

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 2, 2026**



Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
Erin Carr
Brian Messier

Absent

Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Wotton motioned to reconvene in open session at 6:35 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. February 9, 2026

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. February 9, 2026 – Executive Session A

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026 – Executive Session A. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. February 9, 2026 – Executive Session B

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026 – Executive Session B. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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IV. Executive Session A

- A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. (Highway Department Employee)
- B. 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 (14 Cherrystone Road)

V. Appointments

A. Erin Carr, Bike Path Snow Removal

Ms. Carr – I would like to speak with the Board about clearing the snow from the bike path. I had this scheduled prior to the storm, and I do not expect the bike path to be cleared right away. I understand that it would be the last thing to get done.

Mr. Carr shared a presentation (Attachment A).

Mr. Hobson – You need special equipment to clear the bike path because the pavement is thin, maybe only 2–3 inches.

Mr. Wotton – Like Mr. Hobson mentioned, the bike path is thin and there is a sewer line that runs under it. We are in the process of overlaying the bike path, which will make it thicker. When we cleared the bike path after the last storm, we used the skid steer, and it was only done because many of the sidewalks on Route 6 had not been cleared and people were walking in the street. Also, there are just as many people in favor of not clearing the bike path, who use it for cross-country skiing, as there are people who want it plowed for walkers and runners.

Ms. Smith – I appreciate you bringing this forward to the Board. In this area, there are many places where people can cross-country ski. A lot of people would like to see the bike path cleared, but we would need the right machinery so the path is not damaged.

Mr. Wotton – Once all the roads are clear and we have the right equipment and personnel, we would be able to clear the path.

Mr. Crabb – We have purchased a piece of equipment that would be able to clear the bike path.

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Crabb, once the bike path is overlaid, how do you feel about clearing the path?

Mr. Crabb – I don't see an issue once the staff is trained on the equipment.

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Mr. Lopes – If the Board is in favor of doing this, I think we should mention to the public that the department would focus on roads and throughways first, and the bike path would be last.

Ms. Carr – Do you know if the track at Cushman Park can be cleared?

Mr. Wotton – The track is maintained by the School Department; you would have to speak with them.

VI. Item for Action

A. Water & Sewer Rates

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Furtado reviewed the Water and Sewer budgets with the Board. I am recommending that the Board raise the water rate by 10% and the sewer rate by \$2.00 effective immediately.

Mr. Lopes motioned to raise the water rate by 10% and the sewer rate by \$2.00 effective immediately. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. FY27 Article - Amendment to Removal of Snow and Ice

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the Amendment to Removal of Snow and Ice Bylaw Chapter 169-13 as presented. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Dig-It Construction, Spring Street Water Main Replacement

1. Payment #7 \$87,716.10

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Dig-It Construction, Spring Street Water Main Replacement, Payment #7 in the amount of \$87,716.10. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Certificate of Substantial Completion

Mr. Lopes motioned to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion with Dig-It Construction for Spring Street Water Main Replacement. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. FTI Consulting, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #1 \$27,202.26

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve FTI Consulting, WPCF Upgrades Payment #1 in the amount of \$27,202.26. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. North Fairhaven Improvement Association, North Fairhaven Open Air Market at Livesey Park May 2026 to September 2026

Mr. Furtado – This is a request from the North Fairhaven Improvement Association to hold their Open Air Market again this year at Livesey Park. They are requesting that the \$25 per week fee be waived.

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Mr. Wotton motioned to deny the waiver of the \$25 per week fee and to approve the North Fairhaven Improvement Association North Fairhaven Open Air Market at Livesey Park from May–September 2026, pending payment of \$25 per week. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**F. Contract Agreement Beta Group, GIS Services – Utility Asset Management
\$21,900.00**

Ms. Smith motioned to sign the Contract Agreement with Beta Group for GIS Services – Utility Asset Management in the amount of \$21,900.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #26 \$605,097.85

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Methuen Construction WPCF Upgrades Payment #26 in the amount of \$605,097.85. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. DEP Pay Req #26 (CWP-22-67) \$605,098.00

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve DEP Pay Req #26 (CWP-22-67) in the amount of \$605,098.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades Payment #28 \$114,723.53

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tighe & Bond WPCF Upgrades Payment #28 in the amount of \$114,723.53. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

J. DEP Pay Req #22A (CWP-22-67A) \$114,724.00

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve DEP Pay Req #22A (CWP-22-67A) in the amount of \$114,724.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

K. Tata & Howard, Risk & Resilience Payment #3 \$1,359.19

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tata & Howard Risk & Resilience Payment #3 in the amount of \$1,359.19. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

L. Emergency Personnel

Mr. Furtado reviewed some of the procurement items from the storm with the Board.

Mr. Furtado also mentioned to the Board that he and Mr. Crabb temporarily hire a previous employee pending the Board to hire him permanently.

Mr. Wotton motioned to hire Mr. Coelho as a permanent employee at Grade 6, Step 7, pending pre-employment screenings. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for February 23, 2026

- Meet with Mattapoisett re: POTW Upgrade update and costs
- Meet at Atlas Tack re adjacent bike path detour
- Present FY 27 Budget to Fincom
- Continue with Budget adjustments after Fincom Meeting
- Meeting with contractor and engineer re PCO's
- POTW Upgrade Meeting
- Continued with Water Admin Staff Interviews
- AFSCME Union Meetings
- Department Head Meeting
- Meet with Town of Acushnet Planner re potential sewer tie-in
- Chair FY 27 Capital Planning Committee – reallocation of funds
- Chair BBAC Meeting
- Haz Mitigation Interview
- Attend High School Civics Fair

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board has regarding the Superintendent Report. He also gave an update to the Board on the Storm.

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A. Board Members

The Board members thanked all the employees for a job well done during the storm.

Mr. Hobson – Is there any chance of the recycle center being opened this weekend?

Mr. Crabb- We are currently going around and picking up branches/brush that are on the side of the road. As far as the recycle center being open, I am hoping to have it reopen on March 11th.

B. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

C. 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 March 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. and enter into executive session and to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith and Mr. Lopes in favor.

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved 3/9/26