



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA

November 24, 2025 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven

Log on or call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 894 8599 3911, Passcode: 330130

The meeting can also be viewed on Channel 18 or on FairhavenTV.com

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

B. APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2025 NOV 20 PM2:43

1. Assessors: Tax Rate Presentation and Set Rate

C. ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. Consider Member Removal Request: Sustainability Committee: Susan Spooner
2. Consider Appointing a Select Board Representative for a Hiring Panel for Principal Assessor and Planner
3. Consider conducting an investigation for the failure of the Town to act on the Timothy-Hiller subdivision plans resulting in a "Constructive Approval"

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

E. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

F. MINUTES

1. Accept the Select Board Open Session minutes of November 10 and 19, 2025
2. Amend the Select Board Open Session minutes of September 30, 2025

G. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Blog Post: Frank Haggerty: Massachusetts Wind Turbines: Harbingers of Death

H. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting: **Monday, December 1, 2025** at 6:30pm

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Police Union.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

J. ADJOURN

Log on or call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 894 8599 3911, Passcode: 330130

Subject matter listed in the agenda consists of items reasonably anticipated (by the Chair) to be discussed. Not all items listed may be discussed and other items not listed (i.e. urgent business not available at the time of posting) may also be brought up for discussion in accordance with applicable law.



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA

November 24, 2025 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On March 28th, 2025, the bill to extend Open Meeting Law regulations governing remote participation has passed MA legislation and been signed by the Governor. This bill will allow remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through June 30, 2027.

Pursuant to an amendment to Town By-Law Chapter 50-13, all government meetings are available through web/video conference and are recorded.

This meeting is being recorded by the Government Access Channel. It will be replayed on Channel 18 and posted on FairhavenTV.com. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the Chair at this time.

Due to recent security breaches, Fairhaven TV has implemented a new protocol: Zoom camera video for all participants is disabled. If participants would like to speak or be recognized, click “raise hand” under “reactions”, and change your name to a full name to be unmuted. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting the integrity of Fairhaven government meetings.

- For anyone interested in volunteering, there are several vacancies on various boards committees and commissions. To see a complete list of the openings, please visit our website at www.fairhaven-ma.gov

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

B. APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. **Assessors: Tax Rate Presentation and Set Rate:** Former Assessor Joanne Correia will present details regarding the Board of Assessors recommended 2026 property tax rate. Included in your Board materials is a memo from the Board of Assessors summarizing their recommendation. Below is a summary of the 2025 and 2026 residential and commercial tax rates along with the average single family home property taxes. As you will see, the proposed tax rate has decreased, however the average property tax bill will increase by \$146 annually. That is due to the average home value increasing by \$21,000.

Tax Year	Residential Tax Rate	Commercial Tax Rate	Average Single Family Home Value	Average Single Family Home Property Taxes
2025	\$9.32	\$18.49	\$454,252	\$4,233
2026	\$9.20	\$18.22	\$475,941	\$4,379

Historically since 1990, the Select Board has voted to adopt the maximum shift to the commercial tax base, has not adopted the residential or small business exemption.

Suggested Motions:

“Move to motioned to adopt the shift of 1.75 resulting in a residential factor of 88.38 for 2026.”

Moved by _____, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

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“Move to adopt the residential exemption.”

Moved by _____, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

“Move to adopt the small business exemption.”

Moved by _____, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

C. ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. **Consider Member Removal Request: Sustainability Committee: Susan Spooner:** Sustainability Committee Chair Ann Richard submitted a request to remove member Susan Spooner from the Committee due to Ms. Spooner recently moving out of Fairhaven and her recent attendance record.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to remove Susan Spooner from the Sustainability Committee.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

2. **Consider Appointing a Select Board Representative for a Hiring Panel for Principal Assessor and Planner:** Job postings for the positions of Principal Assessor and Planner have been advertised. The Town Administrator is seeking a member of the Select Board to participate in an interview committee to review resumes and hold first interviews with selected candidates.

Suggested Motion(s):

“Move to appoint ___ as Select Board Representative to the interview committee for Principal Assessor.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

“Move to appoint ___ as Select Board Representative to the interview committee for Planner.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

3. **Consider Conducting an Investigation for the Failure of the Town to Act on the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision Plans Resulting in a "Constructive Approval":** At the November 18th Planning Board meeting, the Planning Board voted 7-0 to request the Select Board contract with a third party to conduct an investigation to determine how the Timothy-Hiller subdivision was not brought to the Planning Board for consideration. Additionally, several residents are requesting a similar investigation be completed. A copy of a letter submitted by Bob Espindola on behalf of the abutters and neighbors of the Timothy-Hiller subdivision has been included in your Board packet.

Suggested Motion(s):

“Move to request the Town Administrator contract to have an investigation conducted to determine the sequence of events that occurred from the date the Timothy-Hiller subdivision plans were accepted by the Town of Fairhaven to the date when the plans received constructive approval due to a Planning Board decision not being made.”

OR

“Move the Select Board take no action on the request to complete an investigation on the Timothy-Hiller subdivision Constructive Approval.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

4. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

5. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

6. MINUTES

- a. Accept the Select Board Open Session minutes of November 10 and 19, 2025

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (accept/not accept) the open session minutes of November 10 and 19, 2025 (as presented/as amended)”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

- b. Amend the Select Board Open Session minutes of September 30, 2025

An error was found in the motion at the end of the minutes of September 30, 2025. An amended copy is in the packet and the Board is asked to accept the amended minutes.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (accept/not accept) the amended open session minutes of September 30, 2025”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Blog Post: Frank Haggerty: Massachusetts Wind Turbines: Harbingers of Death

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (enter/not enter) the Select Board correspondence as listed into the record.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

8. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting: *Monday, December 1, 2025* at 6:30pm

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Police Union.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

10. ADJOURN

QUOTE

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." — John F. Kennedy



Monday, November 24, 2025

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. Assessors: Tax Rate Presentation and Set Rate

Tax Classification Hearing

FAIRHAVEN SELECTBOARD

Four Items to Vote On:

Tax Rate Shift

Open Space Discount – No Open Space in Fairhaven

Residential Exemption – Currently not adopted

Small Business Exemption – Currently not adopted

Impact of Tax Shift

Residential Tax Examples:

Value	Single Tax Rate Bill	Adopted Shift Tax Bill	Savings
\$200,000	\$2,086.00	\$1,844.00	\$242.00
\$300,000	\$3,129.00	\$2,766.00	\$363.00
\$400,000	\$4,172.00	\$3,688.00	\$484.00
\$500,000	\$5,215.00	\$4,610.00	\$605.00

Open Space Discount

There is no property within the Town that is classified as Open Space.

Residential Exemption

The Select Board may grant a residential exemption to all Class One, Residential properties that are the principal residence of the taxpayer. The Town of Fairhaven has not adopted a residential exemption in the past.

Small Business/Commercial Exemption

The Select Board may grant a small commercial exemption to Commercial properties that are occupied by businesses with an average annual employment of no more than 10 people and an assessed valuation of less than \$1,000,000. The Town of Fairhaven has not adopted a small commercial exemption in past years.



Monday, November 24, 2025

ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. Consider Member Removal Request: Sustainability Committee: Susan Spooner
2. Consider Appointing a Select Board Representative for a Hiring Panel for Principal Assessor and Planner
3. Consider conducting an investigation for the failure of the Town to act on the Timothy-Hiller subdivision plans resulting in a "Constructive Approval"

Sustainability Committee Member info

1 message

Ann Richard <ann.richard@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 19, 2025 at 7:24 AM

To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, "Charles K. Murphy" <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Andrew Romano <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Good morning-

I would like to notify the Selectboard that one of our committee members has not been in attendance for more than three meetings with no notice and also is moving out of town. Susan Spooner is no longer an active member of the committee.

With that said, we do have one past member Wendy Drumm that would like to be appointed back to the committee. She has been on the committee for many years and is very active but for some reason is not officially listed as a member.

Please let me know what the next steps are for the committee and how we can get Wendy re-appointed.

Thank you-

Ann Richard- *she/her*

Chair- Fairhaven Sustainability Committee

November 19th, 2025

Dear Select Board,

We are writing regarding the agenda item you have told us will be on your Monday, November 24th meeting Agenda to "Consider conducting an **External** investigation of the failure of the Town to act on the Timothy-Hiller subdivision plans that were submitted on March 24th, 2025, which resulted in a "Constructive Approval".

If you are not already familiar with the unfortunate circumstances that have resulted in a "Constructive Approval" of the plans submitted by Windmill Acres, LLC for the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision, we would recommend you watch the recording of the last Planning Board meeting.

The history involves an applicant filing for a 16 home subdivision years ago that the Planning Board denied on several occasions. The applicant then sued the Town of Fairhaven and the court system ruled in favor of the Town through every appeal up all the way up to the Superior Court.

While that case was still open in court, the same applicant, Robert Roderiques, formed a new entity called "Windmill Acres, LLC" On March 24th, 2025 the applicant filed those plans at the Town Clerks office. Public records show and statements by current Planning Board member Patrick Carr confirm that he, then Chair Cathy Melanson, Director of Planning Bruce Webb, Select Board member Keith Silvia, Interim Town Administrator George Samia all attended meetings to discuss the submittal of Plans by Windmill Acres, LLC, yet the plans never appeared on a Planning Board agenda prior to the 155 days the Town had to take action, resulting in "Constructive Approval".

The Towns' failure to act, with only a select few being aware of the plans being submitted, allowed a subdivision that the Planning Board rejected several times to then bypass the Towns due process and gain instant approval.

The abutters and neighbors of the Timothy-Hiller subdivision, who were never informed about the subdivision before it received "Constructive Approval" have been irreparably harmed. Trees have been cleared to within a very short distance to the Wastewater Treatment Plant causing greatly increased odors and increased shadow flicker from the Wind Turbines to the existing homes and the new homes will certainly feel the impact more, being that much closer.

Current Status

Trees cleared right up to
Wastewater Treatment Plant

New Road and home
construction on South end of
the property (behind Teal
Circle)



Abutters and Neighbors have concern for their own safety as well as the safety of any new homeowner who will live closer to the Wind Turbines given the recent news just weeks ago, on November 9th, a blade measuring over 100 feet in length and reported to weigh approximately 9 tons was thrown several hundred feet from a Wind Turbine in Plymouth. This could have killed people.

Just days ago a Wind Turbine blade that was 100 ft long, weighed 9 tons and was thrown 300 feet. It could have killed someone
Wind Turbine blade parts have been documented to be thrown much further.

CBS News report, November 9th, 2025



Kerri Costello lives in a house just a few hundred feet away. "All of a sudden I heard like a huge boom, like an explosion type of boom," she said Friday night. "I don't think I'll sleep though, no I'm not going to sleep."
She is thankful no one, including herself or kids were injured. "Couldn't help but thinking if that was turned a little bit more, it just went over there, I was literally sitting in my room in the window right there, my kids' rooms are in the one right next to it, what if god forbid it ever went through," she said.

"Our biggest fear"

David Daylor lives nearby and says he felt his house shake when the blade fell. "I heard this rumble, and I actually kind of felt it in my house. It felt like a mini earthquake," Daylor said.

The Abutters and Neighbors were never notified about this subdivision before it reached the point of “Constructive Approval” and their comments and questions at the November 18th Public Hearing were restricted and limited beyond what the Public Hearing Notice to the Abutters sent by certified mail called for.

Everything about how this project wound up in “Constructive Approval” is exactly the opposite of Open, Transparent and Responsible Town Government by and for the people.

Elected Officials take an oath stating : *“solemnly swear that you will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon them in accordance with the bylaws of the Town of Fairhaven and the laws of the Commonwealth”*. Town Staff and Town Counsel, paid with public tax dollars owe it to the community to carry out their job functions in the best interest of the community, not in the best interest of any developer. We are looking for anyone and everyone who was involved, in any way, with allowing due process to be bypassed to be held accountable.

Unless the Town conducts a complete and thorough External investigation the Town will not be able to say, with certainty, that any procedural changes adopted to ensure this never happens again are truly addressed.,

We ask that any motion to conduct an investigation on this matter also include language that ensures that the final report that is the product of the investigation will be made available to the public, to the extent permissible by law.

We feel that an External Investigation is the only way to ensure that an entirely unbiased investigation is done.

We wish to preface the following comments by stating that Mr. Hickey, the recently hired Town Administrator has been accommodating and generous with his time with the abutters and neighbors and has addressed concerns about missing documentation online, etc, in a very timely manner. We want to make it clear that we hold nothing against him in this request. However, given the involvement of Director of Land Use and Planning, Bruce Webb, would be a critical part of an investigation and Mr. Webb resigned recently, for reasons that cannot be made public, we request that Mr. Hickey not be part of the investigation with regard to Mr. Webb specifically.

Town Counsel, represented at the November 18th, 2025 Planning Board meeting by Ms. Heather White (Petrini & Associates, PC) acknowledged that (given the extensive involvement of Town Counsel in the events leading up to the Constructive Approval), the law

firm would be conflicted in at least some aspects of an investigation on this matter. For that reason, we request that Petrini & Associates not be responsible for conducting any part of the investigation and their only role be to answer questions and provide information requested by the investigator.

Additionally, a line item on the Planning Board agenda for their meeting, on November 18th, read as follows; ***“Executive Session to Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, G.L. c. 30A, s. 22, to review the minutes of Executive Sessions held on 6/14/2022, 12/13/2022, 2/19/2025, 9/9/2025, 9/23/2025, 10/14/2025 & 10/28/2025”.***

When the Board reconvened in Open Session, they were asked if those minutes would be released to the public and the answer (given by Town Counsel) was no, with further clarification that none of them will be released at this time.

Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requires ***“When the purpose for which a valid executive session was held has been served, the minutes, preparatory materials and documents and exhibits of the session shall be disclosed unless the attorney-client privilege or 1 or more of the exemptions under said clause Twenty-sixth of said section 7 of said chapter 4 apply to withhold these records, or any portion thereof, from disclosure.***

For purposes of this subsection, if an executive session is held pursuant to clause (2) or (3) of subsections (a) of section 21, then the minutes, preparatory materials and documents and exhibits used at the session may be withheld from disclosure to the public in their entirety, unless and until such time as a litigating, negotiating or bargaining position is no longer jeopardized by such disclosure, at which time they shall be disclosed unless the attorney-client privilege or 1 or more of the exemptions under said clause Twenty-sixth of said section 7 of said chapter 4 apply to withhold these records, or any portion thereof, from disclosure.”

Given any meeting minutes that pertain to what lead up to the Constructive Approval would provide valuable insight in an investigation, we ask that the motion for an investigation include release of any meeting minutes and materials that are not expressly covered by the provisions of Mass General Law and that those meeting notes and meeting materials be made available to the public at their earliest availability. We also request that any of the Executive Session meeting notes reviewed on November 18th that are not going to be released to the public be listed with a reason why they cannot in part, or in whole, be made publicly available.

Lastly, we ask that Select Board member Keith Silvia recuse himself from any deliberation on this matter given that Public Records show he was involved in several meetings with Windmill Acres, LLC and others, prior to and after the March 24th submittal of the plans that resulted in "Constructive Approval" and that he was also involved in meetings to discuss Personnel concerns related to Mr. Bruce Webb, who since resigned as the Director of Land Use and Planning,

We leave you with a quote from Mr. Hickey, our New Town Administrator "If I don't have integrity, I have nothing." We ask that the Select Board consider that message in terms of how it relates to this request for an investigation to fully understand how we landed here, who was responsible and what is the best course of action moving forward.

We look forward to discussing this further with you at your meeting on Monday, November 24th.

Respectfully,

Bob Espindola

14 John St.

Fairhaven, MA 02719

(774) 263-1046

On behalf of the abutters and neighbors

of the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision copied here



Monday, November 24, 2025

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT



Town of Fairhaven

Report of the Town Administrator

November 24, 2025

Financial Updates

- Department head Capital Improvement Plan requests are due Wednesday, November 26th. Finance Director Anne Carreiro and I will review the requests and prepare a report for the Capital Planning Committee to begin their review.

Project Updates

- As a follow up to the comments made at the November 10th Town Administrator report regarding water quality, BPW Director Vinnie Furtado has indicated that flushing will be completed prior to the next water and sewer bill being issued this winter and users should notice an improvement in the water quality in being provided. If the water quality has not improved prior to the next water and sewer bill being issued, Mr. Furtado will consider including an explanation of the water improvement project with the billing.
- The ongoing wastewater plant upgrade has caused an increase in the sulfur odor in the vicinity of the plant. This increased odor will dissipate in the coming months as the project progresses.

Personnel Update

- Interested candidates have submitted their documentation of the Assessor position. Interviews will occur in early December.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The Zoning Board will hold a special meeting on December 11th to hear an appeal on the building/driveway permits issued on the Windmill Acres subdivision.
- At the Board of Health's November 20th meeting, the Board voted to reconsider their prior vote to require the turbines to be shut down for two hours in the morning and another two hours in the afternoon citing the need for verifiable data that supports the health concerns raised by residents in the area.
- The Superior Court dismissed New England Preservation and Development's latest appeal regarding the acquisition of the Rogers School
- The photo contest for the 2025 Annual Report is now open. Please submit no more than two photos to the Select Board's Office electronically by January 7th to ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov for consideration.
- The Town Offices will close at noon, November 26th for Thanksgiving.



Monday, November 24, 2025

MINUTES

1. Accept the Select Board Open Session minutes of November 10 & 19, 2025
2. Amend the Select Board Executive Session minutes of September 30, 2025



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2025

F 1

Present: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Keith Silvia, Andrew B. Saunders and Anne Carreiro. **Not Present:** Keith R. Hickey

Planning Board Present: Jessica Fidalgo, Sharon Simmons, Ruy daSilva, Miles Grant, Sean Powers, Kevin Grant and Patrick Carr

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

Ms. Fidalgo opened the Planning Board meeting at 6:35pm and confirmed a quorum was present.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Veterans' Day.

Mr. Murphy reviewed the process for the joint meeting, interview and appointment. He advised both Boards that Ms. Costen had rescinded her application (*Attachment A*).

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS (Joint with the Fairhaven Planning Board)

Interview Candidates for one Planning Board Vacancy and Consider appointment.

Candidates: Rick Trapilo, Jeffrey Lucas and Diane Tomassetti

Each candidate addressed both Boards and gave an opening statement.

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Fidalgo asked each candidate the same questions in rotation. At the end of the interview, all candidates were thanked for stepping forward and Mr. Murphy opened discussion to the Select Board and Planning Board.

Patrick Carr addressed both Boards regarding the conflict of interest (COI) disclosure from Andrew Romano and copies of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association (NFIA) attendance from 2022 to present (*Attachment B*). Mr. Carr asked Mr. Romano to recuse himself due to being the NFIA President and the perceived conflict due to Mr. Lucas being a member of the NFIA. Mr. Carr reviewed other examples of conflict of interest disclosures submitted to the Select Board dating back to April, 2025 and referred to Mr. Romano's votes on these matters.

Mr. Romano addressed both Boards about his COI disclosure, the NFIA attendance records that were distributed to both Boards and the summary of his conversation with the State's Attorney of the Day (AOTD) Christopher Popov (*Attachment B*). Mr. Romano said in past meetings he recused himself when a financial relationship existed and he would not be recusing himself tonight.

Mr. Carr asked if Mr. Romano received the opinion in writing. Mr. Romano said he did not. Mr. Murphy added that calls to the AOTD are recorded/documented for reference.

Mr. Lucas asked for clarification on the accusations against him and said that he had not been to an NFIA meeting in over a year due to scheduling conflicts but participates in community events when he can.

Motion: Mr. Silvia motioned to appoint Diane Tomassetti to the Planning Board for a term through Town Elections in June, 2026. Mr. Saunders seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia, Ms. Simmons, Mr. Carr and Mr. daSilva in favor and Ms. Mello, Mr. Romano, Ms. Fidalgo, Mr. K. Grant, Mr. M. Grant and Mr. Powers opposed. The motion failed (6-6-0).

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Jeffrey Lucas to the Planning Board for a term through Town Elections in June, 2026. Mr. Romano seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Mr. Silvia, Ms. Simmons, Mr. Carr and Mr. daSilva opposed and Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano, Ms. Fidalgo, Mr. K. Grant, Mr. M. Grant and Mr. Powers in favor. The motion passed (7-5-0).

Motion: Mr. K. Grant motioned to adjourn the Planning Board meeting at 7:19pm. Ms. Simmons seconded. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

The Planning Board adjourned at 7:19pm

The Select Board recesses from 7:19 to 7:21pm

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

Event Request: Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge, Thursday, January 1, 2026

Kathy Lopes addressed the Board about the request and details of the event.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge on Thursday, January 1, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the request for the Fairhaven Fire Department to provide an ambulance and Emergency Management to be on site for the Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge on Thursday, January 1, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Use of Town Hall Auditorium: Off Broadway, December 18, 19 and 20, 2025

Mr. Murphy read from the application and details of the event.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the application from Off Broadway School of Dance for a dance recital on the dates of December 18, 2025 from 3-8p, December 19, 2025 from 4-8p and December 20, 2025 from 4-8p. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Public Safety Complex Committee: Timothy Cox

Mr. Murphy read the request.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Timothy Cox to the Public Safety Complex Committee. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Hanami Café, November 29, 2025 8p-12a

Mr. Murphy read the application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Special One-Day All Alcohol License for a promotional event at the Hanami Café on November 29, 2025 from 8pm-12am contingent upon payment of the fee at least seven days prior to the event. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Discover Fairhaven: Olde-Tyme Holiday, December 13, 25 10a-5p

Mr. Murphy read the application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Special One-Day All Alcohol License for Discover Fairhaven's Olde-Tyme Holiday Event on December 13, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Request the Use of Rogers School Parking Lot: Discover Fairhaven: Olde-Tyme Holiday, December 13, 2025

Mr. Murphy read the request.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the use of the parking lot at the Rogers School during the Olde-Tyme Holiday event on December 13, 2025 for vendor and attendee parking. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

Consider Reclassification of Treasurer/Collector Position to Grade 20 on the Town's Wage and Classification Schedule

Mr. Murphy read the request.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Reclassification of Treasurer/Collector Position to Grade 20 on the Town's Wage and Classification Schedule. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Update on Zoning Bylaw Update Project

Mr. Murphy reviewed the item. Mr. Silvia asked about a Request for Proposals (RFP) that he said he thought was part of the process.

Ms. Carreiro said she would follow up with Mr. Hickey. The Board tabled further discussion.

Consider Amending the Flag/Banner Policy

Mr. Murphy read the recommendation to change the deadline from sixty days to thirty days.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the amended Flag/Banner Policy as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Consider Amending the Use of Town Hall Process and Application

Mr. Romano reviewed the proposed updates to the language in the policy including changing it from Town Hall Auditorium to Town Hall Facilities. Mr. Romano added that some requests are for the use of bathrooms or electricity and changing to "facilities" accommodates requests for the use of any part of Town Hall. He advised the Board that another update was to the non-profit rate for Fairhaven Town Affiliated Groups that are listed on the application; this change would remove the rental fee only and all other fees would apply based on the event request.

Updates to the application forms will be done based on the Board's vote and communication to applicants will be sent to advise of the changes and what fees apply (ex. Custodian, Audio/Visual, Off-Duty Police, Board of Health).

Discussion ensued as what a "Fairhaven Affiliated Group" is and is not. Fairhaven businesses and non-profits would not be considered under this category.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the amended Use of Town Hall Process and Application as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Carreiro read Mr. Hickey's TA report (*Attachment C*)

- Mr. Romano asked if Mr. Hickey or Mr. Furtado could do an update on water issues, he suggested a 1-2-page report and asked if it could be included in future bills. Ms. Mello suggested it be the weekly video subject. Ms. Carreiro will review with Mr. Hickey.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders reported:

- Marine Resources is reviewing their fees and impacts on revenue. Currently, the number of permits is down over the prior year and revenue is at ninety-five percent to the prior two years. They will monitor and consider recommendations as needed.
- The Public Safety Complex Committee has a future meeting.

Ms. Mello reported:

- Historical Commission met and reviewed projects for the Academy Building that are out to bid; the funds are from Community Preservation. The Old Stone Schoolhouse had over three hundred visitors and will reopen in the spring.

Mr. Murphy reported:

- The Veterans Day Parade is tomorrow at 9:00am from Benoit Square. He attended the Veterans' Lunch earlier and thanked Ms. Reed and All Trust Bank.

Mr. Romano reported:

- Thanks to the Recreation Center Director and Assistant for the bingo event, he was a guest caller and it was a great event, free and brought in donations of non-perishable items. He also thanked those who donated.
- Veterans Day is tomorrow and, in the pledge, we say "all," all means all and our Veterans fought for that.
- SRPEDD met and set a December meeting for the budget.
- Southcoast Places for People led by Will Gardner had a memorial service in honor of those impacted by traffic issues on November 16, 2025
- The Town Meeting Advisory Committee met to review their final report. One big recommendation will be to move Special Town Meeting to a Saturday. There will be a survey sent to Town Meeting Members.

Mr. Silvia had no meetings to report on and thanked Veterans and their families for their sacrifice; this is why we can say what we want.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of October 27, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Executive Session minutes of October 14 and 27, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Contact Form: Michelle Costen, Letter of Thanks: Mayor Yoh Hodo-oka, Tosashimizu City, Japan (*Attachment D*)

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, November 24, 2025 at 6:30pm*

Quote:

"The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones." — Confucius

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Correspondence: Michelle Costen: Rescind Planning Board Application
- B. Correspondence: Andrew Romano: Disclosure and NFIA attendance records
- C. Town Administrator Report
- D. Correspondence: Contact Form Michelle Costen, Letter of Thanks: Mayor Yoh Hodo-oka, Tosashimizu City, Japan

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

Accepted on ___, 2025



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2025

Present: Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Andrew B. Saunders and Keith R. Hickey

Also Present: Vinnie Furtado

Not Present: Charles Murphy Sr. and Keith Silvia

Mr. Romano opened the Select Board meeting at 6:00pm

ACTION/DISCUSSION

Consider Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreements: Memorandum of Understanding: Water Union; Sewer Union

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board and advised that Water and Sewer came to an agreement and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that is consistent with the terms in other MOAs for other bargaining units. The summaries were submitted to update Article 2 and will be paid out of water retained earnings and sewer retained earnings respectively (*Attachment A*).

Brief discussion ensued about the balances in accounts. Mr. Hickey reviewed a copy of the Town's various fund balances (*Attachment B*).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Water and Sewer Unions as outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

Review Select Board Article Recommendations

Mr. Romano referred to the updated Article 2 handout (*Attachment A*). The Board can consider recommending Adoption or Pass Over or Indefinite Postponement.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to recommend Adoption for Article 2. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

Preparation for Special Town Meeting

No outstanding items for the Board to review or discuss.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to adjourn at 6:05pm. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Revised Article 2 with Sewer and Water added
- B. Town of Fairhaven Fund Balances as of November 19, 2025

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

Accepted on __, 2025

**FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD****Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2025**

Present: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Andrew B. Saunders, Keith R. Hickey and Anne Carreiro

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 11:03am

Mr. Murphy explained that this emergency meeting was called due to the expiration of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the interim positions of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector today. This will ensure continuity for the Town by authorizing the Town Administrator (TA) as Temporary Treasurer until further extension of the two interim positions can be negotiated.

ACTION/DISCUSSION**Authorize Town Administrator as Temporary Treasurer for the Town**

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board about the existing MOU between the Town and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for an Interim Treasurer and Interim Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Labor Counsel recommended the Select Board appoint the TA as the Temporary Treasurer to ensure that business continues until a meeting with AFSCME can be held to extend the MOU beyond September 30, 2025.

Mr. Hickey added that the emergency meeting was needed because not all parties are available to discuss the agreement and appointing the TA as the Temporary Treasurer ensures that there is someone authorized to sign paychecks and bills payable for the Town until a new agreement is signed. The existing agreement was entered into from July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 until a new Town Administrator was in place to review and negotiate with AFSCME. Mr. Hickey's first day was yesterday.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned Pursuant to G.L. c. 41, § 40, which authorizes the Select Board to appoint a temporary Town Treasurer in the event of a vacancy, and pursuant to Section 2 (aa) of the Town Administrator Act, which authorizes the Town Administrator to perform any other duties or tasks assigned by the Select Board, the Board hereby appoints Town Administrator Keith Hickey to the position of Temporary Treasurer, to serve until a successor temporary or permanent Treasurer is appointed by the Select Board. Mr. Romano seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to 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 (Civil Service) and Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation where the chair declares that an open session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position (Atlas Tack) **and not 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 (3-0-0).

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 11:10am

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

Accepted on ____



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes September 30, 2025

*with proposed
amendments*

Present: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Andrew B. Saunders, Keith R. Hickey and Anne Carreiro

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ACTION/DISCUSSION

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Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 11:10am

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

Accepted on October 14, 2025

Amended (as shown in strikethrough and highlighted portion); Accepted on _



Monday, November 24, 2025

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Blog Post: Frank Haggerty: Massachusetts Wind Turbines: Harbingers of Death

Massachusetts Wind Turbines: Harbingers of Death

1 message

fnhaggerty@aol.com <fnhaggerty@aol.com>

Sun, Nov 9, 2025 at 12:06 PM

To: "BOH@Fairhaven-ma.gov" <BOH@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: "khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov" <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov" <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov" <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "namello@fairhaven-ma.gov" <namello@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov" <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov" <asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Subject: Massachusetts Wind Turbines: Harbingers of Death

Massachusetts Wind Turbines: Harbingers of Death

November 9, 2025

<https://www.windtaskforce.org/profiles/blogs/massachusetts-wind-turbines-harbingers-of-death>

Massachusetts has had two large wind turbine blade accidents in the past year. The Plymouth blade failure, and at this time last year, the Vineyard Wind blade was still hanging off a turbine. The Vineyard blade spewed 60 tons of foam, fiberglass, and microplastics over a multistate area, ending Nantucket vacations and property values.

The news media, within days of the recent Plymouth accident, reported "experts say" this is a rare event. How quickly the wind advocates, aka the media, forget that over one hundred blades are defective on the Vineyard project. In Massachusetts, blade accidents average one per year.

Reports say it's a good thing Plymouth wind turbines are located in a rural area, and there is nothing wrong with the cranberries in the bog. Massachusetts is the most urbanized state in the US. If the blade had gone in a different direction, it could have killed someone.

Wind turbines in Massachusetts are known as noise machines. Neighbors report sleep disturbance, dizziness, headaches, and stress, which they attribute to the noise and low-frequency sound or infrasound. The Town of Falmouth never disclosed to residents before the installation of turbines that they were warned in writing that the turbines generate 110 decibels of noise.

Both local, state, and federal officials prioritize the Green agenda over the health of residential neighborhoods. The state also does not maintain a dedicated, independent database for wind turbine accidents or safety. The goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 remains the state's primary focus.

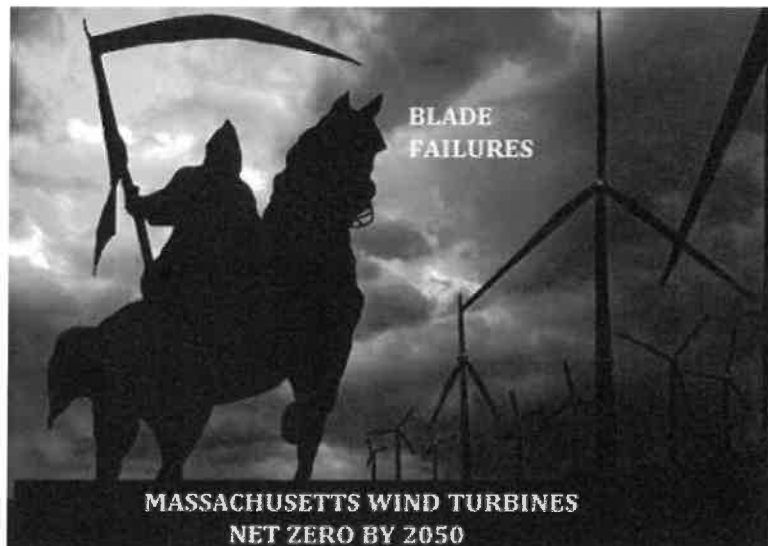
Offshore wind contractors spend hundreds of millions of dollars to get their permits. US taxpayers pay up to 40 percent of the project costs in renewable energy credits and another 10 percent for building ocean wind ports. The expenses incurred by the contractors are not available to the public.

Wind companies pay fines to back out of project power agreements, donations, grants to science/research groups, political contributions, local town events, and media advertising. To put it bluntly, everybody got a bag of money.

One example is that scientists say offshore wind construction does not kill whales, and places that do necropsies never say a whale that is deafened by offshore wind died as a result of offshore wind. The news media never ask these scientists or experts if they or their employers have ever received resources from offshore wind companies. A deaf whale is a dead whale.

It's time to stop the wind turbine insanity. The turbines are intermittent sources of energy requiring high-voltage direct current converter stations, massive battery backup, and fossil fuel power plants.

Massachusetts has 70 land-based wind turbines. It's time for statewide inspections before someone dies.





Monday, November 24, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Police Union.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3)) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).