Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 19, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
ROUD 2026 NOV 5 PM2:27

Present
Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent

Absent
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. October 5, 2026

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of October 5, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Appointments

A. n/a

V. Items for Action

A. Intersection Study Update

1. Adams Street / Bridge Street

Mr. Crabb – A few months ago, the Police Department requested a traffic study at the intersection of Bridge Street and Adams Street following another serious accident. Upon completion of the study, the recommendation was to make the intersection a four-way stop, with plans to eventually upgrade the intersection to include all necessary ADA accommodations. The cost is not expected to be significant. The next step is to obtain approval from the Select Board.

The Board expressed support for making the intersection of Bridge Street and Adams Street a four-way stop.

Mr. Crabb – I will contact the Police Department and Safety Officer to request that this item be placed on a future Select Board agenda for consideration and approval.

2. Bridge Street / Mill Road

Mr. Crabb – This is one of the two signalized intersections that we own and maintain and the traffic signal is old and antiquated and we cannot get parts for this. We did a traffic study and the traffic light can be removed and we can put in a four way stop.

Mr. Wotton – I am against removing this traffic light this intersection is very dangerous.

Mr. Crabb – The only reason we pressured this is the maintenance of the signals. I just wanted to put this in the back of everyone's head because to upgrade these traffic signals it would cost between $600,000 and $800,000. We do not have to proceed with this we will just keep it on our radar for future grants.

B. Bigbelly Trash Barrel Locations

Mr. Crabb – The Town has received the six Bigbelly trash barrels purchased through CPC funding. We have put together a list of proposed locations for installation and would like the Board's input. These locations are suggestions, and each barrel will require installation on a concrete pad.

Mr. Hobson – I am in favor of the six recommended locations. If the barrels work there are several other locations where they may also be beneficial.

Ms. Smith motioned to install the six Bigbelly trash barrels, one at each of the following locations: Macomber Pimental Park, Livesey Park near the bathroom, Cushman Park near the bathroom, Rail Trail at Alden Road Extension and David Drown Boulevard, Rail Trail at Main Street and South Street and the Seaview Avenue Boat Ramp. Mr. Wotton seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

C. Trash RFP

Mr. Furtado – The Town's current five-year trash collection contract expires on June 30, 2027. We would like to issue the Request for Proposals (RFP) no later than mid-November to determine the cost of trash collection services for the FY28 budget.

Mr. Furtado reviewed the Trash RFP with the Board and answered questions.

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve the Trash RFP, as amended, for a five-year term. Mr. Hobson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

D. Dig It Construction, Glenhaven Avenue Water Main Improvement Project, Payment #4 $80,627.84

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Dig It Construction Glenhaven Avenue Water Main Improvement Project Payment #4 in the amount of $80,627.84. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Beta Group, Park Assessment, Amendment #1 $4,850.00

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Beta Group Park Assessment Amendment #1 in the amount of $4,850.00. seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #34 $687,286.14

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Methuen Construction WPCF Upgrades payment #34 in the amount of $687,286.14. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

G. DEP Pay Req (CWP-22-67) #34 $687,286.00

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Dep Pay Req (CWP-22-67) #34 in the amount of $687,286.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. Tata & Howard, Wolf Island Well #3 Replacement, Payment #2 $11,815.19

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tata & Howard Wolf Island Well #3 Replacement Payment #2 in the amount of $11,815.19. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Tata & Howard, Wolf Island Generator Replacement, Payment #3 $1,820.00

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard Wolf Island Generator Replacement Payment #3 in the amount of $1,820.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

J. Tata & Howard, 2026 ERP Update, Payment #2 $900.00

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Tata & Howard 2026 ERP Update in the amount of $900.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

K. FTI Consulting, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #9 $36,076.04

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve FTI Consulting WPCF Upgrades Payment #9 in the amount of $36,076.04. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

L. Dig It Construction, Spring Street Water Main Replacement

1. Payment #9 $62,051.50

Ms. Smith motioned to sign Dig It Construction Spring Street Water Main Replacement Project Payment #9 in the amount of $36,076.04. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Sign Certificate of Final Completion

Ms. Rotondo motioned to sign the Certificate of Final Completion with Did It Construction for Spring Street Water Main Replacement Project. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

M. Highway Superintendent Contract Language

Mr. Furtado - About a month ago the Board approved Mr. Crabb's request to carryover 10 vacation days. However, we received pushback from Town Hall because his contract reads that he is allowed to carryover 5 vacation days.

Mr. Furtado - reviewed the Highway Superintendent Contract Language for Vacation Leave and what we would like to amend to the vacation section.

Mr. Hobson motioned to amend the Highway Superintendent Contract Language as presented. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

N. Wastewater Feasibility Study

Mr. Furtado – On October 6th, I appeared before the Budget Working Group to discuss the privatization of wastewater operations. The group has been tasked with identifying ways to reduce the Town's expenses. Prior to the meeting, I received a list of questions and have provided the questions and answers to the Board tonight. At that meeting, the Budget Working Group voted to request that the Board of Public Works enter into a contract for a wastewater feasibility study. I contacted our wastewater engineer, who indicated they know individuals qualified to conduct the study. Would the Board be interested in obtaining a quote to determine the potential cost of the study?

Ms. Rotondo – I would like to see a ballpark estimate of what this study will cost.

Mr. Hobson – I do not see a problem with getting a price, but I do not believe that privatizing is feasible in the long run.

Mr. Wotton – They circumvented the Board of Public Works. I am not in favor of privatizing the wastewater operations.

Ms. Smith – I think that paying a company to operate and run the treatment plant is absurd and doesn't make sense. Also, spending money on a study to tell us what we already know also does not make sense.

Mr. Wotton – Are they going to pay for the study because we do not have the additional funds to conduct a study.

Mr. Hobson motioned to fund a wastewater feasibility study. The motion was not seconded and therefore did not pass

Mr. Wotton motioned not to procced with the wastewater feasibility study. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

O. Appoint Representative to Mattapoisett River Valley District and Advisory Committee

Mr. Furtado – As everyone is aware, Mr. Jeff Furtado is retiring, and a new representative needs to be appointed to the Mattapoisett River Valley District and Advisory Committee. We are recommending that the Board appoints Mr. Sanford as the representative.

Mr. Wotton motioned to appoint Michael Sanford to the Mattapoisett River Valley District and Advisory Committee. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

P. Town Auction

Mr. Furtado – Now that the Town Charter is in place, it allows for an auction to be held 30 days after the last items have been declared surplus. Since the Board's previous vote, additional vehicles have been added to the surplus list. Does the Board wish to hold an auction? If so, we are looking at October 31, 2026, as the proposed date.

Mr. Wotton – How many employees would you need to work the auction?

Mr. Furtado – Two clerical staff and two or three highway union.

Mr. Wotton – Who would be responsible for paying the overtime costs?

Mr. Crabb – It would come out of the Highway Budget.

Mr. Wotton reviewed the auction list.

Mr. Wotton – After reviewing the list of surplus items, I do not believe anything on the list would generate significant revenue. If the Town does not hold the auction this year, it would save approximately $1,000 to $1,500 in overtime costs. I am strongly opposed to holding the auction, as I believe the costs would exceed the revenue generated.

Ms. Smith motioned not to hold an auction at the Board of Public Works in 2026. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

Q. Pao Corp., Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation, Payment #6 $258,440.98

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Pao Corp. Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation Payment #6 in the amount of $258,440.98. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

R. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades, Work Change Directive #10 $24,191.77

Mr. Furtado reviewed and answered any questions that the Board had regarding Tighe and Bond Work Change Directive #10.

Mr. Hobson motioned to issue Work Change Directive #10 not to exceed $24,191.77 for WPCF Upgrades. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. Motorized Vehicle on Rail Trail

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for October 19, 2026

- Attend Department head meeting
- Appeared before Budget Working Group to discuss Wastewater Contract operations and answer given questions in writing
- Gave BOH site tour last Wednesday
- Chair monthly MRV Meeting
- AFSCME side letters signed by SB 10/13
- Attend POTW upgrade meeting
- Attend POTW PCO Meeting
- Earle St construction is still in the news
- Cherrystone Pre-Construction Meeting
- Extension Request letter sent to EPA - meeting with them to discuss on 10/20

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – On Starboard Drive at the end there is a drain that is clogged. Can you notify someone?

Ms. Smith – Could we ask Eversource to move the vehicles and equipment currently parked along South Street to Rogers School? This would get them off the street.

Mr. Crabb – This should have just been for this past weekend. But I will check into this.

Ms. Smith – The trash barrel at the bus stop on Route 6 is missing.

Mr. Crabb - Yes, it has been knocked over every time we drove by, so we removed it.

Mr. Furtado – I can reach out to the Select Board's SRTA liaison to see if SRTA and the State could take the responsibility to maintain the bus stop.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

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 November 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Ms. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on November 2, 2026