

**Town of Fairhaven
Capital Planning Committee
January 27, 2026**



Present

Vincent Furtado
Anne Carreiro
Keith Hickey
Robert Grinrod
Tara Kolher
Cathy Melanson

Absent

Patrick Carr

I. Call to Order

Mr. Furtado called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. January 27, 2026

Mr. Hickey motioned to approve the minutes from January 27, 2026. Ms. Kolher seconded.
Vote: Mr. Furtado, Mr. Grinrod, Ms. Kohler, Ms. Carreiro, Mr. Hickey and Ms. Melanson in favor.
Vote Passes 6-0.

III. Item for Action

A. Review Town Administrator FY 27 Capital Project Selections

We discussed the town administrator's department capital request selections and agreed to focus on the recommendations rather than scoring all projects. The committee examined the gas pump system replacement project which Vinnie explained could potentially be reduced and added in the future after an assessment.

The Capital Planning Committee discussed budget allocations, focusing on prioritizing projects and adjusting funding where necessary. The committee reviewed and scored various projects, including gas pump replacement, road work, and vehicle replacements, ultimately deciding to revisit the funding for a light duty dump truck and bathroom facilities at parks.

We also discussed several budget items, including firefighting gear, a possible brush truck, and the public safety complex, which was deemed too early to consider. We agreed to fund IT replacement technology and the replacement of discolored ceiling tiles at the Council on Aging facility, while deciding to revisit funding for tables and chairs. The committee also reviewed a revised budget for police cruiser replacements, with the police chief agreeing to explore more cost-effective options for two Ford Explorers instead of the originally proposed Tahoe.

The group discussed two major equipment purchases: body-worn cameras and tasers. They agreed to prioritize the body-worn camera project, which was previously funded by a \$300,000 grant, over the taser upgrade. The committee reviewed a reduced price of \$61,604 for a new

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Ford F250 truck, down from an original price of \$72,566, and agreed to pursue further cost reductions.
capital item.

The committee reviewed and approved the town administrator's recommendations for capital projects, with several modifications. They removed \$30,000 for cold storage rehabilitation, \$10,742 for body-worn cameras, and adjusted the Harbormaster vehicle cost to \$61,604.10. The committee also approved water and sewer projects, including a 15-year contract with USG for water tower maintenance, well telemetry replacements, and the Wolf Island well replacement, which will cost approximately \$700,000. The committee will reconvene if there are significant changes in the final numbers.

Mr. Hickey motioned to approve the requested FY 27 capital projects for both water and sewer pending the requirement that the rates support these project, seconded by Ms. Kolher. Vote: Mr. Furtado, Mr. Grinrod, Ms. Kohler, Ms. Carreiro, Mr. Hickey and Ms. Melanson in favor. Vote Passes 6-0.

IV. Adjourn and (potentially) reconvene

Mr. Hickey motioned to adjourn the meeting and reconvene if the gas system price drastically decreases, seconded by Ms. Kolher. Vote: Mr. Furtado, Mr. Grinrod, Ms. Kohler, Ms. Carreiro, Mr. Hickey and Ms. Melanson in favor. Vote Passes 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on February 10, 2026