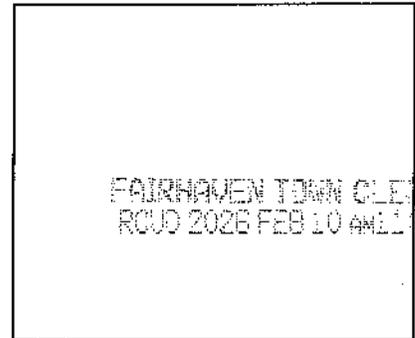


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
January 29, 2026**



Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager

Absent

Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. January 12, 2026

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. January 12, 2026 – Executive Session A

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026 – Executive Session A. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Interview / Hire for Highway Department Heavy Motor Equipment Operator

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this tonight.

V. Item for Action

A. Lloyd Center for the Environment, 2026 Piping Plover Management – West Island Town Beach \$9,872.00

Mr. Lopes motioned to enter into agreement with the Lloyd Center for the Environment, 2026 Piping Plover Management West Island Town Beach in the amount of \$9,872.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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B. BPW Authorized Signatures

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the list of BPW Authorized Signatures. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. 13th Annual West Island 5K, Sunday April 26, 2026

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the 12th Annual West Island 5K on Sunday April 26, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Trash Fee

Mr. Furtado – This item was added to the agenda at the request of the Town Administrator. In 2024 and 2025, the Board voted to set the trash fee at \$100 per year. This item is on tonight’s agenda rather than the March meeting because the new Town Administrator is reviewing and organizing the finances.

Mr. Furtado reviewed with the Board the FY27 Town Administrator reductions to FY27 departmental budget requests that were submitted in VADAR.

Mr. Furtado - The Town Administrator reduced approximately \$900,000 from the FY27 General Fund budget requests and he is seeking an additional \$700,000. This was with the assumption that the Board would approve the trash fee for another year. If the trash fee is not approved, an additional \$700,000 in reductions would need to be made.

Mr. Hobson – I am ok with approving the trash fee for another year.

Mr. Furtado - The previous request was either to increase the fee to be a percentage of the contract or set the fee at \$110 per year.

Mr. Hobson made a motion to increase the trash fee to \$110 annually for one year. The motion was not seconded. The motion failed.

Ms. Smith motion to keep the trash fee at \$100 annually for one year. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote 3–1 with Mr. Hobson opposed.

E. Tree Update

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

F. Preliminary Budget Review FY27

Mr. Furtado – We handed out the FY27 budget book to allow time for everyone to review it and we will discuss it at the next meeting if there are any questions.

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G. Preliminary FY 27 Articles for Town Meeting

Mr. Furtado discussed the FY27 Articles for Town Meeting.

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the FY27 Articles for Town Meeting as presented. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrades, Change Order #6 \$298,924.96

Mr. Furtado - There has been ongoing discussions between Methuen, Tighe & Bond, and counsel regarding certain language. I am recommending that the Board approve the change order pending approval from Methuen Construction.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Methuen Construction, WPCG Upgrades, Change Order #6 \$298,924.96 pending approval from Methuen Construction. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #27 \$128,640.60

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades Payment #27 in the amount of \$128,640.60. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

J. DEP Pay Req #21A (CWP-22-67A) \$128,641.00

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve DEP Pay Req #21A (CWP-22-67A) in the amount of \$128,641.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous

VI. Tabled Matters

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for January 26, 2026

- Meeting with contractor and engineer re PCO's
- MRV Loan documents
- Chair Monthly BBAC Meeting
- POTW Upgrade Meeting

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- Department Head Meeting
- Meet with Highway Union
- Chair FY 27 Capital Planning Committee
- Continue with FY 27 budgets
- Annual reports
- Chair MRV
- Truck driver interviews
- Snow event
- Insurance Attorneys re: Cherrystone

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

B. Board Members

The Board Members commended the BPW for the great job during the snow storm.

Mr. Hobson – The tree on Hathaway Street still has not been trimmed and is sticking into the road. Have we sent them a letter?

A. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – We have not met since the last meeting.

B. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date of the next meeting on February 9, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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X. Adjourn

Ms. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and enter into executive session and not to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith and Mr. Lopes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Approved February 9, 2026