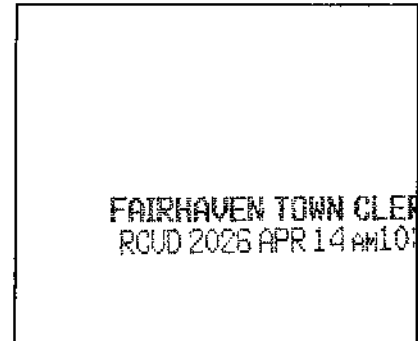


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 6, 2026**



Present

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

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. March 23, 2026

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. March 23, 2026 – Executive Session B

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026 – Executive Session B. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. March 23, 2026 – Executive Session C

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026 – Executive Session C. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Hire Highway Department Laborer

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Mr. Colon was interviewed by Mr. Crabb and myself and we are recommending him to the Board for hire. He is currently studying for his CDL Permit, once he obtains his permit than we will sign him up for the class to help him get his CDL.

Mr. Wotton motioned to hire Mr. Colon as a Laborer in the Highway Department at a Grade 4 Step 4 and Mr. Colon must obtain his CDL within one year. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Item for Action

A. Sign Notice of Award, Dig-It Construction, Glenhaven Avenue Water Main Replacement Project \$934,381.71

Ms. Rotondo motioned to Sign the Notice of Award for the Glenhaven Avenue Water Main Replacement Project with Dig-It Construction in the amount of \$934,381.71. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Sewer Department Tight Tank and Pump Out Tickets

Mr. Furtado – In the packet everyone has a list with the number of properties in town that have tight tanks and what we currently charge. These prices have not been raised in over 15 years and we are looking to see how the Board feels about raising these fees.

Mr. Hobson recused himself from the discussion.

Ms. Smith – How frequent do residents purchase these tickets? Also, how do these cost look compared to residents that are tied into the sewer?

Mr. Furtado – It depends on when their tight tank is full and needs to be pumped out. The sewer bills are approximately \$200 per residence per 6 months which would be \$400 per year.

Ms. Smith – What do you suggesting the fee go up to?

Mr. Furtado – Between 5 and 10 percent.

Mr. Wotton made a motion to increase all tight tank, Fairhaven and Mattapoisett Septic Tickets, Out of Town Septic Tickets and Industrial Septic Tickets an additional \$0.02 per gallon. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote 4-0-1 with Mr. Hobson abstaining.

C. 2026 West Island Town Beach

Mr. Furtado reviewed the number of beach permits sold last year with the Board. With the expected budget cuts and without the override they cut the beach budget to \$22,000. They are looking to sell permits and have gate attendants only. We are trying internally to keep the beach open and fully staffed. Tonight, we would like to discuss how we can make it work. One option would be to reduce the number of weeks that the beach is open.

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Mr. Wotton - I just want everyone to know I am all or nothing. We cannot run the beach on \$22,000. Also, it is a liability for the Town to not have lifeguards.

Mr. Furtado – If we don't sell permits than they will cut the budget more than what they already have.
Mr. Hobson – Why don't we wait until Town Meeting to see if the override will be on the ballot in June before we make a decision?

Mr. Silvia – My understanding is that the \$22,000 is for the gate attendants.

Mr. Furtado – I am against opening the beach with only two teenagers at the gate.

Ms. Smith – Who is going to pay full price for a permit and not feel safe at the beach without lifeguards?

Mr. Furtado – That's why we are trying to figure it out.

Mr. Hobson – Without gate attendants and lifeguards it will be a free for all.

Mr. Carr – With the money collected for permits is it possible to hold the money, pay all the expenses and then turn in the remaining money in at the end of the year?

Mr. Furtado - No, you would have to create a revolver fund.

Mr. Wotton motioned to table the 2026 West Island Beach discussion to a future meeting. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Trash Fee

Mr. Furtado – I wanted to put this on the agenda just to give the Board my thoughts. If the override does not pass would the Board consider putting this on a future agenda to look at raising the trash fee?

Mr. Wotton – We could have help fix the budget issues but no one came down here to discuss it with us. All they asked for us to do was to go up on the trash fee an additional \$10.

Ms. Smith – Nobody wants to charge more for trash but we could have help them out more.

Mr. Wotton – When the override fails, we will put this on a future agenda for a meeting with Select Board representatives and Town Counsel to discuss it further. This Board cannot keep giving just for them to take it out of our budgets

Mr. Carr – Where does the trash fee currently go? Does it go to the BPW Budgets?

Mr. Wotton – It goes into the general fund.

E. Rail Trail and Paving Updates

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Mr. Crabb reviewed the Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation with the Board and answered any questions.

Ms. Smith – When will the rail trail overlay be completed?

Mr. Crabb – We will be opening the bids on April 17th and the overlay is anticipated to be completed by the end of the construction season.

Mr. Crabb also reviewed the 2026 Paving Updates with the Board and answered any questions.

F. 2026 Recycle Center

Mr. Furtado – With the budget and positions being cut we are looking to see if the Board would consider revising the Recycle Center hours to just Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays? This would allow us to utilize staff on the road Monday, Wednesday and Friday's.

Mr. Crabb – I have 11 employees on the payroll, 3 of those employees are mechanics. I cannot be productive with only 8 employees on the road when I am supposed to have 17 employees. They also cut \$20,000 out of our overtime budget. If we eliminate hours at the recycle center this will help me be able to cut the grass and do road work during the peak season.

Mr. Wotton – I think that we could amend the hours starting May 1st and then revisit them at the meeting following the election.

Mr. Wotton motioned to amend the Recycle Center hours starting May 1st to Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday's. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for April 6, 2026

- POTW Upgrade Meeting
- Department Head Meeting
- MRV Insurance Meeting
- Various Union Issues
- Monthly BBAC Meeting

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- Meeting with Counsel re Upgrade to POTW particulars
- Meeting with our construction scheduling consultant
- Lots of budget items
- Meet with SB Candidate - re Public Works Understanding
- Meeting re culvert assessment update

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – Misty Bay Road needs to be graded. Mr. Cox has shells coming for Hoppy's landing. He will be giving you a call.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

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

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters

Ms. Smith – what is the time frame for the skate park?

Mr. Crabb – I met with the lead applicant last week and we are looking to ask for another year extension.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date of the next meeting on April 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on April 13, 2026

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