



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 JUN 16 AM 8:54

Present: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Keith Silvia, Andrew Saunders and Keith R. Hickey

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 6:30pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Grindrod of Center Street addressed the Board thanking Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia as long-term members and extended his appreciation to them.

Eleanor Chew of Main Street addressed the Board via zoom, she thanked Mr. Silvia and Mr. Murphy for all they have done and shared her hope that they continue to be involved. Ms. Chew wanted to speak about the name change for the wharf saying Mr. MacLean had a lot of good things and also some things not so stellar and she would be uncomfortable with a name change unless it was someone with a stellar reputation and no major slips. She said she was also concerned about renaming a wharf because it could be confusing to people and why this item was brought up tonight with the Board changing tomorrow.

APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

Sidewalk Street Lamp Project Update and Request for Approval: Phase II at Millicent Library

Nils Isaksen addressed the Board with an update on Phase II of the Sidewalk Street Light Project outside the Millicent Library. Mr. Isaksen asked the Board for approval to install a total of six decorative street lights, two each on Center, Walnut and William Streets. He advised the Board that four were funded through private donations and the other two through CPC funds (Community Preservation Act). The cost per light currently is five thousand dollars and they are made in the United States.

Mr. Hickey said the office will assist Mr. Isaksen with the Eversource application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the installation of six street lights in the town right of way around the Millicent Library as presented this evening. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Cultural Council: Jennifer Paulino

Ms. Paulino addressed the Board about her application and interest in joining the Cultural Council. The Board thanked Ms. Paulino for stepping up

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Jennifer Paulino to the Cultural Council for a 3-year term. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee: Charles Murphy Sr.

Mr. Murphy addressed the Board about his application and interest in joining Lagoa as well as continuing to represent the Sister-City relationship and Portuguese population. The Board thanked him for his willingness to continue to serve the Town and Ms. Mello added that her grandfather is from Lagoa.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Charles Murphy Sr. to the Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Murphy abstained.

Event Request: Run to Remember, 5k walk/run: October 25, 2026

The Board reviewed the request. Mr. Saunders added that LCpl. Matthew Rodriguez is remembered as "the smiling warrior" and this is a good event for a good cause.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the event request for the Run to Remember 5K on October 25, 2026 contingent upon any conditions from Police, Fire and Public Works. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Event Request: Fairhaven Turkey Trot, 5k walk/run: November 26, 2026

Greater New Bedford Track Club President Meg Rogers addressed the Board about the event request, a brief history of how the event has grown to about 1,200 participants and the agencies that donations are contributed to.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the event request for the Fairhaven Turkey Trot, 5k walk/run on November 26, 2026 contingent upon any conditions from Police, Fire and Public Works. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Consider Release of Agreement and Voluntary Covenants on Former G. Borne Knowles Site

Mr. Murphy summarized the request. Mr. Hickey advised the Board that he met with the developer and their engineer to review the concerns raised at the May 26, 2026 meeting by Conservation. The developer has agreed to work with the Conservation Commission and Agent on the plans. Conservation Commission Chair Brandon Estrella is in support of moving the project forward based on the discussions with Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Saunders added that his question had been to understand the background. Mr. Hickey said the covenant was put in place based on the prior plans for condos, removing the covenant allows the opportunity to develop the property as a friendly 40B. Rich Rheaume from Prime Engineering Inc. advised the Board that the plans will make it better than it is today.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to determine that release of the Agreement and Voluntary Covenant for Development recorded at Book 8257, Page 132 is in the best interests of the Town and to approve the Release of Agreement and Voluntary Covenant for Development recorded through the Registry of Deeds. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Consider Renaming Union Wharf in Honor of Senator William Q. "Biff" MacLean Jr.

Mr. Saunders addressed the Board about the request and the impact Senator MacLean had on him, on the Town and on those he helped. Sen. MacLean's distinguished record of public service and community involvement reflect his legacy in Town starting on the School Committee and then to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the Massachusetts Senate. The family's business, MacLean's Seafood, had been located at the site on Union Wharf. Mr. Romano asked Harbormaster Tim Cox for his opinion on any logistical issues as mentioned in public comment.

Mr. Cox advised the Board that renaming would not be an issue. He added that Sen. MacLean helped many people including those he did not know. Mr. Cox added that the rebuild of Union Wharf can include a sitting area in his honor at the end if the Board passes this tonight. Mr. Murphy shared an experience with Sen. MacLean involving a client of M.O.L.I.F.E.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to rename Union Wharf to MacLean's Wharf. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Consider Designating the Harbormaster and Building Commissioner as Authorized Signatories for Chapter 91

Mr. Cox informed the Board of the state's recommendation to establish authorized signatories under Chapter 91, following concerns raised regarding a recent Seaport project that proceeded without Town approvals and is currently under review by the appropriate departments. Mr. Hickey noted that department heads have discussed the matter and that IT will incorporate a form into the permitting system to ensure all applicable departmental approvals are captured moving forward. Mr. Saunders added that his concerns had been on whether the process would add a layer of bureaucracy if it was not needed.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to designate the Harbormaster and Building Commissioner as the Authorized Signatories for Chapter 91 for the Town of Fairhaven. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hickey reviewed his report (*Attachment A*). He asked for the Board's guidance on the suggestion to schedule the annual reappointments on the June 22, 2026 meeting agenda to allow the new Board more time to do their due diligence on the candidates. Mr. Romano said he did not know the status of the new bylaws and will be following the will of Town Meeting. Mr. Hickey advised the Board the state's review can take a few months and the Board can act under the existing bylaws currently in place or what was approved at Town Meeting.

Mr. Hickey thanked Mr. Silvia and Mr. Murphy for their help, support and guidance.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the open session minutes of May 26, 2026 as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Ms. Mello abstained.

Mr. Hickey confirmed that the Board will review for the release of minutes (executive sessions) quarterly and Ms. Mello will assist with bringing them forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Murphy read the list of correspondence in the Board's packet: Emails: Michelle Costen: 2-40 cars; Drug Treatment Center, Fairhaven's Got Pride; and Fairhaven Contributory Retirement Board: Cost-of-Living-Adjustment Public Hearing notice. (*Attachment B*).

Mr. Romano asked the Board to consider two motions and the email as it pertains to Fairhaven's Got Pride should not be placed on record. In his opinion, it contains some extremely hateful and damaging language and asked for a motion to take the email Fairhaven's Got Pride out of the list of correspondence in the motion.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to remove the email *Fairhaven's Got Pride* from the list of correspondence and not place it online. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Murphy reread the revised list to enter the following into the Select Board's correspondence: Emails: Michelle Costen: 2-40 cars; Drug Treatment Center; and Fairhaven Contributory Retirement Board: Cost-of-Living-Adjustment Public Hearing notice.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter the Select Board correspondence listed into the record. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Select Board will meet for election results and candidate statements on **Tuesday, June 9, 2026** at 8pm and the next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on **Monday, June 15, 2026** at 6:30pm

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders:

- Thank you to Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia for their work for the Town of Fairhaven. Mr. Murphy has about the longest tenure with twenty-six years and Mr. Silvia who served the Board of Public Works from 2017-2020, the Select Board from 2020-2026 and an extremely good advocate when on boards. Mr. Saunders thanked them for helping him understand the process when he was new to the Select Board.

Ms. Mello:

- Thank you to Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia; she appreciates the time taken away from family and their personal lives to give to the Town and wished them well in the future.

Mr. Romano:

- Fairhaven's Got Pride is at the end of the month.
- Thank you to Mr. Silvia for forcing him to think outside of the box
- Thank you to Mr. Murphy for knowing how to guide people through by using his therapist skills

Mr. Silvia:

- The Economic Development Committee held their after-hours event at SoCo
- He said his time on the Board has been fun and interesting and the biggest take-a-way has been the friendships across the Town.

Mr. Murphy:

- Mr. Murphy gave thanks to those he has been fortunate to work with over the past twenty-six years and read his prepared remarks (*Attachment C*).

The Select Board adjourned at 7:31pm

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Town Administrator Report
- B. Correspondence: Emails: Michelle Costen: 2-40 cars; Drug Treatment Center; and Fairhaven Contributory Retirement Board: Cost-of-Living-Adjustment Public Hearing notice
- C. Charlie Murphy statement

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board Clerk (ah)

Accepted on June 15, 2026



Town of Fairhaven Report of the Town Administrator June 8, 2026

Financial Updates

- The Town of Fairhaven will receive an additional \$100,000 for sidewalk improvements from the Commonwealth's supplemental spending bill. The bill was expected to reach the Governor's desk by the end of last week.

Project Updates

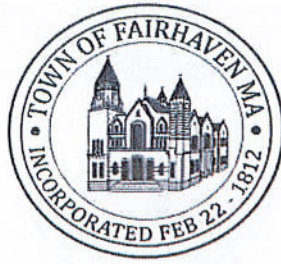
- The Livesey pickleball courts will be closed to the public from Monday, June 8th to Friday, June 12th to perform warranty repair work on the painted surface. The courts are anticipated to reopen on Saturday, June 13th.
- Fairhaven's pavement management program, developed with an engineering consultant and updated every 3–4 years, uses the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to evaluate road conditions and determine the most effective maintenance strategies.
 - To extend the life of our roads and reduce long-term costs, the Town is implementing three pavement preservation treatments:
 - Crack sealing – fills and seals cracks to prevent further deterioration.
 - Fog sealing – applies a protective asphalt treatment to newer roads, restoring oils and extending pavement life by 3–5 years.
 - Micro surfacing – adds a thin new wearing surface that seals imperfections and can extend pavement life by 8–10 years.
 - Pavement preservation is an ongoing, cost-effective approach that helps keep roads in good condition, reduces the need for more extensive repairs, and protects the Town's infrastructure investment.

Personnel Update

- The Town and AFSCME collective bargaining unit representing clerical staff have successfully negotiated combining the full time Board of Health Admin. position with the part time Town Clerk Admin. position. Current Board of Health Admin. Angelica Mederios will fill this new, combined position. Combining the positions will save an estimated \$15,000.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The Board of Public Works would like to remind homeowners that driveway contractors working in Town, must be licensed to perform such work with the Board of Public Works. To verify your driveway contractor is licensed with the Town, contact the Public Works Office at 508-979-4030 or via email at bpw@fairhaven-ma.gov.



June 8, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Emails: Michelle Costen: 2-40 cars; Drug Treatment Center; Fairhaven's Got Pride
2. Fairhaven Contributory Retirement Board: Cost-of-Living-Adjustment Public Hearing notice

2-40 cars

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Wed, May 27, 2026 at 8:10 AM

To the Selectboard,

-Isn't really R. Da Silva's property located in the 40 R mixed use zoning location ? And wouldn't that override the present zoning by law?

Michelle Costen

Drug Treatment Center

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Wed, May 27, 2026 at 8:19 AM

To the Elected Select,

I wanted to bring some extended clarity to what I said last night in reference to how residents of Fairhaven are feeling about the drug treatment center being on 77 Adam St.

There isn't anyone denying that we should have treatment centers for people who are on drugs

The main and most important concern to stress here is that the center is near a grade school and is in very close to proximity to many family homes with children.

A better location would be in a more rural area or where hospitals are nearby. Maybe even close by to where urgent care is located.

Let's all be honest here, many of the people on drugs are not in a stable minded position. Some are healed and some Unfortunately are not.

It simply is not an appropriate safe place to have a drug addict treatment center.

That specific location would be wonderful for the elderly, to live, or disabled people.

An area close by to urgent care would make a more suitable location.

Michelle Costen

Fairhaven Retirement System
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA. 02719
Phone: 508-979-4023 ext. 8121
Fax: 508-993-9486

TO: Select Board
FROM: Fairhaven Contributory Retirement Board
DATE: May 29, 2026

NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32, section 103 (i) the Fairhaven Contributory Retirement Board will be holding a public meeting for the purpose of determining whether to grant a cost of living adjustment, to be effective July 1, 2026, to eligible retirees of the Fairhaven Contributory Retirement System.

Meeting day/date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Meeting location: 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Meeting time: 10:00 AM

I want to first start out with many thanks.....we are so blessed in the Town of Fairhaven with so many key departments and department heads. For the past 26 years, I have been fortunate to work with so many people. I want to thank the present and past Selectboard Members and elected officials. I want to thank the past Executive Secretary Jeff Osuch and the first Town Administrator, Mark Rees to our current Town Administrator, Keith Hickey. I want to embrace all the departments that have excelled in their work for our Town...our award winning Fairhaven TV, lead by Derek Frates, Derek and his team *are* Amazing, and we are so very blessed to have them in our Town,

our Harbor master Tim Cox, excelling in what he does and on the call 24/7.

our Recreation Department that has taken on new tasks, thank you Bernadette, our Amazing Council on Aging Guro...Martha Reed....a shining star for Fairhaven and the needs of our seniors and someone who will have to continually put up with me for years to come....our caring and dedicated Vinny Furtado, who I have had the pleasure to work with some incredible cases and how he always would go above and beyond, our multiple department heads in Town Hall, that never cease to amaze me, our incredible superintendent of Schools, Tara Kohler, she is beyond any faction of anyone I can ever see as the desire to do what's best for each and every student and she has

Ann-Carrero/Sve Robeyes / Lisa - Thank you!!
Town Clerk

proven that with my family and her desire to have each and every student succeed to their fullest potential....we are blessed to have her and truly folks, she is the best we can have...please remember that. I am in awe with our public safety and the risks they take each and every day, thank you Chief Dorgan and thank you Chief Corriea and a special thank you to Lt. Kevin Swain, who I have know all his life and he is a true representation of our community....and I am so proud of him. And I would be remiss if I did not mention, Amy Hart....what a gem, she is the nuts and bolts of our Selectboard....she is a true gift to our Fairhaven Community.

The remaining money I have in my Selectboard Acca will be donated to the Fairhaven Animal Shelter along with a personal donation.

When you run for political office, your family has to make sacrifices....my wife Carrie, had made so many sacrifices over the past 26 years, which has been a God send to me, though I am sure a lot of frustrations for her. I signed up for this....she did not....she has had to put up with the social media~~s~~, the political highs and lows and the banter....the emails late at night, the going to people's homes at 3am to listen to the wind turbines, the missing family events due to town emergencies, she is the person to thank for her dedication along with my children, Erin, Alyssa and CJ and my Grandchildren, Alanah, Avery, and Amayah....they are the people that have

truly led me to be the leader that I could be.

Every candidate has a team of people that push them forward....we have seen this in the most recent election tomorrow.....I have been blessed with such an incredible team over the years...Thank you to all of you....my team captain John Haaland has stood by me through thick and thin, along with my wife Carrie, and to be truly honest with you....without these two individuals....I would Never be able to be the person I am. I can never thank them enough for all they have done for me....

So in conclusion.....we can always have complaints for the Selectboard, but how

about compliments for the job they have done, well done. I pray that in the future, we can all work together and make our differences a working strategy, so we all focus on the betterment of Fairhaven. My Mother Kathleen Kobza Murphy, was born on Blackburn St in Fairhaven and her birth certificate said Fairhaven, MA and she always instilled in me to make Fairhaven a top priority....I will Mom and will do all I can to make it the best it can be and whatever I can do to ensure that.....God Bless Fairhaven....and God Bless our Country.....Thank you for Everything!!!