

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
September 28, 2026**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager
Nils Isaksen, Fairhaven Improvement Association

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 OCT 6 PM 12:51

Absent

Anne Morton Smith, 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. September 14, 2026

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of September 14, 2026. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. Nils Isaksen, Removal of Trash Barrels by Town Hall

Mr. Isaksen – Mr. Isaksen asked Mr. Crabb if it would be possible to remove the trash barrels located in the center of Town near Town Hall. The center of Town is a Historic District, and the barrels in question are the green barrels mounted on poles at the corners. There are five barrels: two at Center Street and William Street, one at Center Street and Walnut Street, and two at Washington Street and Center Street. These barrels are primarily being used for dog waste and are frequently becoming full and causing unpleasant odors.

Mr. Furtado – We pick up these barrels twice per week and three times per week during the summer.

Mr. Hobson – I do not think we should remove all of them. Maybe we should start by removing two and see how it goes.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
September 28, 2026**

Mr. Furtado – I agree. I am concerned that if we remove all of the barrels, we will end up picking up additional trash from the streets and sidewalks.

Mr. Isaksen – The birds also get into the bins and make a mess with the trash.

Mr. Wotton – How about looking into getting enclosed barrels? I like the idea of having a place for people to dispose of trash. I would be in favor of removing them if there is an alternative option to have new barrels installed.

Mr. Ferro – Maybe we could go through the Select Board to see if there is anything stating that dog feces cannot be placed in the barrels.

Mr. Wotton – I am okay with removing two or three of them and keeping two up with the possibility of replacing them in the spring.

The Board was in favor of removing two – three of the five barrels at this time.

V. Items for Action

A. Highway Superintendent Vacation Carryover

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve the Highway Superintendents request to carryover 10 vacation days. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Garage Supervisor Vacation Carryover

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve the Garage Supervisors request to carryover 10 vacation days. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Motorized Vehicles on Rail Trail

Mr. Furtado – There is concern regarding motorized vehicles on the Rail Trail. Prior to the use of e-bikes and other motorized bicycles, the Board of Public Works approved regulations prohibiting motorized vehicles on the Rail Trail. The current regulation adopted by the Board is a blanket prohibition on motorized vehicles.

Mr. Wotton – The biggest issue is enforcement. The Police Department is not enforcing the regulation, and the Board of Public Works does not have the means to enforce it.

Mr. Furtado – The Board of Public Works serves as the Park Commissioners and oversees the Rail Trail. The Board has received numerous complaints regarding the speed of e-bikes on the Rail Trail.

Mr. Ferro – I think this discussion should be tabled, as we do not have enough information at this time. I believe we should receive direction from the Select Board.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
September 28, 2026**

Mr. Hobson – Why don't we invite the Police Department Safety Officer to attend a meeting to discuss this matter?

Mr. Wotton – I think we need recommendations from both the Police Department and the Select Board regarding what they are looking for. I am not comfortable making any ruling without further direction.

Mr. Ferro – I also feel that Town Counsel should be involved in this matter.

Mr. Ferro motioned to table the discussion regarding Motorized Vehicles on the Rail Trail. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades, Work Change Directive #8 \$104,278.40

Mr. Furtado reviewed and answered any questions that the Board had regarding Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades, Work Change Directive #8.

Mr. Hobson motioned to issue Work Change Directive #8 for WPCF Upgrades in the amount not to exceed \$104,278.40. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades, Work Change Directive #9 \$112,556.71

Mr. Furtado reviewed and answered any questions that the Board had regarding Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades, Work Change Directive #9.

Ms. Rotondo motioned to issue Work Change Directive #9 for WPCF Upgrades in the amount not to exceed \$112,556.71. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Wastewater Contract Operations

Mr. Furtado – This item was placed on the agenda because, recently the Union reached out to me asking about the Budget Working Group discussing wastewater contract operations at a previous meeting. Within the last month, a member of the Select Board and the Town Administrator visited the City of New Bedford to discuss CSOs (Combined Sewer Overflow). During that discussion, wastewater contract operations was one of the topics that came up. This would involve hiring a company to operate the Town's wastewater treatment operations.

Mr. Furtado reviewed with the Board the email that was sent to the Town Administrator regarding Wastewater Contract Operations.

Mr. Furtado – I am bringing this forward because the new Budget Working Group has met twice, and contracting out the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been discussed at both meetings. They believe this would be less expensive, but I want to make it clear to the Board and everyone watching that, in my opinion, it would not be less expensive.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
September 28, 2026**

Mr. Wotton – I am all for the Budget Working Group and trying to find ways to save the Town money, but they are discussing this issue without including anyone from this Board in the meetings to provide input.

Mr. Hobson – You are comparing the Town of Fairhaven to the City of New Bedford. How many towns in Massachusetts have contracted out their wastewater operations?

Mr. Furtado – I can look into that.

Mr. Furtado – The City was essentially forced to pursue this option and has not gone back to operating it themselves because the City has a residency requirement. One of the main reason's communities have pursued contracting out wastewater operations is because they do not have enough employees.

Mr. Ferro – I just want to say for the record that I am vehemently opposed to laying off any of our Wastewater Treatment Plant employees, who do a great job. I am also opposed to privatizing an essential government function such as wastewater treatment. I am absolutely against it, and you will never convince me to do it.

G. Maher Services, LLC., Cleaning & Redevelopment Wolf Island Well #1

A. Sign Notice of Award \$23,715.00

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Notice of Award with Maher Services, LLC. for Cleaning and Redevelopment of Wolf Island Well #1 in the amount of \$23,715.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Sign Contract Agreement \$23,715.00

Ms. Rotondo motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Maher Services, LLC. for Cleaning and Redevelopment of Wolf Island Well #1 in the amount of \$23,715.00. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Sign Notice to Proceed

Mr. Ferro motioned to Sign the Notice to Proceed with Maher Services, LLC. for Cleaning and Redevelopment of Wolf Island Well #1. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
September 28, 2026**

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for September 28, 2026

- Meet with SB re Highway position reclass
- BMX Bike Track Opening
- Attend West Island Development Forum
- Annual Stormwater Report submitted to EPA
- Contract operations emails and discussion of such without Public Works by Budget Working Group
- Staff meeting with new State recycling coordinator
- Meeting with Heather re Cell Phone Antenna on Water Towers
- Labor Counsel re CBA and side letters
- Chair BBNEP Meeting
- LD Letter to Methuen
- Attend BOH Meeting re Tour Offer and Odors
- POTW Upgrade progress meeting
- POTW Scheduling conference
- POTW PCO Meeting
- Department Head Meeting
- Attend Mandatory Harassment Training
- Bid Opening Wolf Island Well

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – I attended the Opening Day for the BMX Track at Macomber-Pimental Park, and there was a great turnout. I would also like to thank Mike and Hillary Rotondo for spearheading the Pump Track. This is a great addition to the Park. Also, the sign for David Drown Boulevard needs to be put back up.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
September 28, 2026**

Mr. Hobson – The Marine Resource Committee has not met since our last meeting.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Ms. Rotondo motioned to set the date of the next meeting on October 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Ferro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on October 5, 2026