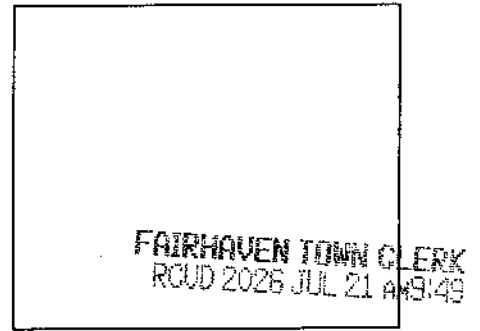


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
June 29, 2026**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager
Bob Espindola
Ann Espindola
Elaine Grotta
Christine Cubila
Brian Messier



Absent

Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. June 15, 2026

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of June 15, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Kyle Daniels, Daniels Asphalt Services, Inc. – New Driveway, Sidewalk and Curbing Contractor

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Daniels Asphalt Services, Inc. as a new Driveway, Sidewalk and Curbing Contractor. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Crystal Lopez, Mini Library at Cushman Park

Mr. Ferro motioned to approve Crystal Lopez to install a Mini Library at Cushman Park pending location approval from the Highway Superintendent. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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C. Bob Espindola, Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction and Odor Concerns

Mr. Espindola – We wanted to appear before the Board because we had been submitting odor complaints to the Board of Health and recently learned those complaints had not been forwarded to the Board of Public Works. Mr. Furtado previously said they would address that issue and we are looking for an update of what is being done to minimize the odor concerns.

Mr. Wotton – That complaint form should be forwarded to both the Board of Health and Board of Public Works.

Mr. Furtado – We sympathize with the residents and recognize the need to remedy the odor issue.

Mr. Furtado provided an update on the Town's \$70 million nitrogen removal upgrade project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He explained that the project was mandated by the federal government and noted that, after appearing before the Board of Health in March, additional odor control measures were implemented. He believed those measures had mitigated the problem, as no complaints had been received until a few weeks ago.

Mr. Catlow gave a presentation (Attachment A) addressing the odor complaints that had been forwarded by the Board of Health. His presentation reviewed both near-term and long-term odor mitigation strategies, as well as related noise concerns at the facility.

Mr. Espindola – What would have been done differently if the Town had requested additional odor control measures during the design of the project?

Mr. Furtado – The new treatment plant will include odor control systems at both the beginning and the end of the treatment process.

Mr. Catlow – Odor control was added to the facility's headworks, it is uncommon for wastewater treatment plants the size of Fairhaven's to have odor control systems over aeration tanks. Many communities do not install odor control in those areas.

Mr. Espindola – Is it possible that we request that the imposed limits be relaxed while making these changes so the neighbors have minimal odor being released?

Mr. Catlow – We will take sometime at our upcoming meeting to discuss the concerns.

Ms. Grotta – I have lived in the neighborhood for 45 years and had never experienced odors as severe as those occurring recently.

Ms. Cebula – When we bought the house we were told to call and they will add odor control. We also have had a loud whistling sound which is ear piercing at night. I feel there is no accountability because nothing ever gets done.

Mr. Furtado – We have a meeting on Wednesday and we will address the odor complaints and also discuss how we could deflect the noise.

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Ms. Espindola – We appreciate everything that the Board of Public Works is doing. We can not live like this and something needs to be done. It seems to happen during the night a lot.

Mr. Messier – Has the Town considered atmospheric monitoring to determine weather conditions when the odors are at their worst and whether weather forecasting could help anticipate and minimize odor?

Mr. Catlow – I know that many communities that have conducted odor studies and utilize weather stations. I would have to determine whether Fairhaven currently has that capability.

Mr. Espindola – How are odor studies typically done? Would the town hire an independent company?

Mr. Catlow – When odors are associated with a specific industrial source, municipalities often hire specialized testing laboratories to conduct air quality sampling. The data collected helps identify the source of the odors and guides operational changes and improvements to mitigate the problem

V. Items for Action

A. Sign Contract Agreement, Tata & Howard 2026 Emergency Response Plan Update \$15,000.00

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Tata & Howard for 2026 Emergency Response Plan Update in the amount of \$15,000.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Sign Contract Agreement, Tata & Howard Wolf Island Well Site Emergency Generator Replacement \$87,800.00

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Tata & Howard for Wolf Island Well Site Emergency Generator Replacement in the amount of \$87,800.00. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Benoit Square Traffic Updates

Mr. Crabb presented Traffic Updates for Benoit Square to the Board. He asked the Board if they had any comments or feedback to what is currently there now.

The Board gave feedback.

Mr. Crabb will summarize the comments from the Board and submit to MassDOT.

D. Gravity Construction, Hedge Street Phase 4 Roadway Improvements, Payment #2 \$248,797.11

Mr. Ferro motioned to approve Gravity Construction, Hedge Street Phase 4 Roadway Improvements Payment #2 in the amount of \$248,797.11. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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E. West Island Speed Humps

Mr. Furtado – A while ago, Mr. Crabb and I met with Public Safety and representatives from the West Island Improvement Association regarding the installation of traffic calming measures on West Island. The project was not implemented because, while the Fire Department supported the proposal, the Police Department had safety concerns. Last week, Mr. Trapilo contacted Mr. Hickey about the installation of the speed bumps. Mr. Hickey then reached out to us, and we explained that the project had not moved forward due to the Police Department's concerns. Mr. Hickey subsequently spoke with the Police Chief and Captain, and they are now in support of the installation.

Mr. Crabb – As Mr. Furtado mentioned, this issue had been put aside for some time before being brought back up last week. I currently have speed bumps that are 3 inches high by 12 feet long that we could install at no cost. The only additional expense would be procuring the required signage.

Mr. Wotton – I am not a fan of installing the speed humps as originally proposed. If I were in favor of anything, it would be a painted crosswalk from Hoppy's Landing to Off the Hook, possibly with a flashing pedestrian sign. We previously conducted a traffic study, and it was determined that additional traffic calming measures were unnecessary.

Mr. Furtado – If we changed the locations and obtained approval from the Police Department, would the Board be agreeable to moving forward? The West Island Improvement Association has already approved the proposal, along with the Police Department, Fire Department, and the Town Administrator.

Ms. Smith – How about a compromise by conducting a trial with the speed humps on Balsam Street?

Mr. Ferro – I agree with installing two speed humps on Balsam Street and forgoing the one on Causeway Road.

Mr. Wotton motioned to install two speed humps on Balsam Street, with the locations to be determined by the Highway Superintendent, and to install a painted crosswalk on Causeway Road from Hoppy's Landing to Off the Hook. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Approval of Donation Sign - Bike Pump and Tools for Rail Trail

Mr. Hobson Motioned to table the Approval of Donation Sign - Bike Pump and Tools for Rail Trail. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. N/A

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

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VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for June 29, 2026

- Department Head Meeting
- Issues re Speed Tables at West island
- Town Counsel re: water tower easement and RFP Issues
- BOH and Engineer re plant odor issues
- Chair Monthly BBAC
- Multiple meetings with Counsel re Mediation
- POTW Upgrade Progress meetings
- Meet with Highway Union
- POTW Schedule Meeting

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – There is a pothole on Washington Street by Walnut Street. Did you look at the Causeway Road Bridge?

Mr. Crabb – I am walking that with a consultant next week.

Mr. Hobson – The grass needs to be cut on Wilbur's Point and Hoppy's Landing.

Mr. Crabb – Wilbur's Point will be tomorrow.

Ms. Smith – What is the schedule to complete Hacker Street, Brae Road and Jameson Street.

Mr. Crabb – I am waiting on confirmation from the curbing and paving contractor. I am hopeful the work will be completed by the end of August.

Ms. Smith – What is the timeline on the skatepark.

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Mr. Crabb – I am making inquiries to other communities that have skateparks but at this time I cannot find a contractor to do the work.

Ms. Smith – What is the timeframe for the rail trail?

Mr. Crabb – I am hoping it will be complete by Labor Day.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – There is construction starting on Union Wharf.

D. 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 July 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and enter into executive and not reconvene in open session. Mr. Hobson seconded.

Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith and Mr. Ferro in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

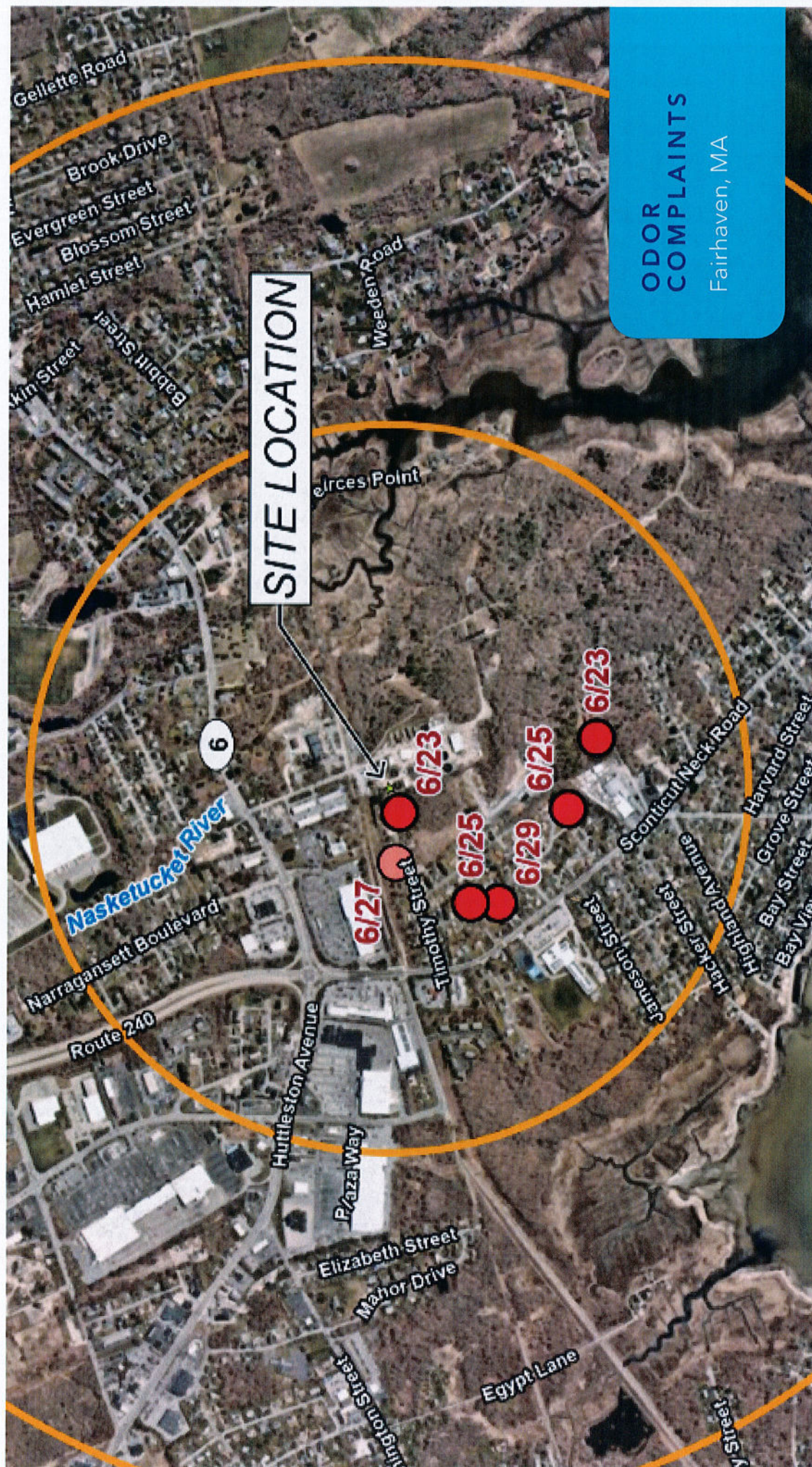
Minutes approved on July 20, 2026

**Tighe&
Bond**

Partnership
with purpose

WPCF Upgrade Project
Update

Fairhaven, MA





LIKELY ODOR
SOURCES
Fairhaven, MA

TRUCK
LOADOUT

PRIMARY
CLARIFIERS

INFLUENT
CHANNEL

Near Term Odor Mitigation Activities

- Chemical Addition RR Avenue Pump Station
- Cover Influent Channels at Headworks
- Chemical Addition at South Street Pump Station
- Add Odor Masking Agent
- Expedite/Minimize Operational Swap-Over Events
- Chemically Treat Odors During Swap-Over Events
- Suspend All Septage Acceptance at Railroad Ave PS

Near Term Odor Mitigation Activities



Cover Influent
Channels at Headworks



Manage Swap-Over
Events



Add Odor Masking
Agent

Long Term Odor Mitigation Activities

- **Install Influent Channel Covers & Odor Control System**
- **Return Septage Receiving Station to Service**
- **Evaluate Mattapoissett & RR Ave Force Main Odor Potential**
- **Complete Upgrade Project & Return to Stable Operation**
 - Headworks Power Complete Mid July, Odor Control to Follow
 - Primary Clarifier Construction Impacts Complete
 - Aeration Tank Swap-Overs in August
 - Project Substantial Completion April 2027

Noise Related Issues

- Source Is Temporary Blower Piping
- Restore Temporary Noise Barrier
- Temporary Blower Piping Removed in September



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