FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCVD 2026 JUL 28 AM8:14

Select Board Members Present: Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Pam Kuechler, Andrew Saunders, Richard F. Trapilo, Assistant Town Administrator of Finance/Town Accountant Anne Carreiro and Keith R. Hickey

Mr. Romano opened the Select Board meeting at 6:00pm

Finance Committee Members Present: Pat Elliott, Claire Millette, Bob Grindrod, Steve Riley, Peter Gardner, Ken Blanchard, Linda Gallant, James Souza and David Patterson

Finance Committee Members Not Present: Pattie Pacella, Stephen Levesque and Chris Fidalgo

Mr. Elliott opened the Finance Committee meeting at 6:02pm

Ms. Kuechler entered at 6:03pm

JOINT WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Year-end transfers: Request to transfer $34,000 from Community Services Salaries and Wages-Recreation Department to General Government Salaries and Wages-Treasurer/Collector

Mr. Romano reviewed the details of the transfer request. Mr. Hickey advised the boards that the need for the salary was due to the delay in hiring a Treasurer/Collector which kept Collector Pam Bettencourt past her retirement date; the Recreation budget had unused salary due to a position not filled.

Select Board Motion: Ms. Kuechler motioned to authorize a transfer in the amount of $34,000 from Community Services Salaries and Wages-Recreation Department to General Government Salaries and Wages-Treasurer/Collector. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0) Mr. Saunders not present at time of the vote.

Finance Committee Motion: Ms. Millette motioned to authorize a transfer in the amount of $34,000 from Community Services Salaries and Wages-Recreation Department to General Government Salaries and Wages-Treasurer/Collector. Mr. Grindrod seconded. The motion passed unanimously (8-0-0) Mr. Patterson not present at the time of the vote.

Mr. Patterson entered at 6:07pm; Mr. Saunders entered at 6:08pm

Presentation by Millicent Library Trustees Reviewing Their Request of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to Fund Debt Repayment for Climate Control under Historic Preservation

Millicent Library Trustee Bob Kenworthy and Library Director Kyle DeCicco-Carey addressed the boards and referred to their inquiry letter about using Community Preservation to fund a bond for climate control project at the library (***Attachment A***). CPC Chair Ann Richards addressed the boards to answer questions about CPC processes. Mr. Hickey distributed a handout with projections for a bond based at today's rate (***Attachment B***).

Discussion ensued about the library project, CPC bond use in other cities and towns, whether the project has been reviewed by Town Counsel, contingency plans for unexpected expenses above the bond total and the availability of training materials online about the use of CPC bonds. Some members of the boards were concerned about process, legal review and potential impacts to the Town's bond rating or future borrowing.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 6:34pm; the Board recessed until 6:38pm to reorganize the room.

Mr. Romano announced an opening for the At-Large Finance Committee, applications will be accepted until August 5th and posted on the volunteer opportunity page.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to take agenda items C1 and C2 out of order. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

Proclamation for Retiring Fire Lieutenant Brian Riggs

Ms. Kuechler read the proclamation. Chief Correia introduced Lt. Riggs who was accompanied by his wife and daughter. Lt. Riggs thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the Town.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the proclamation for Fire Lieutenant Brian Riggs as presented. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Board recessed from 6:45-6:50pm to clear the room

Consider Appointment of Dawn Quirk as Town Planner

Mr. Hickey introduced Dawn Quirk to the Board. Ms. Quirk addressed the Board about her background and experience. The Board asked clarifying questions about her experience, education and the position. Members of the Board encouraged Ms. Quirk to use the Town Administrator, Town Clerk and all resources to help answer questions. Mr. Hickey advised the Board that training and resources will be provided including access to Planner membership lists and peers for support and guidance.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Dawn Quirk as Town Planner with a start date of Monday, July 20, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patrick Carr of Pleasant Street addressed the Board and said he was speaking on his own behalf as a Planning Board member. He said there are proposed zoning bylaw amendments that have been under discussion since September 2023. He explained that the changes brought forth in March, 2026 are focused on reducing minimum lot sizes in residential and mixed-use districts and he missed the 2026 Town Meeting deadlines to be on the warrant.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to allow Mr. Carr an additional two minutes. Mr. Trapilo seconded. The motion passed (3-2-0) Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello opposed.

Citing new state information for more flexible zoning, Mr. Carr requested the Select Board and Town Administrator support advancing the proposed amendments for consideration at the Fall Town Meeting. He stated that the changes could encourage additional development, increase the tax base, and support school enrollment.

The Board was reminded of the protocol regarding not engaging during public comment.

Request for Special All Alcohol Licenses: Our Lady of Angels (OLOA): September 5, 2026 from 5:00pm-12:00am, September 6, 2026 from 12:00pm-12:00am and September 7, 2026 from 12:00-10:00pm

and

Review Our Lady of Angels Proposed Security Plan

Police Chief Dan Dorgan addressed the Board about both OLOA agenda items. He advised the Board that the department met with the OLOA committee in 2025 and the 2026 plan is the same with 7 officers during the day and 11 at night. Brief discussion ensued due to concerns about issues at the Whaling City Festival (Festival) this past weekend. Chief Dorgan said the OLOA event is on private property and with more police officers than at the Festival. He clarified the reference in Lt. Swain's letter to the number of officers recommended; Chief Dorgan will provide the feedback to the OLOA organizers.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Special All Alcohol License for and annual feast of Our Lady of Angels on September 5, 2026 from 5:00pm-12:00am, September 6, 2026 from 12:00pm-12:00am and September 7, 2026 from 12:00-10:00pm. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to adopt the security plan for the annual feast sponsored by Our Lady of Angels as presented by Lt. Swain on July 9, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Requests to the Special Bylaw Review Committee
Ms. Melanson addressed the Board about her application, interests and qualifications and suggested that the Board increase the size of the committee from five to six and appoint all six applicants.

Mr. Hickey clarified that the committee would follow Open Meeting Law, post agendas, vote and need a quorum to meet.

Mr. Romano advised the Board that applicant Brendalee Smith notified the office earlier that she was unable to attend to refer to her resume. Mr. Espindola was also not able to attend and notified the Board via email.

Lilia Cabral-Bernard addressed the Board about her application, interests and qualifications. She said six members would work.

Bob Grindrod addressed the Board about his application, interests and qualifications. He said he had no preference on five or six members.

Morgan Dawicki addressed the Board via zoom about his application, interests and qualifications. He summarized the approach that the Charter Committee took when drafting the Town Charter. He said he could work with six members.

Discussion ensued about the number of members.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Robert Espindola to the Special Bylaw Review Committee. Ms. Kuechler seconded.

Discussion continued about whether there would be consultants, the budget for the committee and legal counsel involvement. Mr. Hickey said that there was approximately four thousand dollars of the ten thousand that was appropriated for the Charter left that the Special Committee could expend. Some on the Board wanted to first vote on the number of members and then on appointing members with a suggestion to have an odd number to avoid tie votes.

Amended Motion: Mr. Trapilo motioned to amend the motion on the floor (to appoint Robert Espindola) and motioned to expand the committee to six members. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion failed (2-3-0) Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello opposed.

Motion: Mr. Trapilo motioned to amend the committee membership to seven members. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Ms. Mello rescinded her earlier motion to appoint Robert Espindola to the Special Bylaw Review Committee, Ms. Kuechler rescinded her earlier second

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Cathy Melanson, Brendalee Smith, Robert Espindola, Lilia Cabral-Bernard, Robert Grindrod and Morgan Dawicki to the Special Bylaw Review Committee for a term to end June, 2027. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Romano advised that the additional spot would be advertised with a deadline of July 22, 2026.

Appointment Requests to the Cultural Council: Donna Criscione, Catherine Teves, Denise Barr, Brian Cass
The Board reviewed a memo about membership and terms for Cultural Councils (***Attachment C***). Ms. Barr was in attendance and did not have anything to add to her application.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint the four applicants through September 30, 2026 as outlined on the agenda. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Requests: Belonging Committee: Denise Barr

The Board reviewed the request. Mr. Romano advised Ms. Barr no meetings are planned until September.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Denise Barr to the Belonging Committee for a term expiring September 30, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Economic Development Committee: Keith Silvia
The Board reviewed the request and Mr. Hickey confirmed that Nils Isaksen did submit a written resignation. Mr. Silvia addressed the Board about his application and interest in joining the Economic Development Committee.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Keith Silvia to the Economic Development Committee for a term expiring September 30, 2026. Mr. Trapilo seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Millicent Library Board of Trustees: Lilia Cabral-Bernard
Ms. Cabral-Bernard addressed the Board about her application, interests and qualifications for the position.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Lilia Cabral-Bernard to the Millicent Library Board of Trustees for a term expiring September 30, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Fire Chief Todd Correia and return to open session. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Ms. Mello, Mr. Trapilo and Mr. Romano all in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Board adjourned to Executive Session from 7:43pm to 7:56pm

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Consider Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Fire Chief Todd Correia
Chief Correia's employment contract contains a provision for a cost-of living adjustment (COLA) stating "*and subject to annual COLA increases at the discretion of the Select Board and assuming satisfactory performance.*" The Select Board awarded a COLA consistent with the non-union employees consisting of a 1.0 % COLA effective on July 1, 2026 and a 1.0% COLA effective on January 1, 2027.

Motion: Ms. Kuechler motioned to approve a cost-of-living adjustment of 2% (1% effective July 1, 2026 and 1% effective January 1, 2027) in FY27. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (3-2-0) Mr. Saunders and Mr. Romano opposed.

Discuss Atlas Tack Working Group Status and Liaison
Mr. Hickey referred to the original charge of the Atlas Tack Working Group (ATWG) from June of 2025 and the updated charge from October of 2025 (***Attachment D***). Based on updates to the Board in previous meetings and the ATWG charge, a final report to the Board would be their next step. After discussion in Executive Session earlier this year, ATWG was to pause for the EPA's report with the Select Board determining any next steps.

Discussion ensued about the Board's role to set policy and discuss next steps and/or litigation in a future executive session. Some on the Board felt the ATWG should cease based on the charge and reactivate if needed while others felt a new ATWG would be advertised for applications based on the spirit of town meeting. The Board discussed the hazardous conditions at the site, one goal being the removal of the designation as a "superfund site" in the Town and the level of work to be done. Mr. Trapilo asked the Board to allow the ATWG to continue. Mr. Saunders pointed out there are three government entities involved: The Town, State and EPA; the ATWG can be the voice to continue to advocate for cleanup.

Mr. Saunders recommended the ATWG charge include: *advocate on the part of the Town to develop a policy to convince the EPA and DEP to use their statutory authority to affect remediation of the site.*

Ken Blanchard addressed the Board and summarized the recent steps the ATWG has taken to address matters and said they have a cordial relationship with the EPA and DEP that should continue until the cleanup of the hazardous materials impacting the neighborhood is complete. The ATWG was asked to propose an updated charge to the

Select Board at the July 27, 2026 meeting.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to allow the ATWG to continue meeting and a representative to be present at the July 27, 2026 meeting to discuss a working charge. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed (4-1-0) Ms. Mello opposed.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Rick Trapilo as Select Board liaison to the Atlas Tack Working Group. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to take item E4 out of order. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Reconsider Vote to Authorize the Use of Allocated Funds for the Public Safety Complex Committee
Chief Correia and Chief Dorgan advised the Board that the Public Safety Complex Committee met on July 10, 2026 and rescinded their previous vote in order to move forward with the Town Administrator putting out a request for proposal (RFP) or request for qualifications (RFQ).

Mr. Trapilo referred to his email with Chief Correia about an RFQ versus an RFP and called for an assessment of all Town properties for feasibility due to the significant deficits the Town is facing in future fiscal years (***Attachment E***). Mr. Hickey advised the Board that further discussion would be placed on a future agenda.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to rescind the vote taken by the Select Board at their June 15, 2026 meeting authorizing the Town Administrator to expend up to $50,000 for legal, design, engineering and appraisal services for the existing Police/Fire building and the vacant building located at 4 Plaza Way. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Discuss Proposal to Establish a Budget Working Group
Mr. Trapilo referred to his proposal for a taskforce to review municipal operations and identify cost-saving measures (***Attachment F***) and discussion ensued. Some on the Board raised concerns about potential redundancy with the Finance Committee's role and others would like to see Mr. Hickey's work through a full budget cycle. Mr. Hickey advised the Board he has worked with Department Heads and also private groups in the past and found, at times, certain ideas were better received from a third party. He said he and Department Heads would respect the Board's direction and policy decision. Ms. Mello read from the Finance Committee's homepage (***Attachment G***).

Discussion continued with the Board in support of joint meetings with the Finance Committee, School Committee and other large departments. Some members suggested a budget working group could help influence state and local representatives and be a resource to the Town Administrator and others felt that timely, strategic recommendations to impact the budget process would be difficult at this time. Mr. Hickey said he remains open to suggestions for improvements.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to establish a Budget Working Group consisting of nine members (seven voting, two non-voting liaisons) to work with the Town Administrator to identify and present cost-saving opportunities to the Select Board for potential implementation. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed (4-1-0) Mr. Romano opposed.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
Mr. Hickey reviewed his report (***Attachment H***) and added that the fencing around Town Hall is due to the retaining wall work.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS
Mr. Saunders and Ms. Kuechler had no reports

Ms. Mello:
- The Historical Commission met and discussed donations for flags at Fort Phoenix, the cost is about one-hundred and fifty dollars each for the heavy-duty style. A grant from the Pomeroy Foundation was received to place a plaque on the Academy Building. They received correspondence questioning the process regarding the dedication of Union Wharf. Mr. Saunders said he was aware of the concern; the

Select Board is a Town board and can make its own recommendation and the policy also has a provision at the end that addresses the Board's ability to deviate from the policy at its discretion.

- The Commission on Disability met and discussed accessibility to the canons at the fort. The second annual Accessible Beach Day will be on August 7, 2026 and they will be hosting a Family Movie Night on Sunday, August 9, 2026 at 2:00pm at the Council on Aging.

Mr. Trapilo:

- Mr. Trapilo referred to a SRPEDD meeting discussion about frustrations with the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) from New Bedford and a draft letter he would like the Board to vote to support (***Attachment I***).

Mr. Romano:

- Mr. Romano asked Mr. Trapilo to update the letter about the CSO from New Bedford to reflect the Select Board and it can be placed on a future agenda to be voted on.
- Mr. Romano asked Ms. Mello for more information on the accessibility concern from the Commission on Disability and asked if they could come before the Board to advise on the concerns.
- No meetings to report on.
- He spoke with Mr. Hickey about making boards aware of liaison support and also will add the Public Safety Complex Committee Select Board liaison to the July 27, 2026 agenda to officially vote for Mr. Saunders and Ms. Mello.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the open session minutes of June 22 and July 6, 2026 as presented. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the executive session minutes of July 6, 2026 as presented. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Email: Erin Carr: Discussion on Funding the Tourism Department Through Donations; Email: Michelle Costen: Ref SB Meeting 6/8 & 6/9; Email: Maddie Hayes: Be better (***Attachment J***).

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on **Monday, July 27, 2026** at 6:00pm

The Select Board adjourned at 9:30pm

ATTACHMENTS

A. Millicent Library Trustee Letter
B. Bond Calculation Example
C. Memo and MGL regarding Cultural Council
D. Atlas Tack Working Group Charge and Updated Charge
E. Email: Rick Trapilo: Alternative recommendation to Public Safety Complex
F. Budget Working Group Proposal
G. Finance Committee homepage description
H. Draft letter regarding Combined Sewer Overflow
I. Town Administrator Report
J. Correspondence: Email: Michelle Costen: The Public's Rights- A need for Balance

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

Accepted on July 27, 2026

Attachment A

45 CENTER STREET | PO BOX 30 | FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719
508-992-5342 | KDECICCO-CAREY@SAILSINC.ORG
WWW.MILLICENTLIBRARY.ORG

July 1, 2026

Community Preservation Committee
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Dear Committee Members:

We advise Fairhaven CPC that Millicent Library will file a request during the 2026 application period for 2027 funding. We made inquiry in 2025 about using a CPC bond as a more practical alternative for the larger amount required of approximately $1,748,000 to add dehumidification, fresh air, and cooling to Millicent Library.

As you know, we completed other priorities that integrate with the HVAC project, including removal of faulty electric panels and correcting code deficiencies with prior panel placement. Chimney and roof work has corrected prior water intrusion. Millicent Library has separately paid over $250,000 for capital projects in the past five years, and will pay for the heating system replacement, which integrates with the HVAC engineering design that has been completed.

The HVAC project will add ventilation with temperature and humidity control:

- Reduced heat and humidity would reduce damage that is occurring to paintings, historic documents, stenciled wall painting, and plaster
- The controls would allow the library to remain open and as a community respite during the hottest summer days, an improvement over our shut-down history, when the building closes as OSHA thresholds are exceeded.
- HVAC would also add more healthy fresh air, required during COVID and current commercial building requirements.

Important factors for consideration:

- Though the building is owned by the town, the municipality has not funded any capital projects or improvements for the building since 1968
- The town pays for Millicent Library operating costs under a 1966 legal agreement when the library sold the Fairhaven Water Company to the town. The town payment replaces

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our benefactor's gift of his privately owned water company; he intended Millicent Library to be financially independent from the town.

- His deed gave the building to the town with restrictions. The library is run by a separate nonprofit, The Millicent Library Corporation.
- Millicent Library received no ARPA funds

Considering that this could be the first CPC bond for Fairhaven, we anticipate that there may be new issues, and we will be supportive and understanding when working with CPC. We suggest a 12-year bond that would have an annual impact of less than $146,000.

We request that the estimated cost for bond financing be included with the bond total.

We appreciate having support from CPC funds that have helped our beautiful historic building survive as an important benefit to our community.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lopes

Kathy Lopes, President

Robert A. Kenworthy

Robert A. Kenworthy, Treasurer

Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee FY28

LETTER OF INTEREST - *Optional*

The CPC will be accepting **Letters of Interest** from parties who want feedback before submitting a final application. A Letter of Interest should include enough information to introduce your proposal to the Committee so that it can determine the project's eligibility and offer guidance on what the CPC will be looking for and requiring in a final application and whether a professional consultant would be helpful. A Letter of Interest can help applicants avoid spending a lot of money on projects that cannot be funded or need much more detail. Please consult Chapter 6 of the Fairhaven Code or MGL Chapter 44B for the rules and regulations of the Community Preservation Act. You should also consult the webpage of the Community Preservation Coalition.

LETTER OF INTEREST FORM – FY28

Applicant: Millicent Library

Letter of Interest Submission Date: July 8, 2026

Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email

45 Center Street Fairhaven, MA 02719
508-992-5342
kdecicco-carey@SailsInc.Org

Purpose: (Please select all that apply)

- [ ] Open Space
- [ ] Community Housing
- [x] Historic Preservation
- [ ] Recreation

Project Name: Millicent Library Climate Control and Preservation Project

Project Location/Address: 45 Center Street Fairhaven, MA 02719

Town Committee or sponsoring organization:

Project Summary: In the space below, provide a concise summary of the project with enough detail for the Committee to understand what the project is, why it should be funded and why the project is important for Community Preservation.

Please see attached letter.

Please submit to the Planning & Economic Development Dept. in Town Hall by **August 28, 2026 by noon for** FY28.

Attachment B

Library Climate Control Project
Amortization Schedule
$1.748,000 @4.38% for 15 years

Year	Interest	Principal	Annual Payment	Ending Balance
1	$74,883	$84,298	$159,182	$1,663,702
2	$71,116	$88,065	$159,182	$1,575,637
3	$67,181	$92,001	$159,182	$1,483,636
4	$63,069	$96,113	$159,182	$1,387,523
5	$58,774	$100,408	$159,182	$1,287,115
6	$54,287	$104,895	$159,182	$1,182,220
7	$49,599	$109,583	$159,182	$1,072,637
8	$44,701	$114,480	$159,182	$958,157
9	$39,585	$119,596	$159,182	$838,561
10	$34,241	$124,941	$159,182	$713,620
11	$28,657	$130,525	$159,182	$583,095
12	$22,824	$136,358	$159,182	$446,738
13	$16,730	$142,452	$159,182	$304,286
14	$10,364	$148,818	$159,182	$155,468
15	$3,713	$155,468	$159,182	$0

	ACTUAL REVENUE 7/1/22 - 06/30/23	ACTUAL REVENUE 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	ACTUAL REVENUE 7/1/24 - 6/30/25	ACTUAL REVENUE 7/1/25 - 6/30/26	FY27 Estimate REVENUE FY27
SURCHARGES/TAX LIENS	$ 485,566	$ 519,230	$ 538,056	$ 572,633	$ 551,000
STATE MATCH REVENUE	$ 178,437	$ 102,996	$ 93,600	$ 91,349	$ 65,000
INTEREST AND FEES	$ 1,341	$ 1,599	$ 1,658	$ 860	$ -
	$ 665,344	$ 623,825	$ 633,314	$ 664,842	$ 616,000
EARNINGS ON INVEST	$ 11,451	$ 23,286	$ 26,222	$ 16,428	$ 20,000
TOTAL CPA REVENUE	$ 676,795	$ 647,111	$ 659,536	$ 681,270	$ 636,000

Community Presevation Committee
Summary of Expenditures
FY23-FY26

	7/1/23 - 6/30/24				
	Open Space	Historic Res.	Comm. Housing	Emergency	Unres. FB
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space, and its rehabilitation and restoration.	$75,000				
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Historic Resources		$75,000			
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Community Housing			$75,000		
Spending Appropriations					
Town Hall Repairs – Windows ($75k Est. Hist. & $125K Und. Bal.)		$75,000			$125,000
BPW – Matt. River Water Supply ($75k Est. O.S. & $10K Und. Bal.)	$75,000				$10,000
BBC - Salt Winds Conservation ($50K Estimated Receipts)	$50,000				
BPW – Livesey Skate Park ($150K Estimated Receipts)	$150,000				
BPW – Bike Path Resurfacing ($140,775 Undesignated Balance)	$140,775				
FHA – Dana Court Brick & Balcony ($75K Est. Housing)			$75,000		
Emergency Reserve Account - $150K to new Emergency Account (from existing Undesignated Balance)					
Lib. Re-allocate $114,230 FY20 Interior to FY22 Chimney Repairs					
Administrative Spending Appropriation					
To fund the Community Preservation Committee's annual expenses for: Personal Service; Purchase of Services; Supplies; Other charges/expenditures (Estimated Receipts)					$15,000
	$415,775	$75,000	$75,000	$0	$150,000

Community Presevation Committee
Summary of Expenditures
FY23-FY26

	7/1/24 - 6/30/25				
	Open Space	Historic Res.	Comm. Housing	Emergency	Unres. FB
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space, and its rehabilitation and restoration.	$ 70,000				
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Historic Re- sources		$ 70,000			
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Community Housing			$ 70,000		
Emergency Reserve Account				$ 20,000	
Spending Appropriations					
FHS – Boiler Room Roof Replacement ($92.7k Und. Bal.)		$ 92,700			
Lib. – Electrical Upgrades ($76k FB Reserve Historic & $309.7k Est. Receipts)		$ 385,700			
Town Hall Repairs – Stairs and Exterior Caulking ($30k Und. Bal.)		$ 30,000			
BBC – Carvalho Woods Conservation Project ($110k Und. Bal.)	$ 110,000				
BPW – Phoenix Rail Trail Handicapped Accessible Tables ($5k Est. Receipts)	$ 5,000				
BPW – Macomber Park BMX Track ($201k Und. Bal. & $76k FB Res. OS)	$ 277,000				
Cushman Park Pathways (19k Und. Bal.)	$ 19,000				
FHA – Anthony Haven Window Replacement ($100k FB Res. Comm. Housing)			$ 100,000		
Town Hall Repairs - East Retaining Wall ($150k Emergency Reserve)					$ 150,000
Administrative Spending Appropriation					$ 13,400
Community Preservation Committee's annual expenses for: Personal Service; Purchase of Services; Supplies;					
	$ 411,000	$ 508,400	$ 100,000	$ -	$ 163,400

Community Presevation Committee
Summary of Expenditures
FY23-FY26

	7/1/25 - 6/30/26				
	Open Space	Historic Res.	Comm. Housing	Emergency	Unres. FB
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space,	$ 70,000				
and its rehabilitation and restoration. (OS/R or OS or R) Estimated Receipts					
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Historic Resources (H) Estimated Receipts		$ 70,000			
Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Community Housing (CH) Estimated Receipts			$ 70,000		
Emergency Reserve Account Estimated Receipts				$ 100,000	
Spending Appropriations					
FHA – Academy Building Repairs (H) ($103,137 from existing Hist. Reserve Bal. and $2,563 from the existing Unres		$ 103,137			$ 2,563
Millicent Library - HVAC Engineering and Design Project (H) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.		$ 115,000			
FHS - Window Preservation, Phase 7 (H) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.		$ 90,360			
WMFS - Cultural Center Phase 4 (H) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.		$ 25,660			
Tennis/Pickleball - Cushman Park Court Repair (R) ($70,594 from existing Open Sp. Bal. Reserve and	$ 70,594				$ 29,406
BPW – Park Equipment (OS/R) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.	$ 30,000				
BPW – Park Assessment (OS/R) Unreserved Undesignated Bal.	$ 50,000				
FHA – Ash Street Windows (CH) Existing Community Housing Reserve Bal.			$ 100,000		
Administrative Spending Appropriation					
To fund the Community Preservation Committee's annual expenses for:					$ 10,000
Personal Service; Purchase of Services; Supplies;					
Other charges/expenditures (Estimated Receipts)	$ 150,594	$ 334,157	$ 100,000	$ -	$ 41,969

Attachment C

Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts
40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA · 02719

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board

Date: July 13, 2026

Re: Cultural Council membership and terms per MGL c. 10 §58 (attached)

The Chair of the Cultural Council referenced the potential for up to 22 members of the Council per MGL c. 10 §58 (attached to this memo) in reference to the appointment requests on the agenda this evening.

The office is unaware of the basis for the establishment of the Cultural Council at 9 members. Should the Select Board increase the membership limit, the office will update the list accordingly.

Thank you.

Part I ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

Title II EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Chapter 10 DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE TREASURER

Section 58 LOCAL AND REGIONAL CULTURAL COUNCILS

Section 58. Any city or town may establish a local cultural council and any consortium of cities and towns, with the approval of the council, may establish a regional cultural council. Local cultural councils shall consist of at least five and not more than twenty-two members to be appointed by the mayor of a city, the city manager in a city having a Plan D or E form of government, the board of selectmen of a town or the executive officer in a town having a town council form of government.

Regional cultural councils shall consist of an equal number of members to be appointed from each city or town within the consortium in the manner herein described. The regional cultural council may adopt, at its option, a proportional membership consistent with the population of each municipality; provided, however, that each municipality shall have at least one member; and provided, further, that the adoption of such option shall be by a two-thirds vote of the regional cultural council. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, if the council deems it necessary or desirable in order to carry out the purposes of this section and sections fifty-six and fifty-seven, the council may certify for payment in accordance with the provisions of section fifty-six those applications for funds received from any local or regional cultural councils whose composition is determined by the council as not complying with the provisions of this section, provided that upon notice of such noncompliance, such local or regional cultural council, or its appointing authority, as the case may be, either cures such noncompliance or provides certification satisfactory to the council of how and by when such compliance will be achieved.

Members of the local and regional cultural council shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years and any such member shall not be appointed to more than two consecutive terms. Members shall have demonstrated scholarship or creativity in, or distinguished service to, the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences.

Upon a vacancy, for any reason, the member's successor, if any, shall be appointed for a term of three years, and shall serve until the qualification of such member's successor. The mayor of a city, the city manager in a city having a Plan D or E form of government, the board of selectmen of a town or the executive officer in a town having a town council form of government shall not serve as members. Members shall be considered to be special municipal employees for the purposes of chapter two hundred and sixty-eight A. For purposes of chapter two hundred and sixty-eight A, any local or regional cultural council member who is authorized thereby to make disclosure to such member's city or town clerk or appointing authority, or to request a determination from such member's appointing authority, or to seek approval from the local legislative body may in lieu thereof, disclose to, or seek such approval from the council, and the council is authorized to receive such disclosure and approve such exemptions. Local and regional cultural council members shall be classified as officers for purposes of section thirteen of chapter two hundred and fifty-eight. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties. Local and regional cultural councils shall annually elect a chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Local and regional cultural councils may establish administrative units, but no such cultural council shall utilize more than five percent of the monies received from the State Arts Lottery Fund for administrative purposes, including member expenses.

Subject to rules, regulations, rulings or guidelines of the council, such local or regional cultural councils may decide the distribution of arts lottery funds or other funds that may be allocable to them, may also conduct other activities to promote and encourage the arts, may enter into contracts, subject to approval of town counsel or city solicitor as to form, and may do and perform any and all acts which may be necessary or desirable to carry out such powers and the purposes of sections fifty-six to fifty-eight, inclusive. Nothing in the provisions of section twenty-seven of chapter ten shall prevent a local or regional cultural council or an arts organization, or their agents or employees, from encouraging the sale of lottery tickets for the arts nor from being licensed as agents to sell lottery tickets for the arts. Notwithstanding the provisions of section fifty-three A of chapter forty-four, local and regional cultural councils may accept grants, contributions, gifts, bequests, devises, and other donations from all sources, including governmental bodies and shall deposit such monies and any other revenues, including revenues derived from local or regional cultural councils activities, in the revolving fund established under the provisions of this section. Funds received from sources other than the arts lottery fund may be disbursed at the discretion of the local or regional cultural council for the same purposes as arts lottery funds, including administrative expenses, provided, however, that the council may by rule, regulation, ruling or guideline establish further clarification of such purposes as well as procedures to assure that such funds are so used.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section fifty-three of chapter forty-four, any city, town or consortium of cities and towns otherwise pursuant to the provisions of section four A of chapter forty, shall establish in the city or town treasury, or in one of the cities or towns in the consortium a revolving account which shall be kept separate and apart from all other monies by the treasurer and in which shall be deposited all receipts from the state arts lottery fund, distributed under the provisions of section fifty-six, and any other receipts or donations to the local or regional cultural council authorized by law. A treasurer of a city, town or regional consortium as custodian may invest such portion of cash as deemed not required until such funds are to be expended and in such investments as are authorized under the provisions of section fifty-five of chapter forty-four. All such funds, including interest earned thereon, may be expended at the direction of the local or regional cultural council, without further appropriation, and such council may establish a subcommittee of no less than two members and may delegate thereto its authority to approve all payrolls, bills, requests for payment, or accounts prior to submission to the accountant, auditor or official performing similar functions; provided, however, that such subcommittee shall make available to such council at its next meeting, a record of such actions of such subcommittee; and provided further, however, that such funds as shall not have been expended twelve months after receipt shall be segregated and subject to further appropriation by the mayor, city council, city manager, board of selectmen or town manager for the purposes provided in sections fifty-six to fifty-eight inclusive. The city auditor, town accountant, or officer having similar duties, shall submit annually a report of said, revolving fund to the mayor, city council, city manager, board of selectmen, or town manager for their review and a copy of said report shall be submitted to the director of the bureau of accounts and the council.

Attachment D

ORIGINAL CHARGE AS OF 06-23-25 SELECT BOARD VOTE

Atlas Tack Working Group

The charge of the group and what to accomplish:

First:
Designate a working group member or that person's designee, to obtain for the working group all public documents currently available for review. If needed arrange to speak with appropriate town departments or personnel in matters related to the Atlas Tack property and superfund site either as the designated member or with the working group as a whole.

Second:
As part of the review, to communicate with all appropriate government agencies or non-governmental agencies involved in the atlas tack property and superfund site. Review and provide information on all matters deemed related to the Atlas Tack property. The working group in addition will seek information and ways on to how to best coordinate efforts of the various agencies to work with the town. Once the information has been gathered, compile a current past, present and, if feasible, a future assessment sheets on the atlas tack property.

Third:
Present a final report to the Select Board with recommendations on the next course of action to address the Atlas Tack property.

The working group will consist of appointed members of the community and will continue on as long as the Select Board shall deem and not automatically disband.

The Atlas Tack Work Group does not have any authority to make, promise or sign any document which would bind the town of Fairhaven to any agreements whether verbal or written.

REQUESTED REVISED CHARGE 10-09-25

Atlas Tack Working Group

The charge of the group and what to accomplish:

First:
Designate a working group member or that person's designee, to obtain for the working group all public documents currently available for review. If needed arrange to speak with appropriate town departments or personnel in matters related to the Atlas Tack property and superfund site either as the designated member or with the working group as a whole.

Second:
As part of the review, to communicate with all appropriate government agencies or non-governmental agencies involved in the atlas tack property and superfund site. Review and provide information on all matters deemed related to the Atlas Tack property. The working group in addition will seek information and ways on to how to best coordinate efforts of the various agencies to work with the town. Once the information has been gathered, compile a current past, present and, if feasible, a future assessment sheets on the atlas tack property.

Third:
Present a final report to the Select Board and Town Administrator ~~with recommendations~~ to decide on the next course of action to address the Atlas Tack property.

The working group will consist of appointed members of the community and will continue on as long as the Select Board shall deem and not automatically disband.

The Atlas Tack Work Group does not have any authority to make, promise or sign any document which would bind the town of Fairhaven to any agreements whether verbal or written.

Attachment E

Re: FW: Alternative recomendation to Public Saftey complex
1 message

Rick Trapilo <rtrapilo@fairhaven-ma.gov> Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 1:53 PM
To: Todd Correia <tcorreia@fairhaven-ma.gov>
Cc: khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Daniel Dorgan <daniel.dorgan@fairhavenpolice.org>, Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>

- Dear Chief Correia,

Thank you for your detailed response and for the considerable time and effort you and the Public Safety Complex Committee have devoted to advancing this important initiative. I appreciate your commitment to improving facilities for our Police and Fire Departments, and I fully agree that our first responders deserve safe, modern, and functional facilities.

Where we differ is not on the need for improved public safety facilities, but on the process by which the Town should proceed.

The 2018 Capital Planning Study identified deficiencies in numerous municipal facilities and established capital priorities. However, it was not intended to serve as a comprehensive public safety needs assessment or programming study that defines the specific operational, functional, and space requirements necessary to guide a project of this magnitude. These are two distinctly different planning exercises.

My concern is that the Committee is effectively beginning with the question, "Where should we build?" before first answering the more fundamental question, "What exactly does Fairhaven need?"

Without a professionally prepared needs assessment, the Town cannot objectively determine:

  - Whether existing Town-owned properties can be renovated, expanded, or repurposed.
  - Whether existing municipal buildings should be modernized rather than replaced.
- Whether a combined Public Safety Complex or separate Police and Fire facilities represents the most effective long-term solution.
- The actual space, operational, and future growth requirements of each department.
- The life-cycle costs and long-term value of renovation versus new construction.

Only after these questions have been answered can the Town responsibly determine whether acquiring privately owned property is even necessary.

For that reason, I respectfully disagree with the conclusion that retaining architects or planners before selecting a site would not be a prudent use of taxpayer funds. In virtually every successful municipal capital project, professional programming and needs assessments occur before site selection because the facility requirements define what characteristics a site must possess—not the other way around.

Beginning with an RFP for privately owned property risks allowing available parcels to influence the project rather than allowing the community's documented needs to drive the site selection process.

I also believe the Committee should complete a comprehensive evaluation of every viable Town-owned property before considering the acquisition of private land or buildings. Taxpayers should have confidence that all publicly owned assets have been objectively evaluated before additional public funds are spent pursuing private property.

Equally important, I respectfully disagree that the Committee's recommended approach adequately reflects the Town's current financial reality.

While your letter acknowledges that Fairhaven faces financial challenges, it does not fully consider the projected structural budget shortfalls anticipated over at least the next three fiscal years. Those projections indicate the Town will likely face increasingly difficult decisions regarding operating budgets, capital investments, and future debt obligations.

As members of the Select Board, we have a fiduciary responsibility to evaluate every major capital project within the context of the Town's overall financial condition. The issue is not whether new public safety facilities are needed, they clearly are but whether we are proceeding in the most fiscally responsible manner given the financial challenges that lie ahead.

This is precisely why I believe a comprehensive professional needs assessment should be the first step. Spending a relatively modest amount today to clearly define the Town's requirements and objectively evaluate all available Town-owned properties could prevent costly mistakes later in a project that will likely require a multi-million-dollar investment. Once a site is selected or land is acquired, changing direction becomes significantly more difficult and expensive.

This approach is not intended to delay the project. It is intended to reduce risk, improve decision-making, and ensure that taxpayers receive the greatest possible value from what will be one of the largest capital investments in our Town's history.

Finally, I am concerned that the Committee's recommendations place considerable emphasis on advancing the project without first integrating the Town's long-range financial forecast into its decision-making process. Fairhaven is confronting projected budget shortfalls over the next several years while simultaneously facing numerous competing capital needs. Under those circumstances, every significant capital expenditure should follow a disciplined, evidence-based planning process.

I remain fully committed to working collaboratively with you, the Committee, and my colleagues on the Select Board to provide our Police Officers and Firefighters with facilities that meet their needs for decades to come. My position is simply that we owe our residents a process that is transparent, strategically planned, fiscally responsible, and driven by documented needs rather than assumptions. By first defining the project, evaluating all Town-owned assets, and considering the Town's long-term financial capacity, we will place Fairhaven in the strongest possible position to make a sound decision that serves both our public safety personnel and our taxpayers.

Respectfully,

Richard F. Trapilo

On Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 8:55 AM Todd Correia <tcorreia@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

> Good Morning,
>
> Thank you for your email and for your continued interest in the future of public safety facilities within the Town of Fairhaven.
>
> Respectfully, I disagree with the assessment that additional preliminary studies should be undertaken before moving forward with the work of the Public Safety Complex Committee. The Town has already invested significant resources into evaluating its municipal facilities. In 2018, Fairhaven retained an architectural and engineering firm to conduct a comprehensive review of the Town's buildings and infrastructure needs as part of a long-term capital planning initiative. That study included detailed assessments of municipal facilities and prioritized the Town's capital needs.
>
> The findings of that report are consistent with what current and former Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs have communicated to Town leadership for many years: our public safety facilities are inadequate for current operations and future growth. Commissioning another study to reaffirm conclusions that have already been documented will only delay

the improvements that are urgently needed and will likely produce the same results at additional expense to the taxpayers.

At its meeting held on Friday, July 10, 2026, at 4:00 PM, the Public Safety Complex Committee unanimously voted to rescind its previous recommendation from June 2, 2026, and adopt the following recommendations for consideration by the Selectboard:

1. Recommend that the Selectboard authorize the Town Administrator to prepare, issue, and administer a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purpose of identifying and evaluating real property located within the Town of Fairhaven that may be suitable for the development and construction of a new police station for the Fairhaven Police Department.

   Further, recommend that the Selectboard authorize the Town Administrator to expend up to Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00), previously appropriated by the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting, for costs associated with legal review, due diligence, negotiations, and other professional services related to the evaluation and potential acquisition of any real property identified through the RFP process.

2. Recommend that the Selectboard authorize the Town Administrator to expend up to Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00), previously appropriated by the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting, for the preparation and issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) and/or Request for Qualifications (RFQ), as well as for associated legal, procurement, and professional services necessary to procure architectural and engineering services for public safety facilities.

The Committee's decision to pursue another property solicitation process was based on transparency, fairness, and sound public procurement practices. While the Committee has previously reviewed potential sites, both the Town Administration and the public safety leadership agreed that issuing a new RFP would ensure that all viable properties and interested parties are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in the process.

Likewise, retaining architectural and engineering services at the appropriate time will provide the Committee with the expertise necessary to objectively evaluate proposals, determine site feasibility, and assess existing municipal buildings should the Committee request such analysis. However, hiring an architect or engineer before a site has been identified would not represent a prudent use of taxpayer funds.

The Police Chief and I fully understand the Town's financial challenges and recognize the difficult decisions facing municipal leaders. However, the public safety infrastructure needs of Fairhaven have gone largely unaddressed for more than two decades. Existing space within our public safety facilities has been exhausted, and conditions within portions of the Police Department are approaching unacceptable and, in some cases, unhealthy working environments for our personnel.

Continuing to defer these decisions through additional studies risks further delays and increases the likelihood that the Town will eventually be forced into temporary and costly solutions, such as operating police services from modular trailers or other interim facilities.

The Public Safety Complex Committee was established to provide transparency, public engagement, and informed recommendations to the Selectboard and the community. I remain confident that if this process is conducted thoughtfully and strategically, the timing of future debt obligations associated with the East Fairhaven School coming off the tax rolls, along with the anticipated retirement of debt associated with the Wood School in the coming years, could allow the Town to address both public safety projects with minimal impact to the taxpayer.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to the residents and public safety personnel of Fairhaven.

Respectfully,

Todd Correia
Fire Chief
Chairperson, Public Safety Complex Committee

Daniel Dorgan
Police Chief
Vice Chairperson, Public Safety Complex Committee

On Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 8:02 AM <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

I am forwarding the email below from Board member Trapilo at his request.

Keith

Keith R. Hickey, Town Administrator

Town of Fairhaven, MA 02719

khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

508 979-4107

From: Rick Trapilo <rtrapilo@fairhaven-ma.gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 6:51 PM
To: Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>
Cc: Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>
Subject: Alternative recomendation to Public Saftey complex

Dear Mr. Hickey,

After watching Friday night's Public Safety Committee meeting and the discussion surrounding the proposed Police and Fire Headquarters project, I would like to offer what I believe is a more prudent and fiscally responsible path forward.

I fully support the goal of providing our Police and Fire Departments with modern, functional facilities that meet the needs of our public safety professionals and the residents they serve. However, I have concerns with the current planning process. Proceeding toward a specific facility solution before completing a comprehensive professional needs assessment places the Town at risk of making a significant long-term investment without first establishing the project's fundamental operational requirements.

Rather than allocating the approved $50,000 toward issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a particular facility option, I believe those funds would be better invested in issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify and retain a qualified architectural and public safety planning firm. That firm should conduct an independent needs assessment to define the current and projected operational requirements of both the Police and Fire Departments over the next 30 years. The assessment should evaluate staffing projections, service demands, operational workflows, equipment requirements, building deficiencies, and future community growth.

Only after those needs have been objectively identified should the Town evaluate potential sites and determine the most effective and financially responsible solution.

Given the Town's projected budget deficits, I believe we have a fiduciary responsibility to first evaluate the feasibility of utilizing existing municipal assets. This analysis should begin with the current Police and Fire Headquarters sites, followed by other Town-owned buildings and properties. Maximizing the use of existing municipal assets has the potential to substantially reduce project costs and long-term financial obligations. This financial reality should be one of the guiding principles of the planning process.

My concern is further reinforced by the financial implications of the Citizens Bank property that have been discussed publicly. Based on the information presented to date, a lease estimated at approximately $22 per square foot annually, combined with significant tenant improvement and build-out costs, could result in annual occupancy costs approaching $400,000 for the Police Department alone. Those costs would still leave the Town with the future obligation of addressing the Fire Department's facility needs. From both a fiscal and strategic perspective, I believe the Town should first determine whether more cost-effective alternatives exist before committing to a long-term lease obligation.

As members of the Select Board, we have an obligation to ensure that any investment of this magnitude is guided by sound planning, objective analysis, fiscal responsibility, and a transparent decision-making process. The decisions we make today will shape the Town's financial position and public safety infrastructure for decades.

For that reason, I respectfully recommend that the Town suspend any site-specific procurement activities until a professional needs assessment has been completed and reviewed by the Select Board, Public Safety Committee, Police Department, Fire Department, and the public. This approach will ensure that any future decision is based on documented operational requirements rather than assumptions or predetermined outcomes.

I respectfully request that you forward this email to the Police Chief, Fire Chief, members of the Select Board, and the Public Safety Committee. I would also welcome the opportunity to discuss this alternative approach with all parties. I believe there is still time to establish a planning process that is comprehensive, data-driven, fiscally responsible, and ultimately in the best interests of the Town of Fairhaven and its residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Richard F. Trapilo
Member, Fairhaven Select Board

Proposed Fairhaven Budget Task Force

Purpose

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall be a temporary advisory committee appointed by the Select Board to review municipal operations and identify opportunities to strengthen long-term financial sustainability while maintaining the high-quality services residents expect. **The group is designed in supporting the Town Administrator, department heads, and employees.**

What should the group produce?

Each recommendation should be put into a simple scoring system.

Recommendation scorecard

For every idea, the Fairhaven Budget Task Force should report:

1. **Estimated annual savings**
2. **One-time implementation cost**
3. **Effect on service quality**
4. **Effect on public safety**
5. **Effect on employees**
6. **Legal or union issues**
7. **Town Meeting approval needed?**
8. **School Committee approval needed?**
9. **Time to implement**
10. **Risk level**
11. **Public acceptance**
12. **Recommended action**

Example categories:

Category	Meaning
Green	Easy savings, low risk
Yellow	Worth studying, some tradeoffs
Red	Not recommended
Blue	Needs Town Meeting, union, or state action

Scope and Responsibilities

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall work in a collaborative and respectful manner with town departments, school officials, employees, boards, committees, and residents. Its purpose is not to reduce services or interfere with day-to-day operations, but rather to provide constructive recommendations to the Select Board and Town Administrator that support both taxpayers and the employees who deliver essential public services.

Guiding Principles

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall:

- Protect essential town and school services
- Respect employees and departmental expertise
- Promote transparency and public engagement
- Seek efficiencies before seeking additional taxpayer burden
- Explore regional partnerships and shared services where beneficial
- Encourage innovation and continuous improvement
- Support long-term fiscal sustainability
- Base recommendations on facts, data, and community needs

Membership and Organization

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Select Board, including:

I would recommend seven **(7) voting members**, plus non-voting liaisons.
Seven (7) is large enough to have expertise, but small enough to actually work.

Voting members

1. Finance Committee Chair or designated Finance Committee person, if the Chair is unable.
2. One resident with CPA, accountant, auditor, CFO, or budget professional knowledge
3. One resident business owner or operations manager
4. One resident with public safety experience, such as retired police, fire, EMS.
5. One resident with education, school finance, or school administration experience
6. One resident with procurement, construction, facilities, engineering, or public works experience
7. One resident IT professional.

Non-voting liaisons

These people should participate but not control the group:

- Town Administrator or designee
- Select Board liaison

The Town Administrator or their designee may serve as a non-voting staff liaison to support the Committee's work.

This gives the group credibility without making it look like town insiders are reviewing themselves.

Who should not serve?

To keep public trust, the Fairhaven Budget Task Force should avoid appointing people who have direct conflicts.

That means no current town department heads, no current union representatives negotiating with the town, no active vendors, no immediate family members of senior town officials, and no one currently bidding on town work.

Town employees could still provide information and attend meetings, but the voting members should be independent.

Scope and Responsibilities

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall work in a collaborative and respectful manner with town departments, school officials, employees, boards, committees, and residents. Its purpose is not to reduce services or interfere with day-to-day operations, but rather to provide constructive recommendations that support both taxpayers and the employees who deliver essential public services.

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the:

- Select Board
- Town Administrator

Advisory Role and Limitations

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall serve solely in an advisory capacity and shall not:

- Direct employees
- Negotiate contracts
- Participate in personnel matters
- Engage in collective bargaining activities

Suggested official charge for the committee

The Fairhaven Budget Task Force shall be a temporary advisory task force appointed by the Select Board for the purpose of reviewing municipal and school-related cost drivers, identifying opportunities for operational savings, improved service delivery, regionalization, shared services, outsourcing where appropriate, revenue enhancement, asset management, and long-term fiscal sustainability. **Protect services. Respect employees. Defend taxpayers. Modernize town government.**

Attachment G

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee of Fairhaven is dedicated to overseeing the town's financial health and ensuring responsible budgeting, fiscal planning, and resource allocation. Comprised of local leaders and community members, the committee works closely with town departments to review budgets, propose financial strategies, and make recommendations that align with the best interests of Fairhaven residents. Their mission is to maintain transparency, promote fiscal sustainability, and support the town's growth and development through sound financial decision-making. Through their efforts, the Finance Committee helps ensure that Fairhaven remains a thriving, well-managed community for years to come.

Attachment H

Town of Fairhaven
Report of the Town Administrator
June 13, 2026

Financial Updates

- I spoke to Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine last week about Fairhaven's interest in spearheading a regional effort to lobby the State House of Representatives and Senate to provide additional state funding to municipalities beginning in FY28. Mr. Chapdelaine indicated that lobbying the state for additional funds remains at the top of their priority list. The MMA Board will be holding their goal setting session in October in preparation for FY28 topics. Mr. Chapdelaine also suggested reaching out to communities to inform them of Fairhaven's intentions and seek their support in the effort.
- Anne Carreiro and I have met with the Town energy consultant who is applying for a solar grant to place a solar canopy over the COA/Recreation Department parking lot as well as a solar array on the building room once the replacement of the roof is complete later this year. The consultant will also be setting a meeting with Fairhaven Wind about their lack of power generation over the recent past. I will report back to the Board when I have new information to share.
- The Accounting Department is in the process of closing the FY26 fiscal year. Department transfers were finalized last week. Preliminary year end results will be known sometime in August.
- Anne Carreiro and I met with Board member Trapilo on June 8th to review preliminary three-year financial projections. A final draft is expected to be presented at the July 27th Board meeting.

Project Updates

- The retaining wall project is well underway. The contractor has completed the excavation of the east wall and has begun excavation of the west wall. The project is anticipated to be completed in August.

Personnel Update

- The Unfair Labor Practice filed against the Fire union will be heard on Thursday morning, July 16th.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Council on Aging Director Martha Reed applied for three Field Demonstration Grants from the Mass Councils on Aging. Mr. Reed was notified last week the COA received two grants contingent on the state budget being signed. The COA will receive $14,962 for Senior Center Modernization, which will refresh and refurbish the lobby and reception area, purchase a new sound system and a new TouchView smart board, and upgrade the COA logo. The COA was also approved for a part-time outreach case manager who will be able to assume some of the Director's caseload allowing Ms. Reed to provide more services to seniors in the area.
-

Dear Mr. Audet and Mr. Shaheen,

I am writing to you in a different capacity than in our previous communications, now as an elected member of the Fairhaven Select Board, regarding another significant environmental issue that directly impacts the residents of Fairhaven, the greater New Bedford Harbor region, and Buzzards Bay.

The City of New Bedford's antiquated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) system continues to discharge an estimated 600 to 800 million gallons of untreated wastewater annually into the inner and outer harbor and the waters we share throughout Buzzards Bay. During significant rainfall events, millions of gallons of raw sewage and stormwater are released into our coastal waters, resulting in recurring shellfish bed closures and raising serious concerns regarding public health, environmental protection, and the long-term sustainability of our marine resources.

As a lifelong supporter of environmental stewardship and now as a Fairhaven Select Board member, I find New Bedford's continued failure to develop and aggressively pursue a comprehensive plan and funding strategy to address this issue deeply concerning. It is particularly frustrating as a Fairhaven resident and taxpayer, given that our community is investing approximately $72 million to comply with EPA-mandated nitrogen reduction requirements. Fairhaven's taxpayers are making a substantial financial commitment to environmental responsibility, and I believe all communities sharing these waters should be held to a similar standard.

Over the past several years, I have personally visited the Narragansett Bay Commission facilities in Providence and Pawtucket and reviewed the successful implementation of large-scale CSO mitigation systems, including underground storage facilities designed to capture excess flows during storm events. I have also observed similar solutions in Fall River. These projects demonstrate that effective and proven solutions exist. Furthermore, the remarkable recovery of Boston Harbor serves as a national example of what can be accomplished when communities commit to long-term environmental investment and accountability.

In contrast, from the numerous meetings and discussions I have participated in over the past four years regarding New Bedford Harbor water quality, I have seen little evidence of the urgency necessary to address this ongoing environmental challenge. While the complexity and cost of such projects are understood, continued delay only prolongs the environmental damage and economic impacts borne by neighboring communities.

Accordingly, I respectfully request your guidance on the following questions:

1. Does the EPA possess the authority to require the City of New Bedford to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to significantly reduce or eliminate CSO discharges into New Bedford – Fairhaven Harbor and Buzzards Bay?
2. Can the EPA require New Bedford to pursue available federal and state funding opportunities to support such infrastructure improvements?
3. If a direct EPA mandate is not feasible, what course of action would you recommend for affected municipalities, elected officials, and citizens seeking a meaningful solution on this issue?

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and would be pleased to provide additional information or meet with you personally at your convenience.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to protecting the environmental health of our region.

Respectfully,

Richard F. Trapilo
Member, Fairhaven Select Board

PS: effective July 7th second shellfish closure , 63 million gallons of untreated waste , dumped in just 5 weeks from New Bedford CSO design