support budget cuts, support a combination and/or explore regionalization.

Discussion ensued about an override, short-term and long-term solutions, additional revenue and growth needs, exploring regionalization and constraints of Proposition 2 1/2. Ms. Carreiro said departments have been reviewing different and new ways to generate revenue sources. Mr. Samia added that the majority of cities and towns in the state are facing the same issue and many towns that attempted overrides this year failed. Many factors can impact the deficit, for example, losing Acushnet from the School District, no trash fee or losing wind revenue. No override means cuts and loss of services.

The next steps are education, public meetings with department heads. The Board supports a version of the presentation if it can be included with the next tax or water bill from the Collector. Also, notifying Representative Sylvia and State Senator Montigney of the concerns and enlist the legislative arm of the Massachusetts Municipal Association to lobby the state for increased local aid. The public is asked to share ideas with the Board.

**Appointment Request: Historical Commission**

This item was tabled to the August 11, 2025 meeting.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to table this item, then rescinded his motion.

**Motion:** Mr. Romano motioned to table this item. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Saunders abstained.

**Appointment Request: Commission on Disability**

Pamela Roy addressed the Board about her application and interest.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Pamela Roy to the Commission on Disability for a term through May, 2027. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. (Keith Hickey, Fire Chief) and, 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 (Firefighter Collective Bargaining Agreement, Hickox v. Fairhaven) AND to return to open session. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

*Meeting adjourned to Executive Session from 8:09pm to 8:52pm*

**ACTION/DISCUSSION**

**Contract: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the employment agreement between the Town of Fairhaven and Keith Hickey at a starting salary of one hundred eighty-nine thousand, three hundred and sixty-nine dollars (\$189,369) per year, effective July 28, 2025, subject to final approval by Labor Counsel. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board, thanked them and said he is looking forward to being a part of the team.

**Collective Bargaining Agreement: Fairhaven Firefighters Association, Local 1555, IAFF/PFFM**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Town of Fairhaven and the Fairhaven Firefighters Association, Local 1555, IAFF/PFFM for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Annual Appointment of Election Workers**

The Town Clerk submitted the list of election workers. Election workers do not have to be residents and can be Democrat, Republican or Unenrolled, if interested, see the Town Clerk.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the appointment of election workers as presented in accordance with MGL c 54 section 12 for a term from August 16, 2025 through August 15, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Select Board Statement: Upholding Behavioral Standards**

Mr. Romano read the draft statement. Discussion ensued about a change to the second paragraph, releasing this to all boards, committees and commissions, social media and website.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to adopt and release the document as amended. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).



## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Samia reported:

- Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva resigned from the Historical Commission and Geoffrey Sullivan resigned from the ZBA. Mr. Samia thanked them for their time and work on the respective boards. The openings created have been updated online, anyone interested in these or other opportunities can apply through the Town website. A deadline to apply was set for these appointments of August 6, 2025. Mr. Romano asked if Mr. Samia could reach out to the individuals to advise them of the statement the Board is releasing.
- Mr. Murphy clarified that the Animal Shelter is not closing. Mr. Samia referred to the presentation from Ms. Carreiro which contains projections and potential losses to services and staffing.
- Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Samia to contact Chief Dorgan to review the Animal Shelter concern and the speeding concerns. Mr. Silvia added that the police website has a traffic concern/complaint form that can be submitted.

## **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Silvia reported:

- The Atlas Tack Working Group has had four meetings and has invited the Environmental Protection Agency to the next meeting.

Mr. Romano reported:

- SMMPO orientation will be in August
- SRPEDD met, sub-committees reported and set expectations

Mr. Murphy reported:

- Mr. Murphy attended a social with the Counsel General of Japan in Boston, Representative Sylvia and Representative Tony Cabral from New Bedford also attended
- The Counsel General of Japan toured Fairhaven earlier today

Ms. Mello reported:

- The Library met, the staging will be down by the end of August. They adopted a 2025-2030 strategic plan
- Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group has not met

Mr. Saunders reported:

- He worked with Mr. Murphy on the Town Administrator contract negotiations.
- He will bring the concern about speeding and ebikes on the bike path back to the Livable Streets Committee; they would like to partner with the Police on a change of culture

Mr. Silvia:

- Last Saturday was the Dog Days of Summer Harborfest, well attended and the next event is August 23, 2025 called Splash of Art.

## **MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Select Board Executive Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Contact forms were received into the record from: Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Nate Bekemeier, Wayne & Vicki



Oliveira, David Wilson, Wayne Oliveira, Beth Luey, Matthew McDonald, Krystal Lunn, Miles Grant, Pam Whynot, Michael Kelly, Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva, Sandra Wilder, and Fairhaven Firefighters Local 1555 (*Attachment E*)

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter the Select Board correspondence as listed into the record. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

### **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting: *Monday, August 11, 2025* at 6:30pm

### **Quote:**

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" Helen Keller."*

***Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm***

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Policy Change Suggestion email: Bob Hannan, June 9, 2025
- B. Petition regarding speeding on Washington Street; letter to Chief Ted Silva, June 21, 1999
- C. Handout from Erin Carr
- D. Town Meeting Survey Results
- E. Contact Forms: Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Nate Bekemeier, Wayne & Vicki Oliveira, David Wilson, Wayne Oliveira, Beth Luey, Matthew McDonald, Krystal Lunn, Miles Grant, Pam Whynot, Michael Kelly, Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva, Sandra Wilder, and Fairhaven Firefighters Local 1555

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board Clerk (ah)*

Accepted on August 11, 2025

## Suggestion for a Policy Change related to Vacancies on the ZBA

1 message

**Bob Hannan** <bob.hannan@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 10:45 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Cc: Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Members of the Select Board

I am writing to suggest that the Select Board adopt a policy for ZBA vacancies that would give associate members the right of first refusal (based on seniority) when there is a vacancy among the voting members of the ZBA.

In the case of the most recent vacancy, the resignation of one of the voting members was not communicated to the ZBA members, so two of the associates were unaware of the vacancy at the time that the Select Board was considering new applications to fill the vacant seat. I learned of the vacancy from an article in the Neighborhood News, but was not interested in applying as I have only been an associate member for a few months and felt that the other associate members were more qualified. I had erroneously assumed, as I believe the other associates had as well, that the associates would automatically be given the opportunity to apply in preference to other candidates.

I would encourage the Select Board to institute a new procedure for future vacancies so that associates are given a right of first refusal.

Respectfully,

Bob Hannan  
Associate Member, Zoning Board of Appeals

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Bob Hannan

US Cell 917-254-1677  
skype - bobhannan

# **Fairhaven Police Department**

**1 bryant lane Fairhaven , Ma 02719**

**Attention : Chief Ted Silva**

**Dear Chief Silva :**

**6/21/99**

**I am writing this letter because there is a major problem and concern in this busy family neighborhoods, many motor vehicles are speeding up and down Washington street an average speed of about 40 m.p.h. and as much as 60 m.p.h. in a 25 m.p.h zone, also vehicles are passing in a no passing area with no concern to the speed limit and the law. September 1998 one of my neighbors submitted a letter to the police department and town selectman office requesting help in this matter of speeding vehicles, for the following two weeks the police had stop many offenders using the radar gun and police presents discouraged law breakers this was only a Band-Aid fix. In just the month of may 1999 there have been two accidents were the vehicles had hit the curb and travel up the side walk and back down onto the street. The distance from the point of contact to were the vehicle finally stop was exactly 345 feet away, both cars were towed away without any police notification of what really happened . On one occasion**

**I called 911 because I was working in my office and herd this huge bang I thought some one or some thing got hit by a vehicle I immediately looked outside my window and observed no vehicle, then went outside on my porch and noticed the car 345 ft. away. Attached : is a picture that my neighbor and I took of this vehicle tire & rim. I don't really want to think about if any children were playing on that side walk at the time of these accidents what possibly could happen, Please do some thing before this becomes a fatality.**

**Sincerely**

**Mr. Raymond Saraiva**

**120 washington street. tel. 992-7633**



This petition is for some thing to be done on speeding vehicles up and down Washington st.

Possible ideas : Stop signs every three blocks to slow down speeders ( example ) Washington and Green st.

Idea #2 Post more 25 m.p.h. signs, there are only 2 signs on all of Washington st. now

Idea #3 post thickly settled sign up ( presently none )

Idea #4 Police radar patrolled (special division) for all the troubled streets in our town . Paid by speeding offenders

Name

address

Raymond Savaria	120 Washington St
Anneliene Darling	124 Washington St.
Michael E Carney	120 R. Washington AX.
SANDRA CARNEY	120-R-Washington St
George Ambra Sr.	135 Washington St
Michelle S. Ambra	135 Washington
George P. Ambra	135 Washington St
Gregory + JD Goncalves	143 Washington St
Anne H. Jorgensen	141 Washington St.
John H. Jorgensen	141 Washington St. - Fina
Eric Holmes	
Susan M. St. Marie	143 Washington St.

Name	Address
Steven J. St. Onair	143 WASHINGTON ST.
John B. Bergeron	126 WASHINGTON ST
Carol J. Bergeron	126 Washington St
Josephine Carhuia	121 Washington St
Josiah Tyler	117 Washington St.
Lillian Macaluso	117 Washington St.
Raymond L. Boncher	72 Main St.
William Mitchell	112 Washington St.
Nils M. Oshoen	109 Washington
Jerry Escobar Jr	111 WASHINGTON ST
Donna Mahony	115 WASHINGTON ST.
Joe + Mike	106 Washington St.
John Morales	25. Summer St
John O'Connell	101 Washington St
Sheryl Cox	94 Washington St.
R.K. Allen	94 Washington St.
Elvira W. Gomes	31 Adams St
John Martin	99 WASHINGTON ST
Julia Furtado	92 WASHINGTON ST
Ronald Alamy	128 PLEASANT ST
Betty Anderson	79 Washington St.
Glenda Killaway	128 Pleasant St. Thor
Mary Anne Corbett	80 Washington St.

Name	Address
Lucille M. Grayles	78 Washington St. Fairhaven, Ma 02719
Jennifer Diello	123 Chestnut St Fairhaven, Ma. 02719
Auto	123 Chestnut St Fhvn MA 02719
Christine Darling	124 Washington St. Fhvn MA 02719
James A. Tavares	8 Delano St Fhvn Ma 02719
Monica Gomes	116 Washington St Fhvn Ma 02719
Kathleen Drakner	109 Washington St Fhvn
Carol Miller	16 MAIN DR. FAIRHAVEN MA. 02719
Sheelagh Beaulieu	50 Washington Fairhaven 02719
Michael Roman	129 Green St. Fairhaven 02719
Lucrecia F. Hudson	129 Green St Fhvn 02719
Emma Johnson	70 Washington Fairhaven
Christy Davis	124 Chestnut St Fhvn MA 02719
Harold Lamy	65 Washington St. Fhvn
James B. Lamy	65 Washington St. Fhvn
Marta A. Berg	66 Washington St., Fairhaven, MA 02719
Paula Bittercourt	58 Washington St. Fairhaven
Bob Bittercourt	58 Washington St Fairhaven
Earl W. Bunker	46 Washington St Fhvn
Marlene Bunker	50 Washington St Fhvn
Roland N. Sevin	124 Green St., Fhvn.
Jeanne E. Sevin	124 Green St. Fhvn.



**6/25/25 - Fairhaven Select Board to interview 4 finalists for TA**

Beth specifies that David Gerber is married to Erin Carr. She does not identify any other spouses of any other appointees

SB member Natalie Mello asked if members of the committee needed to be Fairhaven residents. Mr. Murphy said they did not because it is a working group. Nine people applied to be on the committee, and one, David Gerber, who is married to Erin Carr, lives in Mattapoisett. In his application, he said he owns property in Fairhaven. Ms. Carr owns a business with her father in Fairhaven.

The board appointed all nine applicants to the WG: Ken Blanchard, Doug Brady, Brandon Estrella, David Gerber, Fernando Lemos, Cathy Melanson, Brian Messier, Michael Sherman, Rick Trapilo.

**6/25/25 - Fairhaven Select Board to interview 4 finalists for TA**

Misquotes Patrick Carr.

What he actually said was:

“You don't even have the gall to come here and do it in open meeting session.” Gall, not balls. Meaning, you don't have “the nerve”.

Beth David printed this in her paper even though there is a video and a transcript clearly indicating that he did not use that phrase. Printing this quote is either intentionally callous or irresponsible and unprofessional.

Note: as of 7/14/25 the misquote was still published on her website. As of 7/15/25 it was corrected.

“You don't even have the balls to do it in open session,” said Mr. Carr.

7/17/25 - From the Editor

Her response after I addressed the issue on social media. To be fair, I also insulted her. But this is the response that she chose to publish in her paper. Retraction down below.

## From the editor 07-17-25

JULY 17, 2025 BY STAFF WRITER

*By Beth David, Editor*

Okay, okay, he said "gall" not "balls." Is this really the sword you want to fall on? (See correction page 2.)

Oh my, the Facebook hissy fit...that my readers would be "appalled" to find out a town official said someone didn't have the "balls" to do something. Really? Our president used the F word on the White House grounds.

My readers aren't that squeamish.

A few people listened to it, too. The old people heard "balls," the young people heard "gall." I mean "gall" doesn't even make sense. But, hey, since when does that matter, right?

So, I fixed it online, and I put in a correction. You can come for your pound of flesh later.

Meanwhile, the same guy withdraws his name for the Historical Commission (see page 4) because they changed the agenda last minute? Really for real? HAHAAHAHAHA! Like he's never done that on ZBA...oh, wait, didn't we write about that once? (See 2/6/25 issue)

Oh, and I decided to remind my readers how this guy said, in writing, that he would resign from ZBA if he got elected to the Planning Board...in 2023. Some of my readers keep reminding me of that and asking me to mention it. Y'know, I think I will.

### **CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS**

In our story about the Select Board in our 6/26/25 issue, we misquoted Patrick Carr. The correct quote is:  
"You don't even have the gall to come here and do it in open meeting session"

We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

6/12/25 - From the Editor refers to concerns made by residents and taxpayers as “bullshit”.

Suggest that those same residents and taxpayers as make sexist comments every other day.

## From the editor 06-12-25

bt

JUNE 18, 2025 BY STAFF WRITER

*By Beth David, Editor*

AIYIYI! I forgot to list the Duck Race last week (see page 6). Sorry about that. The craziest annual event I cover around here. But lots of fun, and people have a chance to win a pretty hefty pot of money.

We have some meeting coverage for you. The Select Board had to listen to a whole lot of **bullshit** this week. Geeesh. People just cannot take no for an answer. Give it up, people. There are lots of reasons why the board can choose a person to be on a committee or board. Just because a person has been on a board does not mean they have the right be on that board forever. Just because a person has been on a couple of boards does not mean they get to be on any and all boards they want to be on forever. The Select Board is the appointing authority, and they have the right to choose to go in another direction from where the board has been for 18 years.

As for the sexism charge...really? There is no more strident feminist in these parts than little ole me, I assure you. The question Ms. Mello asked of Ms. Melanson was entirely appropriate. It was Ms. Melanson who said she was looking forward to her time with her grandchildren. Why is it off limits to ask her what changed?

All of a sudden, everyone's a defender of women's rights. What a joke. You guys don't recognize sexism when it comes out of your own mouths every other day, but you can spot it in Ms. Mello?



6/5/25 - From the editor

Beth David misrepresents what took place. There was confusion during the meeting about how to proceed after 6 stalemate votes. The Planning Director thought Patrick would be the Interim Chair, Patrick thought it meant he, the interim chair, becomes the standing Chair, which SB Member Keith Silvia agreed and cited a conversation with Dr. Bowcock. Jessica Fidalgo stated that she spoke with Wayne Hayward who stated the process of voting could go on for months but that she thought they should verify that with a professional. Patrick said Wayne was no longer on the board and maybe they should ask town counsel (which many board members of other boards suggest on a pretty regular basis). The board then decided to vote to table the discussion and move on to the vice chair position. The Planning Director sought out the opinion from Town Counsel without taking a vote to do so from the board, or receiving authorization from the SB or TA.

Beth wrote an article about the Planning Board meeting and Town Counsel's opinion in the same issue of her paper.

Really, the argument that the chairperson from the previous board, meaning the board that existed before the election, should run the meetings is ridiculous. But, hey, this is Fairhaven, and Mr. Carr wanted that spot, so they had to actually pay town counsel to write an opinion on it.

This, from the guy screaming about spending money on lawyers, when he's in the middle of half of 'em.

My favorite part was saying we have to change the bylaws to clarify. The bylaws are clear enough. There should not have been any reason to use town counsel, except one man would not use common sense because he wanted to hold the gavel.

This is how it works to anyone who pays attention. There is an elected board, they choose a chair, vice chair, and clerk. Then, there is an election, creating a new board. The old board does not exist after the election. It's gone, moot, vamoosed! The idea that you would continue to keep the old vice chair when the chair got booted out of her position by the voters, is ridiculous.

But, alas, this is Fairhaven. So, we paid Town Counsel to spend hours looking up stuff to say what we already know. Go figure.

05-29-25 From the editor

regarding the Public Safety Building Committee appointments and Mr. Carr not being chosen to serve on the committee

There's some meeting coverage on page 3. Poor Mr. Carr (NOT): he just isn't getting his way these days.

05/15/25 From the Editor

again, misrepresenting Patrick's reasoning for not wanting to elect certain members to Chair position regarding their attendance records or the fact that they were just elected to the board. Instead, she claims he doesn't want them in the position because "no one can do it like he can". She also makes it seem as if he is the only person not voting for other members. It was 4 to 4 on every vote.

## From the Editor 05-15-25

STAY TUNED FOR STAFF WRITING

*By Beth David, Editor*

Block Party this weekend! The neighborhood is going to take advantage of that nice new sidewalk on Ferry Street. See page 5 for details.

We have meeting coverage for you. Geesh... some people just have to control everything.

See page three for the Planning Board and how they could not pick a chairperson. Patrick Carr is insisting, of course, that nobody can do it like he can. Hmm...y'know, I think he's right, but for very different reasons. See page 3 for that.

He's also all hell bent on getting his other board, the ZBA, packed with yessers. Oh, well, that didn't work out. I predict that the new "green," "off the street" guy is going to be the best thinker on that board, instead of just saying yes to everyone. See page 4 for that.

5/14/24 - Planning Board fails to elect a chairperson

Kevin Grant nominated and advocated for himself as chair, and said he'd be able to make the meetings in-person. Jessica Fidalgo, Diane Tomassetti, Sharon Simmons and Patrick all referenced Kevin Grant's inability to make all of the meetings in-person over the last year. Patrick referenced that Kevin Grant had 6 Zoom appearances and was absent for 5 meetings out of 20 meetings last year. Therefore, he wasn't physically present for over 50% of the meetings last year. The Chair needs to be physically present to run the meetings. Beth David made no mention of any of this but chose to inform her readers that Patrick advocated for himself.

Patrick didn't even comment on Miles Grant's nomination. Fidalgo and daSilva made mention of their concerns with him being new to the board and unaware of the procedures. Miles Grant even asked the board to reconsider.

Jessica Fidalgo expressed concern about the workload. Bruce told her it wasn't involved. Patrick disagreed and said that it wasn't just making an agenda and running a meeting. He said Fidalgo and Kevin Grant were both qualified but they don't have good attendance records.

Patrick stated Sean Powers' inexperience on Planning Board made him unqualified.

Carr, daSilva, Simmons, and Tomassetti all voted in unison and Grant, Grant, Fidalgo, and Powers all voted in unison.

The first vote for chair was for Diane Tomassetti, nominated by Kevin Grant, who said she seems "very even keeled and rational in her decision making."

Ms. Tomassetti said she was going to nominate Mr. Carr.

As the votes went around the table, it became clear that there would be a tie, with Ms. Tomassetti hesitating and agonizing over her vote.

"If you abstain, it's the same as saying 'yes,'" said Mr. Carr.

In the end, Board members Sean Powers, Jessica Fidalgo, Miles Grant, and Kevin Grant voted for Ms. Tomassetti. Mr. Carr, Sharon Simmons, and Kevin Grant voted against. That split stayed the same through every vote.

Mr. Carr advocated for himself and spoke against each of the other board members, citing their lack of years on the board or their attendance records. He noted that being chair is a lot of work and he spends a lot of time in Town Hall during the day. Being self employed, he said, means he does not have a boss telling him where he has to be at any given time.



## 5/14/24 - Fairhaven Select Board fills ZBA vacancy with newcomer

Beth Davis reported on Amy Goyer's accusations of libel and harassment by Patrick Carr and Ruy daSilva on multiple occasions and not once asked them for a response to her accusations

### **Fairhaven Select Board fills ZBA vacancy with newcomer**

1/24/25 BY BETH DAVIS

*By Beth David, Editor*

The Fairhaven Select Board opted for new blood at its meeting on 5/12/25 when choosing to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The vacancy was created when Amy Goyer resigned, citing a campaign of "libel and harassment" by Chairperson, Patrick Carr, and Vice Chair, Ruy daSilva (see 4/17/25 issue). The ZBA also had been scheduled to hold a meeting to discipline Ms. Goyer and to ask the Select Board to remove her from the ZBA and appoint Kenneth Kendall, who had not been reappointed months earlier (see 2/6/25 issue).

#### 4/16/25 - Fairhaven Select Board hears Carr's COI again

Beth misrepresents Patrick and Seaspray's motives. Insinuates that Patrick and inevitably Seaspray is looking to stall the building of the shed so that the containers can remain their longer and Patrick/Seaspray will make more money off of the contract. She never asks me to comment or my/Seaspray's position on the matter.

She also specifies that Keith Silvia is a Patrick Carr supporter – she does not inform her readers of other town officials' political allies

### **Fairhaven Select Board hears Carr's COI again**

APRIL 15, 2025 BY NATHAN WINTER

*By Beth David, Editor*

The Fairhaven Select Board reorganized on 4/14/25, its first meeting after the election. Charles K. Murphy Sr., was chosen to be chairperson; Andrew Romano is Vice Chair; new member, Natalie Mello, is Clerk.

The board heard again from Planning Board member and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Chairperson, Patrick Carr, asking the board to allow him to participate in proceedings involving the School Committee and the ZBA. The two are involved in a lawsuit over the ZBA's revoking a building permit for a storage shed on the grounds of Fairhaven High School. Mr. Carr co-owns Seaspray Container Company with his daughter, Erin Carr, and the school rents two containers from Seaspray that are located at FHS, and would no longer be needed if the storage shed is built.

At its 1/7/25 meeting, the ZBA revoked the permit for the shed after receiving a petition from abutters.

The Neighb News has learned that SB member and vocal Patrick Carr supporter, Keith Silvia, solicited signatures for that petition from abutters.

#### 4/16/25 - Fairhaven Select Board hears Carr's COI again

In this same article, Beth refers to Amy Goyer's resignation letter in detail. She claims that Goyer was the "target" of Carr and daSilva for months. She includes full quotes from Goyer's letter, which accuses Carr and daSilva of a litany of harassing behavior including name calling, chastising her, abhorrent behavior, libel, and yelling at her. Beth did not ask Patrick or Ruy for a comment or for their side of the story.

In a somewhat related matter, the board also announced the resignation of Amy Goyer from the ZBA.

Ms. Goyer, who was the only ZBA member to vote against the repeal of the shed permit, has been a target of Mr. Carr and Mr. daSilva (see 2/6/25 issue) for months. They have accused her of Open Meeting Law violations, and have openly chastised her during board meetings. In her resignation letter, dated 3/31/25, Ms. Goyer, a practicing attorney, cites the "abhorrent treatment" she has received while on the ZBA, including an attempt to discredit her at work.

She cites a litany of harassing behavior, including the improper use of executive sessions.

"For months now, I have been called names, accused of non-existent ethical violations, yelled at, harassed, called into public meetings to defend myself, and libeled. For what? For volunteering on a town board," writes Ms. Goyer. "This behavior is shocking to the conscience and I can no longer live with the level of stress it has caused me."

### 3/14/25 Fairhaven Select Board recognizes Lt. Sobral

She makes the same insinuation - never asks me, the co-owner of the company, what we're position is on the matter.

Specifying his COI also doesn't seem pertinent to the conversation of asking a procedural question. It appears that she uses every opportunity that she can to include Patrick's ownership of Seaspray and that the containers would no longer be needed if the storage shed was built. She never indulges her readers with Patrick's actual concerns regarding the shed and the permitting process – and only insinuates that he's meddling for his own self interest and that of Seaspray's.

The board held four executive sessions, including one with the Zoning Board of Appeals about the litigation between the ZBA and the School Department, which was filed when the ZBA revoked the building permit for a storage shed at Fairhaven High School (see 1/9/25 issue).

Before they went into executive session, Patrick Carr spoke to the board. Mr. Carr is the chairperson of the ZBA, and has had to recuse himself from the litigation discussions because he owns Seaspray Container Company with his daughter, and the containers they lease to the school department at FHS will no longer be needed if the storage shed is finished, creating a Conflict of Interest (COI).

Mr. Carr noted that he had a procedural question only because he had to recuse himself because of the COI. He said the Select Board did not try to contact him or the Vice Chair or the building commissioner to discuss the meeting. He questioned when they could have made the decision to meet with the ZBA because he could find no record of a vote for it.

SB member Keith Silvia said he never voted for the meeting. SB member Andrew Romano said it was done in executive session.

SB member Andrew Saunders said he would not get into what was discussed in executive session.

### 3/6/25 - From the editor 03-06-25

He can talk about the shed. That's a risk he is taking if ethics finds it in the wrong or any resident wishes to complain about it. However, Beth doesn't cover that the board had him listed on the agenda and then voted not to let him speak. What they could have done was allowed him to speak and then made no comment if they thought they were would be in a violation to do so.

The Historical Commission had a doozy of a meeting (see page 3). They also were going to meet this week, but too late for me to cover it. Mr. Carr was scheduled as a "special guest" to talk about the storage shed. You know, the one he shouldn't be talking about in front of boards because of his clear Conflict of Interest.

### 2/13/25 From the editor 02-13-25

this comment was made regarding the SB meeting that Patrick Carr and Ruy daSilva were notified by police officers that were sent to their homes and places of business that they were to be present to discuss possible dismissal from the board . She also suggests that they stole her papers from Town Hall and calls them pathetic. She treats this as if it's for fun or a joke as if it has no bearing on people's lives.

## **From the editor 02-13-25**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR BY STAFF WRITER

*By Beth David, Editor*

Awww, man! That was no fun at all. I thought we were going to hear all kinds of fun stuff about Patrick Cahh and his pal, but the Select Board kicked the can down the road (page 4). Ah well.

Meanwhile, all of our papers were gone from Town Hall on Monday. Gee...wonder where they went. I mean, really guys. You're pathetic. Trust me...lots of people saw it anyway.



## 2/12/25 Select Board sets hearings to possibly discipline Carr, daSilva

She makes the same insinuation. Although in this instance, she doesn't use the company's name, she specifies that Patrick is an owner. It only takes a google search for her readers to determine which company she is referring to. She also claims that Carr and daSilva have been "embroiled in controversy for months".

## **Select Board sets hearings to possibly discipline Carr, daSilva**

FEBRUARY 12, 2025 BY STAFF WRITER

*By Beth David, Editor*

The Fairhaven Select Board revised its agenda for the 2/10/25 meeting twice, with the last revision posted at 5:30 that day, a half-hour before the meeting was scheduled to start.

The first agenda included two executive sessions to discuss the "discipline or dismissal of, or complaints brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual." One was for Patrick Carr, the chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Vice Chair of the Planning Board; the other against Ruy daSilva, the Vice Chair of the ZBA and a PB member.

Both have been embroiled in controversy for months over possible conflicts of interest due to bylaws changes, and more recently, a clash with the School Department over a storage shed being built that would result in the storage containers Mr. Carr leases to the High School no longer being needed. The ZBA stopped that project, siding with abutters who appealed the issuance of the building permit.

The first revision to the 2/10 agenda moved the complaints to open session and added an executive session to discuss legal advice regarding the high school project.

The second revision added an executive session to "discuss possible litigation: Patrick Carr and Ruy daSilva."

2/6/25 - From the editor 02-6-25

Mocks Patrick Carr and makes suggestions regarding a ZBA meeting that never took place. She never asked him for details regarding why it never took place and what the initial meeting was concerning. That doesn't stop her from insinuating that he is a "bully" and that he wanted to discipline Goyer for voting against him. She has not once informed the public that Goyer was nominated to the ZBA by Andrew Romano in May 2024, despite their financial relationship. Romano claimed "they no longer have a financial relationship". The two also made claims that the ZBA was voting inappropriately and doing favors for friends. Neither of them disclosed their financial relationship, their friendship, or her financial support during his campaign to the public during nominations. Since that vote, they've been involved in multiple real estate transactions. Beth does not and has never informed her readers of any of this information.

## **From the editor 02-06-25**

REPLACEMENT 2025 BY STATE WAREHOUSE

*By Beth David, Editor*

If it wasn't so pathetic, it would be laughable. Trying to figure out if I'm talking about national politics or local? Take your pick. They're both bonkers.

Patrick Carr, Patrick Carr, Patrick Carr: apparently he counts how many times his name is mentioned in the *Neighb News*, so, I couldn't resist. Not sure how he does that since he says he doesn't read it. Ah well.

However, it's not totally superfluous. See page 3 for a truly bizarre almost-meeting of the ZBA to discipline a sitting member. And he wonders why people use the word "bully" to describe him. Self awareness much?

Well, I need to fess up about something. In the article on page 3 I mention the 12/18/24 meeting. I thought it had been done in executive session, so I didn't watch it. I double checked just before I finished up tonight and realized it was in open meeting, but it's more than an hour long. Sorry, My Dear Readers, I just don't have time to watch it now. But I will. I'll let you know how popcorn worthy it is.

Although, we really should not make too light of it. Ms. Goyer is a public servant, a volunteer who does not get paid and puts in a lot of time. I suspect she does not deserve this treatment, and she's getting it because she disagreed with the big man and voted against his wishes. So... she's gotta go, right? These guys are real democracy lovers, huh?

## 2/5/25 Fairhaven ZBA cancels meeting with one bizarre agenda item

Again, she continues to make the same insinuation, publicizes his COI makes no mention of other town officials' COI

At a rare extra meeting on 12/18/24, the board posted an executive session on the agenda to discuss "Open Meeting Law complaints filed by Patrick Carr and Ruy Dasilva [sic] against Amy Goyer."

The meeting, however, was held in open session at the request of Ms. Goyer.

Those minutes are not available to the public. The latest minutes available online are from 9/5/24. At the 1/7 meeting the ZBA accepted minutes from the 12/3 meeting, but the 12/18 meeting minutes were not on the agenda.

At the 1/7/25 meeting (see 1/9/25 issue), the ZBA voted to revoke a permit the School Department had for a storage shed at Fairhaven High School, in response to a petition by abutters. Ms. Goyer was the only vote against revoking the permit.

Mr. Carr had to recuse himself from running that meeting because the container company he owns with his daughter has storage containers at the school. They will not be needed if the shed is complete. (See 1/9/25 issue)

All meetings are available at FairhavenTV.com.

## 1/8/25 Carr discloses conflict of interest in School Dept. appeal

She makes the same insinuation - never asks me or Patrick what our position is on it. Just insinuates that if the shed is built, we lose business.

## **Carr discloses conflict of interest in School Dept. appeal**

UNWAVERINGLY BY BETH DAVID

*By Beth David, Editor*

Patrick Carr, an appointed member and chairperson of the Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals, failed in his bid to get the Select Board to allow him to chair a hearing involving the Fairhaven School Department, which is a customer of his container business, Seaspray Container Company, that he owns with his daughter. Mr. Carr is also an elected member of the Planning Board.

Mr. Carr filed a Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure and appeared before the SB at its 12/30/24 meeting to get approval from the SB, which is the appointing body, to participate in the hearing on 1/7/25.

SB member Andrew Saunders recused himself from the proceedings, which left four members to vote. The split was 2-2, resulting in a failure of the measure to pass.

The School Department is constructing a storage building at the high school. Mr. Carr's company has two storage containers at the site, both of which will not be needed if the new building is completed. The containers have been there for several years. The company rents six containers to the school department at different sites. The two at the high school are \$99/month for a total of \$198/month. The others are \$110/month each.

1/8/25 Fairhaven ZBA revokes permit for school department building

Printed in the same issue, different article... More of the same...

## **Fairhaven ZBA revokes permit for school department building**

JANUARY 8, 2025 BY BETH DAVID WRITER

*By Beth David, Editor*

At its meeting on 1/7/25, the Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals voted 4-1 to revoke the building permit for the storage building being constructed at Fairhaven High School. ZBA chairperson, Patrick Carr, recused himself from the proceedings due to a conflict of interest caused by his ownership of Seaspray Container Company, which leases containers at the high school that will no longer be needed if the storage building is completed (see page 3).

Nine abutters filed an appeal for a variety of reasons, including that they were not notified, the building is larger than bylaws allow for an accessory building, height is higher than allowed, a residential permit was issued instead of a commercial permit, and the property is on the National Register of Historic Places.

11/21/24 From the editor 11-21-24

Carr and daSilva recused themselves from this vote...

## From the editor 11-21-24

11-21-24 BY STAFF WRITER

*By Beth David, Editor*

Well, Town Meeting has spoken, and it's different from last time. They approved both the ADU and 40R bylaws changes. See page 11 for that.

No mention was allowed at all about the conflict of interest allegations against Planning Board members Ruy DaSilva and Patrick Carr. Town Counsel decided that the TM members could only talk about the merits of the article, not any other reason why they may not want to vote for it. I spoke with the Town Moderator and Town Counsel after to get an underlying legal reason for that. It seems kind of specious to me.

How can the supposedly most democratic process we have keep people from saying why they have misgivings about an article? Why are those two elected officials allowed to get off the hook and not explain anything?

Everyone else got to talk about process, but the second they mentioned the elephant in the room, they were shut down.

It stinks to high heaven, but...here we are.



11/20/24 - Fairhaven Town Meeting approves 40R district, ADUs

Different article in the same issue. Again, the pair recused themselves from voting on 40R

No one was allowed to talk about the alleged conflict of interest of two Planning Board members, Ruy DaSilva and Patrick Carr, who own property in the proposed waterfront subdistrict, and have alternately said they have no conflict, then that they could deliberate but not vote and, finally, they did not deliberate or vote at the last two PB meetings that addressed 40R.

Town Moderator Mark Sylvia interrupted anyone who tried to bring that up, saying it was not a matter for Town Meeting. He said Town Counsel advised him that people had to speak to the merits of the article only.

But several people still wanted to talk about the process, saying it was filled with confusion and rushed.

From the editor 5/30/24- exaggerates that Patrick is actively trying to make containers easier to get in FHVN... downplays Romano's COI... refers to Patrick Carr as a "numbnut". Suggests Andrew Romano is his favorite target. And regularly refers to it all as "popcorn worthy"... as if it's entertainment.

## From the editor 05-30-24

BY LUCY DUNN BOWEN/FAIRHAVEN

*By Beth David, Editor*

Well, I'll give him this: The guy's got cahoonas!

Imagine this....the guy who has a container supply company and a crane company and sits on a board actively trying to make containers easier to get in Fairhaven, has decided that another guy has an ethics issue because he sold someone a house once.

AIYAIYA!, Lucy! Tell me I'm dreaming.

Honest. I'm not making this up. See page 8 for Mr. Carr going after his favorite target, Mr. Romano. Vendetta much?

Speaking of the Ethics Commission, Mr. Carr, care to share the letter they sent you with the public? I mean, you're all about transparency, right? C'mon....you can tell me. I promise to tell everyone.

Honestly, the hubris is only exceeded by the hypocrisy.

And now this numbnut is on the ZBA for five years. FIVE!!! Great job, Select Board, great job.

There's more, of course...see for yourself. This one is truly popcorn worthy. Just fast forward to the spots where Mr. Carr is at the podium. Three times, I think. Ah...maybe more.

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

TM 5-3-25

What's Next? Survey Responses

94	Surveys Returned
231	Town Meeting Members
40.69%	Response Rate
215 Total Votes	

Top Vote:

Explore Regionalization: 64 Votes | 30% of TM

Opportunities with the Town of Acushnet to share services and reduce costs.

Options:

Hold Meetings/Committees:	24%	to explore and discuss potential options for the deficit.
Support a Full Override:	16%	to fully cover the deficit through additional taxation.
Support Full Budget Cuts:	8%	to entirely offset the deficit through reductions in spending.
Support a Combination:	22%	of proportioned budget cuts and a partial override.
Explore Regionalization:	30%	opportunities with the Town of Acushnet to share services and reduce costs

52 Votes 24%	35 Votes 16%	18 Votes 8%	48 Votes 22%	64 Votes 30%
1	2	3	4	5
Hold Meetings/Committees:	Support a Full Override:	Support Full Budget Cuts:	Support a Combination:	Explore Regionalization:

**Comments:**

We appreciate everything the town officials and dept.'s will look into, to help ellivate trouble on the horizon  
 Pls include Long-Term vision for the town including capital needs that can be funded by approp. combination noted above  
 "THICKEN"  
 Private trash removal much like Westport  
 Exploring Regionalization is a BAD IDEA!!



[illegible]

# Local Property Tax Information

	<u>Average Single Family Value</u>	<u>Average Family Tax Bill</u>	<u>Ranking in State (345 Communities)</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Acushnet	\$ 471,732.00	\$ 5,090.00	261	76%
Dartmouth	\$ 609,104.00	\$ 5,031.00	266	77%
<b>Fairhaven</b>	<b>\$ 454,253.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,234.00</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>92%</b>
Freetown	\$ 531,517.00	\$ 5,267.00	250	72%
Mattapoisett	\$ 744,594.00	\$ 8,012.00	110	32%
New Bedford	\$ 397,187.00	\$ 4,492.00	305	88%
Rochester	\$ 610,247.00	\$ 6,603.00	167	48%
Somerset	\$ 453,710.00	\$ 6,034.00	198	57%
Swansea	\$ 477,385.00	\$ 5,242.00	252	73%

\* Fairhaven ranks 318 out of 345 MA communities with the lowest average tax bill



# FY27 Projected Deficit:

## \$1,591,759

Local receipts remain constant, no significant revenue loss

<u>Fire</u>	<u>Highway</u>
Eliminate EMS Captain / Training Position	Eliminate 3 Highway Employees
<b>Eliminate 3 Firefighters:</b> 1-Captain EMS and Training 2- Firefighters/Paramedics	Eliminate 3 Summer help for Park
Reduce EMS & Fire Training	Raise Trash Fees \$15.00
Moderate Increase in OT with delay in emergency response	
<u>Police</u>	<u>School</u>
Eliminate Animal Control Department / Animal Shelter* \$134,590	(All Projected Cuts would fall below Net School Spending)
Eliminate 2 Police Officers	Eliminate 22 Positions
Eliminate 2 P-T Dispatchers	Class sizes will increase to 30 students
** Station Lobby / Dispatcher desk will be unstaffed from midnight to 8am daily **	Loss of Family Center



# FY27 Estimated Impact on Property Taxes with an Override of: \$1,591,759

Increase / Decrease Amount Selected \$1,591,759

Fairhaven			
	Residential & Open Space (RO)	Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property (CIP)	Total
FY 2025 # of Parcels	7,018	1,152	8,170
FY 2025 Assessed Value	2,882,510,114	453,033,973	3,335,544,087
FY 2025 Tax Levy	26,864,994	8,376,998	35,241,992

RO Tax Rate	CIP Tax Rate
9.32	18.49

	RO	CIP
Proposed Increase/Decrease to Levy:	1,213,413	378,346
Levy Share:	76.2309%	23.7691%
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	0.42	0.84
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	9.74	19.33
FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):	454,253	
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):	4,234	
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):	190,779	

Assessed Value	Current Estimated RO Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated RO Tax Bill	Estimated RO Tax Bill Impact	Current Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Estimated CIP Tax Bill Impact
250,000	2,330.00	2,435.00	105.00	4,622.50	4,832.50	210.00
350,000	3,262.00	3,409.00	147.00	6,471.50	6,765.50	294.00
450,000	4,194.00	4,383.00	189.00	8,320.50	8,698.50	378.00
550,000	5,126.00	5,357.00	231.00	10,169.50	10,631.50	462.00
650,000	6,058.00	6,331.00	273.00	12,018.50	12,564.50	546.00
750,000	6,990.00	7,305.00	315.00	13,867.50	14,497.50	630.00
850,000	7,922.00	8,279.00	357.00	15,716.50	16,430.50	714.00
950,000	8,854.00	9,253.00	399.00	17,565.50	18,363.50	798.00
1,050,000	9,786.00	10,227.00	441.00	19,414.50	20,296.50	882.00
1,150,000	10,718.00	11,201.00	483.00	21,263.50	22,229.50	966.00
1,250,000	11,650.00	12,175.00	525.00	23,112.50	24,162.50	1,050.00
1,350,000	12,582.00	13,149.00	567.00	24,961.50	26,095.50	1,134.00
1,450,000	13,514.00	14,123.00	609.00	26,810.50	28,028.50	1,218.00
1,550,000	14,446.00	15,097.00	651.00	28,659.50	29,961.50	1,302.00



# FY27 Projected Deficit: \$3 Million

<u>Fire</u>	<u>Highway</u>
Eliminate EMS Captain / Training Position	Eliminate 4 Highway Employees
Eliminate 4 Firefighters: 1-Captain EMS and Training 3-Firefighters/Paramedics	Eliminate 6 Summer help - Park (Impact Beach)
Reduction to Half of the Call Firefighter Staff	Raise Trash Fees \$30.00
Decrease in Ambulance Revenue	Reduction in services to the Tree and St Light Department
<u>Police</u>	<u>School</u>
Eliminate Animal Control Department / Animal Shelter* \$134,590	(All Projected Cuts would fall below Net School Spending)
Eliminate 4 Police Officers Eliminate 2 P-T Dispatchers	Eliminate 50 positions
** Station Lobby / Dispatcher desk will be unstaffed from midnight to 8am daily **	Class sizes increase to more than 30 students Administrative & Nursing Cuts Loss of Family Center



# FY27 Estimated Impact on Property Taxes with an Override of: \$3 Million

Increase / Decrease Amount Selected \$3,000,000

Fairhaven			
	Residential & Open Space (RO)	Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property (CIP)	Total
FY 2025 # of Parcels	7,018	1,152	8,170
FY 2025 Assessed Value	2,882,510,114	453,033,973	3,335,544,087
FY 2025 Tax Levy	26,864,994	8,376,598	35,241,592

RO Tax Rate	CIP Tax Rate
9.32	18.49

	RO	CIP
Proposed Increase/Decrease to Levy:	2,286,928	713,072
Levy Share:	76.2309%	23.7691%
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	0.79	1.57
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	10.11	20.06
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):</b>	<b>454,253</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):</b>	<b>4,234</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):</b>	<b>358.86</b>	

Assessed Value	Current Estimated RO Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated RO Tax Bill	Estimated RO Tax Bill Impact	Current Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Estimated CIP Tax Bill Impact
250,000	2,330.00	2,527.50	197.50	4,622.50	5,015.00	392.50
350,000	3,262.00	3,538.50	276.50	6,471.50	7,021.00	549.50
450,000	4,194.00	4,549.50	355.50	8,320.50	9,027.00	706.50
550,000	5,126.00	5,560.50	434.50	10,169.50	11,033.00	863.50
650,000	6,058.00	6,571.50	513.50	12,018.50	13,039.00	1,020.50
750,000	6,990.00	7,582.50	592.50	13,867.50	15,045.00	1,177.50
850,000	7,922.00	8,593.50	671.50	15,716.50	17,051.00	1,334.50
950,000	8,854.00	9,604.50	750.50	17,565.50	19,057.00	1,491.50
1,050,000	9,786.00	10,615.50	829.50	19,414.50	21,063.00	1,648.50
1,150,000	10,718.00	11,626.50	908.50	21,263.50	23,069.00	1,805.50
1,250,000	11,650.00	12,637.50	987.50	23,112.50	25,075.00	1,962.50
1,350,000	12,582.00	13,648.50	1,066.50	24,961.50	27,081.00	2,119.50
1,450,000	13,514.00	14,659.50	1,145.50	26,810.50	29,087.00	2,276.50
1,550,000	14,446.00	15,670.50	1,224.50	28,659.50	31,093.00	2,433.50



# FY27 Projected Deficit: \$4,791,759

Local receipts with possible loss of tuition, trash, and turbine revenue

<u>Fire</u>	<u>Highway</u>
Eliminate EMS Captain / Training Position	Eliminate 6 Highway Employees
<b>Eliminate 5 Firefighters:</b> 1-Captain EMS and Training 4-Firefighters/Paramedics	Outsource Trash- Residents to pay on their own
Dissolution of Call Firefighters	Eliminate 9 Summer Help - Park & Beach
Decrease in Ambulance Revenue	
<u>Police</u>	<u>School</u>
Eliminate Animal Control Department / Animal Shelter* \$134,590	(All Projected Cuts would fall below Net School Spending)
Eliminate 6 Police Officers	Eliminate 76 Positions
Eliminate 2 P-T Dispatchers	Class sizes significantly exceed 30 students
** Station Lobby / Dispatcher desk will be unstaffed from midnight to 8am daily **	Administrative & Nursing Cuts
Eliminate 42k in OT budget for Community Policing	Loss of Family Center

Eliminate Animal Control Department / Animal Shelter\* \$134,590

Eliminate 6 Police Officers

Eliminate 2 P-T Dispatchers

\*\* Station Lobby / Dispatcher desk will be unstaffed from midnight to 8am daily \*\*

Eliminate 42k in OT budget for Community Policing



# FY27 Estimated Impact on Property Taxes with an Override of: \$4,791,759

Increase / Decrease Amount Selected \$4,791,759

Fairhaven			
	Residential & Open Space (RO)	Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property (CIP)	Total
FY 2025 # of Parcels	7,018	1,152	8,170
FY 2025 Assessed Value	2,882,510,114	453,033,973	3,335,544,087
FY 2025 Tax Levy	26,864,994	8,376,598	35,241,592

RO Tax Rate	CIP Tax Rate
9.32	18.49

	RO	CIP
Proposed Increase/Decrease to Levy:	3,652,803	1,138,956
Levy Share:	76.2309%	23.7691%
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	1.27	2.51
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	10.59	21.00
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):</b>	<b>454,253</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):</b>	<b>4,234</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):</b>	<b>576.90</b>	

Assessed Value	Current Estimated RO Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated RO Tax Bill	Estimated RO Tax Bill Impact	Current Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Estimated CIP Tax Bill Impact
250,000	2,330.00	2,647.50	317.50	4,622.50	5,250.00	627.50
350,000	3,262.00	3,706.50	444.50	6,471.50	7,350.00	878.50
450,000	4,194.00	4,765.50	571.50	8,320.50	9,450.00	1,129.50
550,000	5,126.00	5,824.50	698.50	10,169.50	11,550.00	1,380.50
650,000	6,058.00	6,883.50	825.50	12,018.50	13,650.00	1,631.50
750,000	6,990.00	7,942.50	952.50	13,867.50	15,750.00	1,882.50
850,000	7,922.00	9,001.50	1,079.50	15,716.50	17,850.00	2,133.50
950,000	8,854.00	10,060.50	1,206.50	17,565.50	19,950.00	2,384.50
1,050,000	9,786.00	11,119.50	1,333.50	19,414.50	22,050.00	2,635.50
1,150,000	10,718.00	12,178.50	1,460.50	21,263.50	24,150.00	2,886.50
1,250,000	11,650.00	13,237.50	1,587.50	23,112.50	26,250.00	3,137.50
1,350,000	12,582.00	14,296.50	1,714.50	24,961.50	28,350.00	3,388.50
1,450,000	13,514.00	15,355.50	1,841.50	26,810.50	30,450.00	3,639.50
1,550,000	14,446.00	16,414.50	1,968.50	28,659.50	32,550.00	3,890.50



# What's Next?

## Town Meeting Member Survey: Deficit Planning Options

As a Town Meeting Member and representative of our community, please indicate your preferences regarding options to address the FY27 projected budget deficit:

- ☐ **Hold Meetings/Committees** to explore and discuss potential options for the deficit.
- ☐ **Support a Full Override** to fully cover the deficit through additional taxation.
- ☐ **Support Full Budget Cuts** to entirely offset the deficit through reductions in spending.
- ☐ **Support a Combination** of proportioned budget cuts and a partial override.
- ☐ **Explore Regionalization** opportunities with the Town of Acushnet to share services and reduce costs

## Fourth of July

1 message

**Historical Commission** <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:19 PM

To: Select Board <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "Natalie A. Mello" <natalieamello@gmail.com>, George Samia <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Andrew Romano <Andrewromanorealtor@gmail.com>, Michael Jenney <mjenney@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Selectboard and town officials,

Apologies for the email on a holiday; hopefully you won't have to read it until Monday.

At 8:15 this morning, July 4th, at the specific request of Wayne Oliveira and the Fairhaven Village Militia, I went down to Fort Phoenix to unlock the bunker and lower the US Flag, so that the Militia could stage a ceremonial flag raising for the Holiday. I was met at the fort by two active, uniformed members of the Militia, who helped me lower the flag and took it upon themselves to fold it properly. They suggested that they keep the flag and hand it to the woman selling Militia t-shirts at the Fort, so that it was nearby when needed. They also mentioned that often Wayne Oliveira prefers to raise a different flag for the ceremony, so either way they would be prepared. I agreed with this reasonable suggestion and left the Fort.

At 10am, I received a phone call from an unhinged and irate Wayne Oliveira, accusing me of ruining "his" ceremony by taking the flag. When I pointed out that I had left the flag in the possession of Militia members, he began to verbally abuse me and reiterate that his ceremony was being ruined.

Per the prearranged agreement (times provided by Wayne,) I returned to the fort at 10:20am to lock things back up. Seeing the flag flying, I said to Wayne "I see you were able to find the flag, that's good."

He rudely replied that it was his flag, and that he "did not know where the town's flag was." His wife Vicky then came over to ask me "where did you leave it." At that time I pointed out again that I did not "leave it somewhere," I handed it to the militia members who met me in the morning. Sure enough, they came over to confirm this, and the flag was exactly where they said it would be: with the woman selling t-shirts.

At that point (and this was witnessed by Natalie Mello, selectboard member) Wayne began to verbally abuse me with all manner of vile phrases. He called me a "fuckwad," a "power-hungry asshole," a "little weasel," and a "jackass." All of this very loudly and in public.

Wayne's behavior toward me and the Historical Commission, and frankly toward anyone who will not kiss his ring, is becoming increasingly unhinged. I am very concerned that he is at best exhibiting significant anger management issues, and at worst is showing signs of violent psychosis. I believe very firmly that it is only a matter of time before he harms someone. His rage toward me was frightening to behold, despite being completely unwarranted.

The question before you all is simple: will you allow this type of behavior toward volunteers of the town to continue? Or will you take whatever steps are necessary to protect the people who give so generously of their time and talents?

This is not a one-off occurrence, this is a pattern of abusive behavior that can be traced back to his feud with the previous town administrator, which was also based only on his own paranoia and narcissistic behavior. Now that she is gone, he has simply found another victim for his anger.

Additional items of note:

1. The New Bedford Whaling Museum had made an indefinite loan of the Nimrod Cannon to the Town of Fairhaven, but rescinded the loan after being insulted and abused by Wayne Oliveira when he was Chair of the Historical Commission. The present gift in perpetuity of said cannon by the Museum was precipitated by a bridge-building effort by the current commission members.
2. Mr. Eric Dawicki of the Northeast Maritime Institute initially refused to have any dealings with the Historical Commission regarding the moving of the Nimrod Cannon because Wayne Oliveira had accused him of property theft in keeping the cannon at the NMI. In fact, the Whaling Museum had asked Mr. Dawicki to keep the cannon, and there is paperwork to prove it.

3. The streetlight project around Town Hall, which Wayne likes to claim as "his project," actually predated his involvement and only became viable when other people took on a leadership role. The second phase of that project is not being overseen by the Historical Commission, but rather the Fairhaven Improvement Association. The reason for this is that the major donors of phase one refused to work on the project if Wayne Oliveira was involved, due to his rude treatment of them.

The current members of the Historical Commission have made tireless efforts to provide public access to historic sites in town, and to build bridges and form meaningful collaborations with other groups for the benefit of the town and its citizens. This is evident in the many visitors to the Old Stone Schoolhouse and the Washington Street Firehouse, both of which remained closed to the public for the entirety of Wayne Oliveira's tenure as chair.

If you will not do anything to protect the members & volunteers of this town, then my resignation from the Historical Commission will follow shortly. That's not a threat, because I can easily be replaced and none of my ego or sense of self-worth is tied up in serving on the Historical Commission. I do this only as a way to give back, and neither ask for nor wish for acknowledgement.

I leave that decision entirely in your hands.

Best regards,  
Michael J. Kelly  
Chair, Fairhaven Historical Commission



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## Re: Fourth of July

1 message

**Beth Luey** <beth.luey@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:36 PM

To: Historical Commission <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov" <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

As one of the targets of Mr. Oliveira's rage, I agree with everything Mr. Kelly has said. I would regard silence on the part of the Selectboard and town officials as complicity in his behavior.

Beth Luey

Member, Fairhaven Historical Commission and Community Preservation Committee

On Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:23 PM Historical Commission <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Historical Commission** <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Date: Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:19 PM

Subject: Fourth of July

To: Select Board <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Natalie A. Mello <natalieamello@gmail.com>, George Samia <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Andrew Romano <Andrewromanorealtor@gmail.com>, Michael Jenney <mjenney@fairhaven-ma.gov>

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I leave that decision entirely in your hands.

Best regards,  
Michael J. Kelly  
Chair, Fairhaven Historical Commission

## Fairhaven Historical Commission Concerns

1 message

**nbek88@gmail.com** <nbek88@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 5, 2025 at 1:41 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, Silvia Keith <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov

Cc: Nate Bekemeier <nbek88@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

As a member of the Fairhaven Historical Commission who only recently (FVN Homecoming Day) experienced first-hand Mr. Oliveira's unwarranted disrespect for my volunteer service to our town, I need to add my concern for myself and fellow HC members who have been the subject of Mr. Oliveira's personal attacks. Especially learning of events which transpired July 4th at Fort Phoenix.

Mr. Oliveira has made our work at the Commission unreasonably difficult and unnecessarily complicated.

Commission members are working to open several of our Historic properties to the public offering insights into our town's history and are enjoying recent successes in doing so.

We are finding it increasingly difficult to work towards our shared HC goals if Mr. Oliveira continues his increasingly disruptive and threatening personal attacks.

Sincerely,  
Nate Bekemeier

## July 4th Parade incident

1 message

**July 4th Parade** <july4thparade@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Sun, Jul 6, 2025 at 9:16 AM

To: Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>, George Samia <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Chair Murphy,

We just wanted to make you aware of a situation that happened at the check-in site for the July 4th Parade.

We were notified by one of the parade watchers that a float had arrived that I might want to look at, it seems that one of our registered participants showed up with a float that had a life size poster of Donald Trump wearing a MAGA hat and on the front of the float they were flying a Trump flag.

It clearly stated in the rule when they registered:

### **Political Participation**

Political candidates and their supporters must participate respectfully. **No political statements, inappropriate behaviors, disruption of the event**, violation of the parade rules, or disregard of parade marshals will be accepted. We ask that all candidates and their supporters remember that this is a community fun family event.

It was the feeling of the parade coordinators that the float was inappropriate for the July 4th parade, it would be controversial and went against the rules of "No political statements in the parade"

The participant was asked to remove the poster and Trump flag and she could remain in the parade with all of the remaining decorations. She refused to do that and stated that if I have to remove

those items then I'm not going to be in the parade. I stated that it would not be permitted and she chose to leave the parade. It is our opinion that she was just attempting to get a rise from the public by making this float and it would be disruptive to the event.

I assume that she will be making a complaint based on her comments that day. We will be happy to follow up with any defense of our actions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayne & Vicki Oliveira  
Parade & Ceremony Coordinators



---

## Historical Commission

1 message

David Wilson <davewilson235@yahoo.com>  
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 4:56 PM

To: Fairhaven Select Board  
Through: Chairman Murphy

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you in concern regarding a recent action taken by the Historical Commission of cutting the locks off and changing the code on the Spring Street Fire Station. I have been a key holder for the "Fire Houses" for over 18 years. Today I find out that we will need to go sign a key out, or basically be vetted by the Historical Commission? These are Town of Fairhaven Buildings, with Town of Fairhaven Antique Fire Apparatus in them. This to me has gone down very under handedly, and quite frankly seems like the Protection Society and members are being treated like criminals, or like we did something wrong. I have spent my entire life volunteering for this town. I have spent thousands of hours driving those fire engines, maintaining and caring for them. I have spent hundreds of dollars of my own money on these for fuel and parts to keep them running because our budget is so small. This was insulting to find out the locks and codes were changed. I have been called by the central alarm company at all hours of the night over the years for alarms that have gone off, I would never hesitate to go right to the fire house to make sure it was locked up and nothing was happening. To think that all of a sudden I no longer have access or a code to the building is frustrating. We have never once denied those engines being at any occasion, function, parades, funeral, or any other event in this town that they were requested to be at. We never ask for any money in return we are volunteers, and most of the time the fuel comes out of our own pockets for these events.

We do it for the love of the town. I grew up riding those engines as a kid, it got me roped into the fire service where I still currently am a Town of Fairhaven employee as a Lieutenant on the Call Fire Department.

The very few key holders (for the locks up until cut off) for these buildings should be reissued keys, and the code. The Historical Commission to me have far exceeded its boundaries and is pushing away the volunteers who have been maintaining and managing these buildings and engines. We are the only ones who go into the buildings and we are the only ones who actually can operate those antiques engines, let alone start them.

These fire houses and fire engines aren't just buildings or antiques to us, they are a pride, a passion, a reminder of the people who rode them before us. They are the pride of the past. These are a staple in our community.

I am asking that you please address this situation.

Thank you,

David Wilson  
256 Huttleston Ave  
Fairhaven

---

## Fwd: Complaint

1 message

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[wayne.oliveira@comcast.net](mailto:wayne.oliveira@comcast.net)>

Date: Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 10:05 PM

Subject: Complaint

To: <[GSamia@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:GSamia@fairhaven-ma.gov)>

Cc: <[cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[ARomano@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:ARomano@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[namello@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:namello@fairhaven-ma.gov)>

July 13, 2025

Mr. George Samia,  
Interim Town Administrator

Dear Mr. Samia

This correspondence serves as a formal complaint regarding the conduct of **Michael Kelly, Chair of the Historical Commission and/or the individual responsible for administering the Historical Commission Facebook Page.**

On Saturday, July 12th, Mr. Kelly dedicated significant time and effort to what appeared to be damage control, specifically in response to the Historical Commission's decision to change the locks on the Protecting Society buildings. During this period, he also disseminated video footage from an emergency Historical Commission meeting, convened on July 10th. This video was explicitly used to amplify and promote ongoing, accusations directed at me. (See attachments provided)

It is unacceptable for a town-sanctioned social media page to be used in this manner. Mr. Kelly is clearly leveraging a town platform to advance his personal agenda and a one-sided narrative, targeting me as a private citizen and the two groups with which I am associated. Additionally, he made disparaging posts on his private Facebook page. This conduct is a blatant violation of the town's social media policy.

This pattern of behavior constitutes a concerning escalation and borders on sustained harassment. Such conduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

I expect a prompt investigation into these matters.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Wayne V. Oliveira**

[125 Bridge Street Fairhaven, MA 02719](#)

Cell (774) 930-4966

### 3 attachments



IMG\_5819.PNG  
542K



IMG\_1990.JPEG  
478K



IMG\_5821.PNG  
3693K





Old Town Fairhaven



## Fairhaven Historical Commission



★ Rising contributor 7m •

It had not been our intention to post this video, though it is available for public viewing at [FairhavenTV.com](https://FairhavenTV.com). But recent events require us to ensure more people are aware of the situation.

On Thursday, July 10, the Historical Commission convene an emergency meeting to address incidents of verbal abuse, harassment, and intimidation of Commission volunteers by a private citizen. This occurred while the volunteers were performing their obligations to the Town.

If you have concerns about the way the Historical Commission is being run, you may send an email, request time on our agenda, or petition the Selectboard. Attacking volunteers is despicable & improper.

We at the Commission will not tolerate this type of aggressive behavior. We all of us, as citizens of Fairhaven, should not tolerate it either.





**Michael J. Kelly**

27m ·



The usual suspects in town are spreading lies & misinformation to further their personal agenda, whatever that may be. Maybe grow up and act like adults rather than toddlers. The Firehouses are town property, not your private clubhouse.



**Fairhaven Historical Commission**

44m ·

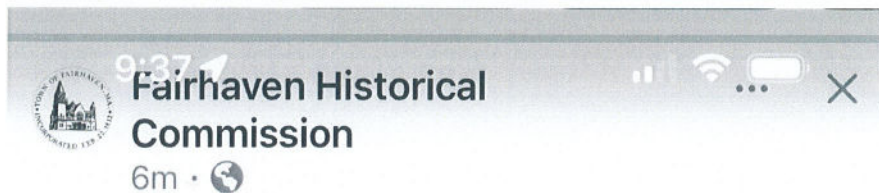
A note on new locks, since per usual a small group is determined to spread misinformation to create drama where there isn't any. We hope reasonable people will take note.

The Historical Commission has also advised the Protecting Society of the very simple way that they may obtain a new set of keys so that they may continue to utilize the property.

If you move into a new house, one of the first things you are advised to do is to change the locks.

Please don't continue to spread falsehoods. The process to obtain keys is very simple and reasonable.





Once more for those in the back:

1. Yes the locks were changed yesterday at Noon, per a vote taken 6 months ago and Selectboard approval.
2. Yes we offered to meet a member of the Protecting Society at 11am this morning to give them new keys & codes.

Explain how giving them new keys within 24 hours is "locking them out?" Someone make it make sense.



## harassment and silence

1 message

**Beth Luey** <beth.luey@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 10:44 AM

To: Historical Commission <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov

I have been a minor target of the recent harassment. More disturbing than childish name calling (directed at me) and the more vicious attacks directed at my colleagues is the failure of the Select Board to acknowledge that a problem exists and to take responsibility for resolving it. Even a simple statement that such behavior is intolerable would have helped. It is part of your job to set the tone and standards of public discourse. Please take that seriously.

Beth Luey

---

## Fwd: Formal Apology of July 4th

1 message

**Historical Commission** <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 8:41 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Town Clerk <Clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Samia George <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Forwarding for public record, as it was issued to a Selectboard member and marked as a Formal Apology.

Begin forwarded message:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **M McDonald** <mmcdonald120@yahoo.com>

Date: Sat, Jul 5, 2025 at 7:09 PM

Subject: Formal Apology of July 4th

To: <namello@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



**Militia Apology (1).pdf**

39K



Good Afternoon Mrs. Mello,

My name is Matthew McDonald. I am the Lieutenant Commander and Sergeant at Arms of the Fairhaven Village Militia. I'd like to formally apologize for the actions that were taken by another group member. The actions taken were totally unprofessional and inappropriate for how we would like our group to be perceived as an integral part of preserving the town's history and integrity. We do not want one person's actions to define the group.

I would like to take it upon myself to build a better relationship with the Historical Commission and the Fairhaven Village Militia. I have many great ideas for historical events that can take place at Fort Phoenix next year and years to come to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. I am in talks with Ms. Botelho on working together to put these events on in the future. These events would be great for both our group and the town of Fairhaven. I have been a standing member of the Fairhaven Village Militia for thirteen years and I have seen and understand what the group means to our town and how it helps educate the general public.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can work together moving forward. Again, I am deeply sorry for the actions that took place on July 4th. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Best Regards,

Matthew McDonald

## FAYA

1 message

**Krystal Lunn** <krystal.lunn@gmail.com>  
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

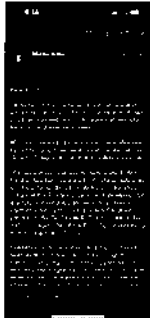
Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 7:34 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing today to ask for your support. My children have participated in Faya cheer and football. Last year we took a break because I coached the prior year where a child was physically and verbally assaulting other children and two assistant coaches were left to handle the situation because the head coach and cheer coordinator were never there. When asked to have the child removed for safety reasons I was told I didn't understand inclusion. Inclusion does not mean allowing a child to physically hurt other children and the child was not a special needs child. I decided to pull my children and take the year off till the current board stepped down. When you coach you take the oath to protect the children you are coaching and that is all I was doing. I signed both my children up this year hoping for a better outcome as both my children love this sport. I received the email I will share where my son was completely discriminated against for being autistic. As I know you cannot do anything about that but you can stop them from using town property to practice and play there games. I am more than willing to discuss if you have more questions. I hope you all would understand the importance of inclusion and making sports available to ALL children.

Thank You,  
Krystal Lunn

### 3 attachments



IMG\_0529.png  
430K



IMG\_0531.png  
427K



IMG\_0530.png  
417K

5:38

5G



**Shelby Hirtle** Jul 14

to me, President ▾



Dear Krystal,

On behalf of the Fairhaven Acushnet Board of Directors, I want to acknowledge receipt of your 2025 season registration for both Gabriel (12U Football) and Adeline (Cheer).

After extensive review and careful consideration by our full board, we have made the decision to deny both registrations, due to safety concerns.

The request for your son to participate in 12U football has been assessed with player safety as our top priority. Based on ability and the physical nature of the 12U level, we have determined that it would present a significant safety concern—most importantly for your son and the other players on the field as well. This decision is final and non-negotiable. We will not be reconsidering or reversing this outcome.

In addition, Adeline's cheer registration has also been denied. This decision is based on the history of ongoing conflict during past seasons, including challenges with cooperation, disruptive behavior, and the repeated public criticism and shaming of league officials and volunteers. We

← Reply

↩ Reply all

➦ Forward



5:38

5G



...

shaming of league officials and volunteers. We understand how much Adeline may enjoy participating in cheer, and while she will not be placed on a Fairhaven Acushnet team this season, we are more than willing to sign a waiver should you choose to have her participate with the Challenger Cheer program at Dighton-Rehoboth, which may be a more suitable option, for her safety as well as the safety of others on the team.

Please understand these decisions were not made lightly, but are in the best interest of your son, daughter, our other players, opposing teams, volunteers, and the integrity of our program.

Upon confirmed receipt of this email, I will process a full refund for both registrations, as our associations main concern is always the safety of all of the athletes in these programs above all else.

The President of RISMA will be CC'd on this communication to ensure transparency and documentation.

Sincerely,  
Eric Parker - President  
Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Football & Cheer

On Jul 14, 2025, at 9:47 PM, Krystal

Reply

Reply all

Forward



5:38

5G



K

me 1:30AM



to Shelby, President

Good Morning,  
Refusing to allow Gabriel to participate because of a diagnosis of autism is discrimination and illegal. He plays on many sports teams and has never been denied because of his diagnosis and has never been a safety risk. I also asked last year to have both my child allowed a waiver to ORR teams and was completely denied and told if I wanted them to play they had to play for Fairhaven and now being told they can go to Dighton Rehoboth where they know no one one the ridiculous. My concerns were with Jen and allowing children to be physically assaulted and refusing to handle the situation. That's not a safety concern but my son's diagnosis is? I will be reaching out to the Fairhaven Select Board asking for them to block you from using Livsey Park and Fairhaven's football field because in Fairhaven we are about making everything inclusive for all and both are town property.  
Thank You,  
Krystal Lunn

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 10:25 PM Shelby Hirtle <shelbyhirtle@gmail.com> wrote:

Reply

Reply all

Forward





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## EDC

1 message

**Miles Grant** <thegreenmiles@gmail.com>  
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Wed, Jul 16, 2025 at 9:24 AM

It has come to my attention that Cathy Melanson said at Monday's Select Board meeting that I voted to get rid of the Planning Board representative to the EDC. That's not true.

In the opening minutes of my very first EDC meeting on June 11, Cathy said EDC had already decided to get rid of the Planning Board representative, then Alyssa Botelho suggested changing it from a representative to a liaison. As I was being introduced to the Committee, I said we should make sure that the Planning Board and EDC have clear roles and missions and support each other's work. No vote was taken.

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11515030?video=1092847738>

The EDC then discussed whether Route 6 should be rezoned and whether apartments should be built in Cushman Park, so there clearly seemed to be interest in discussing mutually related issues outside narrow mission statements.

I'm not concerned with what title the Planning Board member who participates in EDC meetings is given, but planning and economic development clearly go hand in hand. As we look around at the growing number of vacant storefronts around town, including in the center, I remain very eager to support Alyssa's work on this increasingly important issue.

Miles Grant  
Fairhaven Planning Board  
703-864-9599 (m)

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## Discriminatory Practices

1 message

**Pamela Whynot** <pamelaewhynot@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 17, 2025 at 6:33 PM

To: Vincent Furtado <vfurtado@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Josh Crabb <jcrabb@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>, George Samia <TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing to request your leadership and support in taking a stand on the rights of people with disabilities to participate fully in our community.

Recently, the children of one of our citizens, Krystal Lynn, were denied the right to participate in a local sports league. The reasons cited for the denial were specifically related to their disabilities and were discriminatory and in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as a violation of Massachusetts civil rights laws.

While this league is a private league over which the town of Fairhaven has no purview, this sports entity uses public town spaces for their activities.

Fairhaven should continue to be a place where all individuals are welcome, respected, and included. By allowing a private organization to use public property for discriminatory practices, the town itself is also responsible.

I am writing to respectfully request that you deny the FAYA Pop Warner Football and Cheer the ability to utilize town property for their games until they rectify their discriminatory practices, and make a commitment to provide an inclusive opportunity for sports participation.

Our town should not be providing spaces for organizations to violate the ADA laws.

With gratitude for your dedication to all our citizens,

Pamela Whynot, LCSW  
4 School St, Fairhaven, MA 02719  
508-951-8472



6:13



I signed Gabriel up for football hoping **FAYA Pop Warner Football and Cheer** had changed with the new board. Apparently having autism is a safety issue but allowing kids to assault others isn't. We can't make them allow him to play because they are a private organization but we can keep them from using town property like Livsey Park and the Fairhaven High football field because in Fairhaven we are INCLUSIVE for all. I will be reaching out to the Select Board and School Committee today and urge others to. Sad part is one of the board members has an autistic child you would think she wouldn't discriminate.

5:38

Shelby Hirtle

Krystal,

As chair of the Fairhaven Acushnet Board of Directors, I want to acknowledge receipt of your season registration for both Gabriel (Football) and Adeline (Cheer).

After an extensive review and careful consideration by the full board, we have made the decision to deny both registrations, due to safety concerns.

The request for your son to participate in 12U football has been assessed with player safety as the top priority. Based on ability and the physical demands of the 12U level, we have determined that Gabriel would present a significant safety concern for himself and the other players on the field as well. This decision is non-negotiable. We will not be reconsidering this outcome.

In addition, Adeline's cheer registration has been denied. This decision is based on the

5:38

ing of league officials and volunteers. We understand how much Adeline may enjoy participating in cheer, and while she will not be on a Fairhaven Acushnet team this season, we are more than willing to sign a waiver if you choose to have her participate in the Challenger Cheer program at Dighton-Rehoboth, which may be a more suitable option for safety as well as the safety of other players.

We understand these decisions were not made lightly, but are in the best interest of the players, our other players, opposing teams, volunteers, and the integrity of our league.

Upon confirmed receipt of this email, I will issue a full refund for both registrations. Our association's main concern is always the safety of all of the athletes in these programs, and all else.

The president of RISMA will be CC'd on this communication to ensure transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,  
Mark - President

5:38

me

Morning,

I am writing to allow Gabriel to participate because a diagnosis of autism is discrimination and not a safety concern. He plays on many sports teams and has never been denied because of his diagnosis. I also asked him to have both my child allowed a waiver to play on both teams and was completely denied and told them to play they had to play for the town and now being told they can go to Dighton-Rehoboth where they know no one. This is ridiculous. My concerns were with Jon asking children to be physically assaulted and not being able to handle the situation. That's not a safety concern but my son's diagnosis is? I am reaching out to the Fairhaven Select Board asking for them to block you from using Livestock and Fairhaven's football field because even we are about making everything safe for all and both are town property.

Thank You,  
Al Lunn

# For Public Record from Concerned Citizens: Letter Regarding the Lack of Support for the Fairhaven Historical Commission

1 message

M Kelly <mjkelly072@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 10:39 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Natalie Mello <natalieamello@gmail.com>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, Samia George <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Town Clerk <clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: Nate Bekemeier <nbeke88@gmail.com>, Michael Silva <mjsarch@comcast.net>

Good morning,

As you know, as of yesterday the Town of Fairhaven has had three members in good standing of the Historical Commission resign. While each of them experienced varying degrees of the systematic harassment of Commission members by a private citizen on Town property, they ultimately resigned due to the lack of any support or action on the part of you, the Selectboard & Town. In other words, they didn't resign because of any one individual's behavior, abhorrent as it may have been; they resigned because of your failure to act.

We now understand that the Selectboard is attempting to use the First Amendment as an excuse for inaction. Harassment is not covered by the First Amendment; harassment is not protected speech. This is well established, in both federal and state case law, as any first year law student could tell you. If you have been advised otherwise, perhaps Fairhaven deserves better legal counsel.

We further understand that the official letter of complaint and request for action that was supported by a unanimous & legally binding vote of the Historical Commission on July 10, 2025 has been squelched due to a dubious and likely erroneous claim of an open meeting law violation. Oddly, this claim of a "violation" does not even stem from the meeting itself, which is not only public record, but was conducted at the advice of the Town Administrator under guidance by Town Counsel, and followed every legal protocol.

Further, while the claim of first amendment protections for the harasser are spurious at best, the responsibilities of a town to protect appointed officials are clear:

**Third-Party Harassment:** A town can also be held liable for harassment perpetrated by non-employees (like contractors or visitors) if it knew or should have known about the harassment and failed to take reasonable steps to prevent or stop it.

**Duty to Investigate and Correct:** If a town is aware of harassment, it has a duty to investigate the complaints promptly and take appropriate corrective action to stop the behavior and prevent future occurrences. Failure to do so could lead to liability.

The Town of Fairhaven has sat by and done nothing during a consistent pattern of harassment and abuse of appointed commission members by a private citizen. A private citizen with a long and documented history of harassing others, including the town's previous Town Administrator, who also happened to be Fairhaven's first woman of color in a position of authority. Interestingly, the language used against the former Town Administrator is verbatim to the language used against members of the Historical Commission.

The Town has now lost three dedicated and committed commissioners who were actively working to preserve Fairhaven's historical locations as well as promoting tourism and its potential for desperately needed revenue. In the process, the Town has opened itself up to accusations of favoritism and cronyism at the least, and at worse to the risk of potential future litigation. A suit brought by the harasser for a claim of civil rights violations would most certainly fail on its lack of merit; the same may not be true of claims brought by victims of harassment themselves that go uninvestigated and unaddressed despite numerous complaints and requests for help.

For the avoidance of doubt, this is not meant to be taken as any form of threat: we have neither the interest nor the intent to sue the Town over this or any other matter. We would not want to put Fairhaven through such an ordeal. We are simply providing one last service to the people of Fairhaven in trying to ensure that taxpayer money is not wasted on avoidable legal issues brought on by negligence or inaction. Fairhaven has nothing to fear from us.

That said, the people of Fairhaven deserve better, especially those who selflessly volunteer on behalf of the Town.

Best regards,

Michael Kelly      Nate Bekemeier      Michael Silva



To The Town Select Board,

My name is Sandra Wilder and I'm filing a formal complaint with the board due to an incident that happened to my husband and I at the town's 4th of July Parade this year. My husband & I have been in the parade the last 4 years, this year we spent many hours & money on our float for the parade, we were in line in our spot for the parade when Wayne Oliveira came up to my husband and I yelling at us to take down our President Trump stand up & our Trump flag or we were not allowed in the parade, he yelled "Nothing Political", its in the rules and I replied its not Political its the President of the United States." To which Wayne yelled at us "He's not my President!" I again replied if you live in the



-2-

United States, he's your President!  
But we had to leave the parade  
because we refused to take  
our President off our float. We  
were treated unfairly due  
to Waynes hatred for our  
President. He had no right to  
take away anyones free speech,  
there was nothing lewd, disrespect-  
ful or rude. The 4th of July  
is the most Political Holiday  
of the year, we celebrate our  
freedoms and to have some-  
one try and take away my  
1st Amendment is totally  
UnConstitutional. If a rule is  
made stating nothing political  
then any member of politics  
shouldn't march in the parade  
any political insignia like  
Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty,  
any political statements should  
not be allowed. In last years  
parade a member of the planning  
board & others were carrying  
flyers of candidates who were



-3-

running for state representative and it was allowed, nothing was said about it but because of Wayne's obvious hatred for our President he tried to shut my rights down. All I'm asking of the board is to have Wayne's rule taken out, because no one has the right to take anyone's rights away. If we can have people wearing Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty Costumes and yet we can't have our President on a float on the 4th of July that is absolutely disgusting. I got a lot of support on Facebook when I posted about what happened and it also got national attention on X & Truth Social when it was shared by others who saw my post and it received a lot of support. Wayne's behavior was ridiculous & unprofessional. He ever had the nerve to



-4-

private message me or messenger thanking me for bashing him on Facebook calling me immature, but he didn't think twice about how he treated my husband & I when he was yelling at us in front of people.

This town may have many liberals/democrats but there are also many independents/Republicans who respect our President, we have had to put up with the ridiculous "NO Kings" Protests in this town & as taxpayers in this town if we want to respect & honor our President on the 4th of July we should not be shut down and have our God Given Constitutional Rights taken from us due to someones hatred. So I'm asking to have the "no political rule" taken out of the parade rules. I'm



-5-

starting here with the Select Board but I will keep going higher if I have to or even sue the Town due to having my Freedom of speech being taken away from me. Wayne Oliveira doesn't belong organizing a parade if he can't set aside his feelings and he thinks he can play sides and allow some other political aspects pass by but shut others down because of his personal feelings. I look forward to hearing back from the Select Board on this issue, I Thank You for your time.

Sincerely,

Sandra Wilder

My Email is: Sandraskids030861@  
hotmail.com



\* I have also included pictures

① An AI description that says Uncle Sam & Statue of Liberty both represent Political Insignia as does the American Flag which the flag has been passed to parade Foxloppers by people marching in the parade & the above characters costumes were in this year's parade - All Political!

② I also included pictures from the 2024 4th of July Parade where Candidates were marching in the parade to show they were running for a Political position in the upcoming election in 2024.

③ I've also included pics from two recent "No Kings" protests held on Town Property where people hold up lewd & hurtful signs against the President of the United States and this is allowed but the President pic is not allowed on Town Property ??? Something

is definitely wrong with this.

④ I've also included a pic of the message Wayne Clivina sent me after I commented about how we were treated by him. And please let it be known I never blocked him from the post which was for a Fair Haven Political Opinions Board which I am not in charge of. His wife is also on my main Facebook page, he never made or wanted to comment on the post because he got so much negative feedback for what he did so it was easier for him to say I blocked him, which was a lie!!

⑤ I also sent pics of my float to show there was nothing loud, hurtful or disrespectful but we were treated otherwise.



⑥ So in conclusion, what I'm asking of the Select Board is to fix a wrong!

I want to see the rule of "NO Political" taken out of the rules of the Parade (then the organizers cannot even follow their own rules), anyone who cannot set aside personal feelings for a town event shouldn't be in any position when it comes to holding or organizing the event. I'm tired of the bias in this town & it needs to stop! If the Select Board will not do anything about this, I will take it to higher authorities & even speak to a lawyer (which I have done already with people I know who are lawyers) and I could definitely seek a case against Wayne & the Town, but that is not my intention, I would be satisfied w/ a public apology & the rule taken out of the Parade rules - No one should take anyone's rights away - especially on a day

when we celebrate our  
freedoms !!

Sincerely,  
Sandra Wildee

I look forward to hearing  
back from the board on  
this matter.

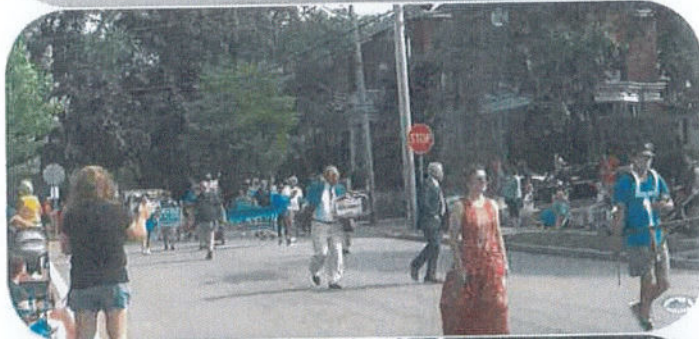


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Sandra >



HAPPY 4TH of JULY Everyone !!!!! Our Float for our

+ Text Message • RCS



9:55

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Sandra >



Text Message • RCS





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Sandra &gt;



AI Overview

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Yes, both Uncle Sam and the Statue of Liberty are considered political and national symbols of the United States. Uncle Sam primarily represents the U.S. government and its ideals, particularly in contexts of patriotism, military recruitment, and political discourse. The Statue of Liberty, on the other hand, is a broader symbol of freedom, democracy, and immigration, embodying the nation's welcoming spirit and ideals.

**Elaboration:****Uncle Sam:**

First appearing as a cartoon character during the War of 1812, Uncle Sam evolved to represent the U.S. government and its various facets, including taxation and military service. He is often depicted in political cartoons and propaganda, particularly during wartime, urging citizens to support the nation's endeavors.

**Statue of Liberty:**

Originally a gift from France, the Statue of Liberty has become a powerful symbol of freedom and opportunity, particularly for immigrants arriving in the United States. It is often associated with the ideals of democracy, liberty, and the pursuit of a better life.



Text Message • RCS



9:56

5G



Sandra >



Like Comment Send Share

Christine Wilson-Sylvia + 50

36 shares

Most relevant ▾

1:16



Wayne Oliveira



12:41 PM



Thanks for bashing me on Facebook and blocking me from your post. Very mature



You can now message and call each other and see info like active status and when you have read messages.



Oh you're so welcome and it won't end here either ! I'm going to the Town Hall with this, I will fight this tooth & nail you had NO RIGHT AT ALL telling me to take mine & Your PRESIDENT of the United States off my Float ! July 4th is a Political Holiday celebrating our



+ Text Message • RCS





Sandra >

\*\*\*\*\* Wayne Oliveira needs to seek help for major TDS & thinking he can take people's UNALIENABLE RIGHTS away from them on a day we Celebrate our FREEDOMS !!!! 🙏❤️🇺🇸💪



Like Comment Send Share

+ Text Message • RCS





## *Fairhaven Firefighters Association Local 1555*



**Jonathan Cox**  
*President*  
**Chauncey Burr**  
*Secretary*

**Timothy Reilly**  
*Vice President*  
**Nathan Rebello**  
*Trustee*

**Ryan Amado**  
*Treasurer*  
**Chad Fitzgerald**  
*Member at Large*

### **To the Members of the Fairhaven Selectboard,**

We are writing in light of the recent tragedy in Fall River, where up to ten lives were lost. This heartbreaking event serves as a stark reminder of the immense burden placed on fire departments across the Commonwealth—asked to do more with less. The Fairhaven Fire Department is not immune to these challenges, and we must acknowledge that a tragedy of this magnitude is not beyond the realm of possibility here in our own community.

The Gabriel House in Fall River was home to approximately 70 residents at the time of the fire. In Fairhaven, we have four similar facilities: Atria Assisted Living (approximately 60 residents), the Royal of Fairhaven and Our Lady's Haven (each with around 100 residents), and Alden Court Nursing Home (with capacity for close to 140 residents). These facilities are only part of the broader picture, which includes additional high-occupancy residences such as Fairhaven Village, Oxford Terrace, Oxford School Apartments, and McGann Terrace, among others.

Given our current staffing model, the Fairhaven Fire Department could have as few as 2 to 7 firefighters initially responding to incidents at these locations, depending on concurrent call volume. We rely heavily on off-duty firefighters responding from home and assistance from mutual aid partners. Currently, we operate two ambulances, each staffed with two firefighter-paramedics. These same firefighter-paramedics cross-staff our ladder truck and second engine. If both ambulances are out on calls—as they often are, given our rising call volume—we are left with only three firefighters to respond with the front-line engine, and that is assuming full staffing for that day.

This initial response window is critical. Fires can double in size every 30 seconds, making swift and sufficient staffing essential for life safety, property conservation, and fire suppression. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), each fire apparatus should be staffed with four firefighters.

In 2022, the Fairhaven Firefighters Association commissioned an independent staffing study. This study considered factors such as population, geographic area, call volume, and the number of high-risk facilities. It recommended a staffing level of 12 firefighters per shift. We are currently operating with only 7 per shift, and at times, just 6—half of the recommended number. Despite our repeated attempts over the past several years to raise this issue with both the Town and the Fire Chief, our concerns appear to have gone unheard.

We respectfully urge the Selectboard to take this matter seriously. While we understand the town faces budgetary and logistical constraints, the Fairhaven Firefighters Association remains ready and willing to collaborate with the town administration on a comprehensive plan to improve staffing levels and emergency response capabilities. Let us act proactively, rather than reactively, before tragedy strikes closer to home.

Respectfully,

**Executive Board**  
**Fairhaven Firefighters Association Local 1555**