FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2026

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

Not Present: Natalie A. Mello

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

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Nancy A. Perry and Stephen C. Bender and for their families, friends, and all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one in our thoughts during this difficult time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eleanor Chew of Main Street addressed the Board on behalf of the Historical Commission to follow-up to their presentation about the Rogers School Bell, the Commission has decided not to take further action on the use of the bell at Town events or parades due to the cost.

Ms. Chew also addressed the Board as a resident, not on behalf of the Commission, about the appointment and reappointment process that has been postponed five times, she said there should be more communication and that the "two board" rule is not approved yet and should not be considered until it is.

Michelle Costen of Spring Street addressed the Board to propose a strategic shift in how CPA funds are allocated and in light of the Road to Home Act. Ms. Costen proposed allocating the majority of the CPA over 10% overflow funds to establish a new home-building initiative for purchasing land for those initiatives. Ms. Costen referred to discussion from the previous meeting about using CPA funds for air conditioning at the library and said many cannot afford air conditioning and people are more important than books.

Consider Retention or Sale of Real Property After Tax Foreclosure per MGL c. 60 §64A: French Avenue, Assessor's Parcel 27-230, 231; Harding Road - Parcel 20-161; and 5 Newbury Ave - Parcels 19-135 through 139

Treasurer/Collector Carla Mourao addressed the Board regarding the sale or retention of the three foreclosure properties. Discussion ensued with the Board about the properties, court status, which courts they were heard in, whether they were litigated or received a default judgement, overall process and timelines for any next steps.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned under M.G.L. c 60, s. 64A(c), to hereby move for the Town of Fairhaven sell the property located on French Avenue, Assessors' Parcel 27-230 & 231, and it be acquired by the Town upon the issuance of a foreclosure judgment by the Land Court in docket no. 17 TL 001535. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned under M.G.L. c 60, s. 64A(c), to hereby move that the Town of Fairhaven sell the property located on Harding Road, Assessors' Parcel 20-161, and it be acquired by the Town as a result of a foreclosure judgment by the Land Court on June 5, 2026 in docket no. 18 TL 000173. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned under M.G.L. c 60, s. 64A(c), to hereby move that the Town of Fairhaven sell the property located on 5 Newbury Avenue, Assessors' Parcel 19-135 through 139, and it be acquired by the Town upon the issuance of a foreclosure judgment by the Land Court in docket no. 18 TL 000174. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Mr. Romano added that the Board receives packets ahead of time and for this item he reviewed whether real estate agents on the Board would have conflicts with this item and none exist at this time; if a conflict arises, he and/or Mr. Trapilo would file the appropriate paperwork with the Town Clerk's Office.

Presentation of Revised Five-Year Financial Forecast

Mr. Hickey and Ms. Carreiro reviewed the Financial Plan and advised the Board that the presentation was updated from the original packets and has also been placed online (***Attachment A***). This presentation is an early projection and the figures are expected to change. The Board asked for a presentation from the Town's audit firm at a future meeting.

Discussion included: clarification of levy limit calculations, the debt exclusion schedule, definition of non-departmental costs, the constraints of Proposition 2 ½, the impacts to towns, room tax revenue and revisiting the Town's letters for support to increase local aid in the fall. Revenue from the wind turbines and Acushnet students will be monitored.

Mr. Hickey and Ms. Carreiro advised the Board of several initiatives taking place including promoting 40R development opportunities, energy revenue and exploring regional efforts with New Bedford and surrounding communities to identify areas to share resources. Departments are pursuing revenue sources like short-term rental registration and oversight. Mr. Hickey thanked Ms. Carreiro for leading the team effort to identify alternate sources of generating revenue. Departments will be reviewing fees to align with comparable municipalities and within statutory guidelines; any revisions will be brought to the Board for review.

Discussion continued regarding municipal finance challenges, revenue and spending issues and other ways to use a wage reserve account for salaries in preparation for collective bargaining negotiations. Debate on whether the Town has a spending problem ensued, some disagreed with the characterization and Mr. Trapilo proposed implementing an immediate wage freeze, hiring freeze and postponing capital expenditures approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Trapilo asked for a three-year review of the number of employees. Mr. Hickey advised the Board that about ninety-five percent of employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements and that the School Committee has authority over their budget. Ms. Kuechler suggested joint meetings with the School and Finance Committees to brainstorm and collaborate on ideas.

Presentation of Revisions to the Atlas Tack Working Group Charge

Mr. Romano referred to an email from Mr. Hickey summarizing the EPA's response to request for additional testing (***Attachment B***). Ken Blanchard addressed the Board about the Atlas Tack Working Group's (ATWG) updated charge (***Attachment C***), past EPA test results and requests for additional testing due to the age of the building. The revised charge reflects the work to make the property viable again. Discussion ensued about the ATWG continuing their efforts to meet with the EPA to advocate for additional testing.

> **Motion**: Mr. Saunders motioned amend the Atlas Tack Working Group as presented. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Appointment Request: Board of Assessors: Diane Tomassetti

Diane Tomassetti addressed the Board about her interest and qualifications for the Board of Assessors. Mr. Hickey clarified that realtors can serve because the work is on all properties and if an abatement or other request for a single property could be a conflict, they can recuse themselves.

> **Motion**: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Diane Tomassetti to the Board of Assessors for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Mr. Saunders recused himself from the next item

Appointment Request: Public Safety Complex Committee: Patrick Carr

Patrick Carr addressed the Board via zoom regarding his interest and qualifications. Discussion ensued and the Board asked clarifying questions about the vacancy.

> **Motion**: Mr. Trapilo motioned to appoint Patrick Carr to the Public Safety Complex Committee for a term through completion. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed (2-1-1) Mr. Romano opposed, Mr. Saunders recused.

Appointment Request: Election Officers 2026-2027 Annual Term
The Board reviewed the request from the Town Clerk.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint the election officers as listed on page two of the agenda. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Special One-Day Beer and Wine License: The Lions Club: August 29, 2026, 5:00-9:00pm
The Board reviewed the application, this event is a fundraiser by the Lions Club and was also held last year.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve a special one-day beer and wine only license for The Lions Club event on August 29, 2026 from 5:00-9:00pm. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

Consider Adoption of MissionSquare Retirement Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust Option as a 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Option for Town Employees
Mr. Hickey asked the Board to adopt the option for this deferred compensation plan for employees, it is available in other towns and is a voluntary option for employees at no cost to the Town.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to adopt MissionSquare Retirement Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust Option as a 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Option for Town Employees. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Call Special Town Meeting for November 17, 2026 and Open the Warrant
Mr. Romano asked Mr. Hickey to clarify differences between Annual and Special Town meeting. Mr. Hickey advised that usually a fall town meeting is for zoning versus financial articles. There is currently one potential citizen's petition that may be submitted. There is an opportunity for the Special Bylaw Review Committee to present an article. If no articles are presented to have a Special Town Meeting, the Board would be notified.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to call a Special Town Meeting on November 17, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to open the warrant for Special Town Meeting on November 17, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Consider Draft Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding New Bedford Harbor Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Discharge
Mr. Trapilo addressed the Board about his draft letter. He has had conversations with Mayor Mitchell and the EPA without action. At the time the letter was written there was 63 million gallons of discharge and now it is up to 124 million gallons. Mr. Trapilo said SRPEDD is drafting a letter as well. Discussion ensued about the potential impacts on the relationship with the City of New Bedford and is there a potential to have Mr. Hickey engage with Mayor Mitchell and revisit the letter at a future meeting.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to table this item until August 10, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hickey reviewed his report (***Attachment D***)

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders and Ms. Kuechler had no reports

Mr. Trapilo:

- Mr. Trapilo reported he is on three SRPEDD committees: first about by-right lot reduction, next on their finance committee which is self-funded for operating expenses and also on their conservation where they are crafting a letter to New Bedford regarding closed shellfish beds. He was elected to their SMMPO organization.

Mr. Romano:

- The Library met and discussed future plans and fundraising efforts for their projects through grants, donations and a capital campaign. While touring the library he saw the damage to the facilities from the lack of a proper heating and cooling system.
- He referred to correspondence about funding the flock cameras (***Attachment E***). Chief Dorgan will present information at the next meeting.
- Mr. Romano will be starting office hours on August 10, 2026 at 4:30pm, the location in Town Hall is to be determined

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the open session minutes of July 13, 2026 as presented. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the executive session minutes of July 13, 2026 as presented. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Email: Michelle Costen: Ref: Select Board Meeting 7/13-Public Response; Appropriation Process of CPA funds-Ref 7/13 SB meeting; No More Debt, a Public Comment; New Homes and Housing law targets affordability- (***Attachment F***).

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, August 10, 2026** at 6:00pm

The Select Board adjourned at 8:30pm

ATTACHMENTS

A. Presentation of Revised Five-Year Financial Forecast
B. Update on EPA Discussion Regarding the Atlas Tack Property
C. Proposed Updated Atlas Tack Working Group Charge
D. Town Administrator Report
E. Correspondence regarding Flock Cameras
F. Correspondence: Email: Michelle Costen: Ref: Select Board Meeting 7/13-Public Response; Appropriation Process of CPA funds-Ref 7/13 SB meeting; No More Debt, a Public Comment; New Homes and Housing law targets affordability-

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

Accepted on August 24, 2026

Town of Fairhaven
Revised Financial Projections
For Fiscal Years 2028-2031

Annual Tax Levy Calculation

	ACTUAL		PROJECTIONS			
	FY26	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
REVENUE:						
Annual Tax Levy Calculation						
Prior Year Levy Limit	$34,476,372	$35,760,042	$37,056,511	$38,332,923	$39,641,246	$40,982,278
Amended FY Growth	$1,440	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Add FY - 2.5%	$861,945	$894,001	$926,413	$958,323	$991,031	$1,024,557
Add FY New Growth	$420,285	$402,468	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000
Add FY Override	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
FY Levy Limit	$35,760,042	$37,056,511	$38,332,923	$39,641,246	$40,982,278	$42,356,835
Add FY Debt Excl.	$715,775	$693,239	$492,845	$475,064	$461,615	$447,269
FY Maximum Allowable Annual Tax Levy	**$36,475,816**	**$37,749,749**	**$38,825,768**	**$40,116,311**	**$41,443,893**	**$42,804,104**

Historical State Revenues and Charges FY22-FY27

	ACTUAL		PROJECTIONS			
	FY26	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
REVENUE:						
State Aid	**Cherry Sheet Increase Based on 1.37% Historical Increase (FY25-FY27)**					
Cherry Sheet Receipts						
A (less Charges & Offset Items)	$12,903,718	$13,194,164	$13,374,924	$13,558,161	$13,743,907	$13,932,199
School Construction Aid	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
FY State Aid	**$12,903,718**	**$13,194,164**	**$13,374,924**	**$13,558,161**	**$13,743,907**	**$13,932,199**

FY27	FY28

FY28-FY31 Net Cherry Sheet Increase based on 1.37% increase annually.

Actual and Projected Local Revenues FY26-FY31

(Includes loss of $150K from turbines, includes $2.0 million from Acushnet tuition)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
REVENUE:						
Annual Local Receipts/Income	**Annual Revenue increase of .07427% less $150,000 revenue loss from wind turbines**					
Total Annual Local Receipts/Income	**$9,209,233**	**$9,277,630**	**$9,196,535**	**$9,264,838**	**$9,333,648**	**$9,402,969**
Indirect Charges-Enterprise Funds			**Annual Increase of 3%**			
Indirect Charges-Enterprise Funds	**$1,434,607**	**$1,481,498**	**$1,525,943**	**$1,571,721**	**$1,618,873**	**$1,667,439**
Other Available Funds:						
Gift-Animal Shelter	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000
Waterways Fund	$52,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000
Ambulance RR for Appropriation	$1,625,000	$1,683,580	$1,725,670	$1,768,811	$1,813,032	$1,858,357
Subdivision Mgt Fees	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Social Day-COA RR for Appropriation	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000
Wetlands Conservation	$7,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000
Other Available Funds	**$1,739,000**	**$1,799,580**	**$1,841,670**	**$1,884,811**	**$1,929,032**	**$1,974,357**
TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES	**$61,762,374**	**$63,502,621**	**$64,764,840**	**$66,395,841**	**$68,069,352**	**$69,781,068**

Historical Budget Comparison FY24-FY27

	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Total Increase FY24-FY27	Average Annual	Average Percentage
Salaries and Wages							
Town	$ 12,965,226	$ 13,510,071	$ 13,616,506	$ 13,400,132	$ 434,906	$ 108,727	0.81%
School	$ 18,500,245	$ 19,702,183	$ 19,840,064	$ 20,320,034	$ 1,819,789	$ 454,947	2.24%
Total Salaries and Wages	$ 31,465,471	$ 33,212,254	$ 33,456,570	$ 33,720,166	$ 2,254,695	$ 563,674	1.67%
Operating Costs							
Town	$7,674,474	$7,678,852	$7,285,368	$7,455,845	$ (218,629)	$ (54,657)	-0.73%
School	$7,885,396	$8,054,130	$8,780,064	$9,430,077	$ 1,544,681	$ 386,170	4.10%
Non Departmental	$10,911,560	$11,669,792	$12,240,672	$12,679,638	$ 1,768,078	$ 442,020	3.49%
Total Operating Costs	$26,471,430	$27,402,774	$28,306,104	$29,565,560	$ 3,094,130	$ 773,533	2.62%
Town	$ 31,551,260	$ 32,858,715	$32,442,546	$ 33,535,615	$ 1,984,355	$ 496,089	1.48%
School	$ 26,385,641	$ 27,756,313	$28,620,128	$ 29,750,111	$ 3,364,470	$ 841,118	2.83%
Total Budget	$ 57,936,901	$ 60,615,028	$61,762,374	$ 63,285,726	$ 5,348,825	$ 1,337,206	2.11%
				Increase from FY26 to FY27		**$ 1,523,352**	**2.47%**

Note:

The Non-Departmental budget includes Contributory Retirement, the employer's share of the cost of Group Health Insurance, Unemployment, Property/Liability Insurance, Medicare Taxes, Salary Reserve and Wind Turbine Electric Expenses.

SCENARIO A
Revenue and Expenditure Projections
For Fiscal Years 2027-2031

	ACTUAL		PROJECTIONS			
REVENUE:	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES	$61,762,374	$63,502,621	$64,764,840	$66,395,841	$68,069,352	$69,781,068
EXPENDITURES:	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
			Annual Increase of 3%			
General Fund Budget Expense	$61,462,374	$62,935,726	$64,823,798	$66,768,512	$68,771,567	$70,834,714
Anticipated Increase in Appropriations			$1,888,072	$1,944,714	$2,003,055	$2,063,147
Anticipated Additional Non Departmental			$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000
Wage & Salary Reserve	$0	$0	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
Abatements &Exemptions	$300,000	$350,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE	$61,762,374	$63,285,726	$65,923,798	$67,868,512	$69,871,567	$71,934,714
TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIT)	$0	$216,895	($1,158,958)	($1,472,671)	($1,802,215)	($2,153,646)

Scenario includes a loss of $150K from turbine revenue and Acushnet tuition revenue remaining at $2.0 annually.

SCENARIO B
Revenue and Expenditure Projections
For Fiscal Years FY27-FY31

	ACTUAL		PROJECTIONS			
	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
REVENUE:						
TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES	$61,762,374	$63,502,621	$64,264,840	$65,392,132	$66,558,188	$67,758,680
EXPENDITURES:	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
			Annual Increase of 3%			
General Fund Budget Expense	$61,462,374	$62,935,726	$64,823,798	$66,768,512	$68,771,567	$70,834,714
Anticipated Additional Non Departmental			$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000
Wage & Salary Reserve	$0	$0	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
Abatements & Exemptions	$300,000	$350,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE	$61,762,374	$63,285,726	$65,923,798	$67,868,512	$69,871,567	$71,934,714
TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIT)	$0	$216,895	($1,658,958)	($2,476,380)	($3,313,379)	($4,176,034)

Scenario includes a loss of $150K from turbine revenue and Acushnet tuition revenue reducing $500,000 annually from FY28-FY31, totaling $2.0 million.

Questions/Comments

Town of Fairhaven
Comparison of Annual Budgets
For Fiscal Years 24-27

	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Total Increase FY24-FY27	Average Annual Increase	Average Percentage Increase
Salaries and Wages							
Town	$ 12,965,226	$ 13,510,071	$ 13,616,506	$ 13,400,132	$ 434,906	$ 108,727	0.81%
School	$ 18,500,245	$ 19,702,183	$ 19,840,064	$ 20,320,034	$ 1,819,789	$ 454,947	2.24%
Total Salaries and Wages	$ 31,465,471	$ 33,212,254	$ 33,456,570	$ 33,720,166	$ 2,254,695	$ 563,674	1.67%
Operating Costs							
Town	$7,674,474	$7,678,852	$7,285,368	$7,455,845	$ (218,629)	$ (54,657)	-0.73%
School	$7,885,396	$8,054,130	$8,780,064	$9,430,077	$ 1,544,681	$ 386,170	4.10%
Non Departmental	$10,911,560	$11,669,792	$12,240,672	$12,679,638	$ 1,768,078	$ 442,020	3.49%
Total Operating Costs	$26,471,430	$27,402,774	$28,306,104	$29,565,560	$ 3,094,130	$ 773,533	2.62%
Town	$ 31,551,260	$ 32,858,715	$32,442,546	$ 33,535,615	$ 1,984,355	$ 496,089	1.48%
School	$ 26,385,641	$ 27,756,313	$28,620,128	$ 29,750,111	$ 3,364,470	$ 841,118	2.83%
Total Budget	$ 57,936,901	$ 60,615,028	$61,762,374	$ 63,285,726	$ 5,348,825	$ 1,337,206	2.11%
					Increase from FY26 to FY27	**$ 1,523,352**	**2.47%**

Note:

The Non-Departmental budget includes Contributory Retirement, the employer's share of the cost of Group Health Insurance, Unemployment,

Town of Fairhaven
Comparison of Cherry Sheet Revenues and Charges
For Fiscal Years 22-27

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Revenues	$ 11,561,598	$ 12,449,277	$ 13,116,113	$ 13,361,545	$ 13,739,358	$ 14,064,341
Charges	$ (677,042)	$ (724,907)	$ (711,421)	$ (708,876)	$ (821,990)	$ (870,177)
Net	$ 10,884,556	$ 11,724,370	$ 12,404,692	$ 12,652,669	$ 12,903,718	$ 13,194,164

Total Increase FY22-FY27	$	2,309,608
Average Annual Increase FY22-FY27	$	384,935
Average Percentage Increase FY22-FY27		2.98%
Total Increase FY25-FY27	$	541,495
Average Annual Increase FY25-FY27	$	180,498
Average Percentage Increase FY25-FY27		1.37%

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE PROJECTION
FOR FISCAL YEARS FY27-FY31
REVISED JULY 2026
$100K RENT FROM TURBINE REVENUE

PROJECTION REFLECTS LOSS OF $150K IN TURBINE REVENUES IN FY28 20 & 30. ALL OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS REMAIN CONSTANT
CURRENT TRASH FEES ARE PROJECTED AT CURRENT RATES

	ACTUAL		PROJECTIONS			
	FY26	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
REVENUE:						
Annual Tax Levy Calculation						
Prior Year Levy Limit	$34,476,372	$35,760,042	$37,056,511	$38,332,923	$39,641,246	$40,982,278
Amended FY Growth	$1,440	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Add FY - 2.5%	$861,945	$894,001	$926,413	$958,323	$991,031	$1,024,557
Add FY New Growth	$420,285	$402,468	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000
Add FY Override	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
FY Levy Limit	$35,760,042	$37,056,511	$38,332,923	$39,641,246	$40,982,278	$42,356,835
Add FY Debt Excl.	$715,775	$693,239	$492,845	$475,064	$461,615	$447,269
FY Maximum Allowable Annual Tax Levy	**$36,475,816**	**$37,749,749**	**$38,825,768**	**$40,116,311**	**$41,443,893**	**$42,804,104**
State Aid	**Cherry Sheet Increase Based on 1.37% Historical Increase (FY25-FY27)**					
Cherry Sheet Receipts						
A (less Charges & Offset Items)	$12,903,718	$13,194,164	$13,374,924	$13,558,161	$13,743,907	$13,932,199
School Construction Aid	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
FY State Aid	**$12,903,718**	**$13,194,164**	**$13,374,924**	**$13,558,161**	**$13,743,907**	**$13,932,199**
Annual Local Receipts/Income	**Annual Revenue increase of .07427% less $150,000 revenue loss from wind turbines**					
Total Annual Local Receipts/Income	**$9,209,233**	**$9,277,630**	**$9,196,535**	**$9,264,838**	**$9,333,648**	**$9,402,969**
Indirect Charges-Enterprise Funds			**Annual Increase of 3%**			
Indirect Charges-Enterprise Funds	**$1,434,607**	**$1,481,498**	**$1,525,943**	**$1,571,721**	**$1,618,873**	**$1,667,439**
Other Available Funds:						
Gift-Animal Shelter	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000
Waterways Fund	$52,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000
Ambulance RR for Appropriation	$1,625,000	$1,683,580	$1,725,670	$1,768,811	$1,813,032	$1,858,357
Subdivision Mgt Fees	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Social Day-COA RR for Appropriation	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000
Wetlands Conservation	$7,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000
Other Available Funds	**$1,739,000**	**$1,799,580**	**$1,841,670**	**$1,884,811**	**$1,929,032**	**$1,974,357**
TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES	**$61,762,374**	**$63,502,621**	**$64,764,840**	**$66,395,841**	**$68,069,352**	**$69,781,068**

EXPENDITURES:	**FY26**	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
			Annual Increase of 3%			
General Fund Budget Expense	$61,462,374	$62,935,726	$64,823,798	$66,768,512	$68,771,567	$70,834,714
Anticipated Increase in Approprations			$1,888,072	$1,944,714	$2,003,055	$2,063,147
Anticipated Additional Non Departmental			$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000
Wage & Salary Reserve	$0	$0	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
Abatements &Exemptions	$300,000	$350,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE	**$61,762,374**	**$63,285,726**	**$65,923,798**	**$67,868,512**	**$69,871,567**	**$71,934,714**
TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIT)	**$0**	**$216,895**	**($1,158,958)**	**($1,472,671)**	**($1,802,215)**	**($2,153,646)**

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE PROJECTION
FOR FISCAL YEARS FY27-FY31
REVISED JULY 2026
$100K RENT FROM TURBINE REVENUE AND PRORATED ACUSHNET TUITION REVENUE

PROJECTION REFLECTS LOSS OF $150K IN TURBINE REVENUES FOR FY28-31
LOSS OF A TOTAL OF $2 MILLION FROM ACUSHMENT TUITION, OR $500,000 ANNUALLY BEGINNING IN FY28
CURRENT TRASH FEES ARE PROJECTED AT CURRENT RATES

	ACTUAL		PROJECTIONS			
	FY26	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
REVENUE:						
Annual Tax Levy Calculation						
Prior Year Levy Limit	$34,476,372	$35,760,042	$37,056,511	$38,332,923	$39,641,246	$40,982,278
Amended FY Growth	$1,440	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Add FY - 2.5%	$861,945	$894,001	$926,413	$958,323	$991,031	$1,024,557
Add FY New Growth	$420,285	$402,468	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000
Add FY Override	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
FY Levy Limit	$35,760,042	$37,056,511	$38,332,923	$39,641,246	$40,982,278	$42,356,835
Add FY Debt Excl.	$715,775	$693,239	$492,845	$475,064	$461,615	$447,269
FY Maximum Allowable Annual Tax Levy	**$36,475,816**	**$37,749,749**	**$38,825,768**	**$40,116,311**	**$41,443,893**	**$42,804,104**
State Aid	**Cherry Sheet Increase Based on 1.37% Historical Increase (FY25-FY27)**					
Cherry Sheet Receipts						
A (less Charges & Offset Items)	$12,903,718	$13,194,164	$13,374,924	$13,558,161	$13,743,907	$13,932,199
School Construction Aid	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
FY State Aid	**$12,903,718**	**$13,194,164**	**$13,374,924**	**$13,558,161**	**$13,743,907**	**$13,932,199**
Annual Local Receipts/Income	**Annual Revenue increase of .07427% less $150k revenue loss from wind turbines and $500k annual reduction in Acushnet tuition beginning in FY28**					
Total Annual Local Receipts/Income	**$9,209,233**	**$9,277,630**	**$8,696,535**	**$8,261,128**	**$7,822,484**	**$7,380,581**
Indirect Charges-Enterprise Funds			**Annual Increase of 3%**			
Indirect Charges-Enterprise Funds	**$1,434,607**	**$1,481,498**	**$1,525,943**	**$1,571,721**	**$1,618,873**	**$1,667,439**
Other Available Funds:						
Gift-Animal Shelter	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000
Waterways Fund	$52,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000	$53,000
Ambulance RR for Appropriation	$1,625,000	$1,683,580	$1,725,670	$1,768,811	$1,813,032	$1,858,357
Subdivision Mgmt. Fees	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Social Day-COA RR for Appropriation	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000
Wetlands Conservation	$7,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000
Other Available Funds	$1,739,000	$1,799,580	$1,841,670	$1,884,811	$1,929,032	$1,974,357
TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES	**$61,762,374**	**$63,502,621**	**$64,264,840**	**$65,392,132**	**$66,558,188**	**$67,758,680**

EXPENDITURES:	**FY26**	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**
			Annual Increase of 3%			
General Fund Budget Expense	$61,462,374	$62,935,726	$64,823,798	$66,768,512	$68,771,567	$70,834,714
Anticipated Additional Non Departmental			$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000
Wage & Salary Reserve	$0	$0	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
Anticipated Increase in Appropriations			$1,888,072	$1,944,714	$2,003,055	$2,063,147
Abatements & Exemptions	$300,000	$350,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE	**$61,762,374**	**$63,285,726**	**$65,923,798**	**$67,868,512**	**$69,871,567**	**$71,934,714**
TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIT)	**$0**	**$216,895**	**($1,658,958)**	**($2,476,380)**	**($3,313,379)**	**($4,176,034)**

Update on EPA Discussion Regarding the Atlas Tack Property

1 message

khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov> Thu, Jul 16, 2026 at 2:33 PM
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov
Cc: ken blanchard <kt91054@comcast.net>

I spoke this afternoon with Aaron Shaheen of the EPA regarding the interest expressed Monday evening in having the EPA conduct additional testing within the remaining building on the Atlas Tack property.

Mr. Shaheen explained that the results of the most recent testing showed lower levels of contamination than some had anticipated. When considered alongside previous testing, the EPA believes the data demonstrates there is no evidence of significant sources of contamination that could be released from the building, such as stored drums or other concentrated hazardous materials. According to Mr. Shaheen, no such materials remain on the property.

Based on these findings, Mr. Shaheen indicated that the EPA does not believe there is sufficient justification to conduct additional testing at this time.

Mr. Shaheen also shared that the EPA has received inquiries from parties interested in acquiring the property, indicating there is development interest. He further stated that the EPA may be willing to negotiate the current arrangement under which it receives 90% of the tax revenues generated by the property in order to reduce a prospective developer's upfront costs and facilitate redevelopment.

Shortly after my conversation with Mr. Shaheen, I received a call from Ken Blanchard and shared the information summarized above. I have copied Mr. Blanchard on this email so that everyone has the same information..

Keith

Keith R. Hickey, Town Administrator

Town of Fairhaven, MA 02719

khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

508 979-4107

07-26-2026

Atlas Tack Working Group Charge

Purpose

The Atlas Tack Working Group is established by the Fairhaven Select Board to serve as an advisory group to the Town regarding matters related to the Atlas Tack property which is currently designated a Superfund site. The Working Group shall advocate on behalf of the Town to promote the timely final remediation of the site and to support the protection of public health, public safety, and the environment.

Responsibilities

The Atlas Tack Working Group shall:

1. **Promote Public Safety**
   - Continue to work with the Town to ensure appropriate steps are taken to address and mitigate the reasonably foreseeable public safety risks associated with the current condition of the Atlas Tack property buildings, including potential building collapse and other site hazards.
2. **Gather and Review Information**
   - Collect, analyze, and disseminate information relevant to remediation, environmental conditions, redevelopment opportunities, public safety, regulatory actions, and community impacts.
   - Conduct public informational gathering sessions to gauge sentiment for possible re-use
   - Review potential zoning of the site.
3. **Coordinate with Governmental and Non-Governmental Entities**
   - Communicate and collaborate with all appropriate federal, state, regional, local, and non-governmental agencies and organizations involved with or having responsibilities related to the Atlas Tack property and Superfund site and to identify opportunities to improve coordination among agencies and the Town.
4. **Advocate for Site Remediation**
   - Advocate, but not negotiate on behalf of the Town to develop a policy that may convince and encourage the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to utilize their statutory authorities to ensure the effective investigation and final remediation of the site.
5. **Report to the Select Board**
   - Update the Select Board and Town Administrator periodically.
   - Once charge has been fulfilled, prepare a final comprehensive report with findings to the Select Board and Town Administrator to assist in determining future courses of action regarding the Atlas Tack property.

Town of Fairhaven
Report of the Town Administrator
July 27, 2026

Financial Updates

- After changing auditing firms, the final FY25 audit has been received in time for bonding agencies to review the document and update Fairhaven's bond rating. Currently, Moody's rates Fairhaven at Aa2 and Standard & Poor's rates Fairhaven at AA+. Below are the rating charts for Moody's and Standard & Poor's so you can see where Fairhaven rating stands. A Aa (Aa1, Aa2, Aa3): High quality, very low credit risk.

	Credit Ratings		
	S&P	Moody's	Fitch
Investment Grade	AAA	Aaa	AAA
	AA	Aa	AA
	A	A	A
	BBB	Baa	BBB
Speculative Grade	BB	Ba	BB
	B	B	B
	CCC	Caa	CCC
	CC	Ca	CC
	C	C	C
	D	D	D

Credit Risk

Project Updates

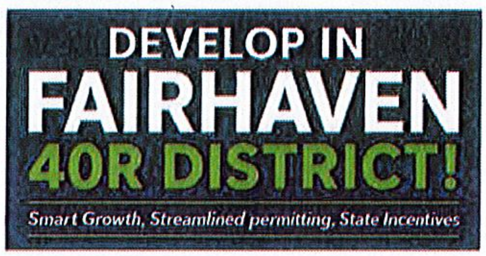
- Members of the Public Works Department, Select Board member Trapilo and residents of West Island met recently to continue their discussion on mitigating speed on and around the island. The group agreed to have the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEED) to complete a traffic study, at no cost to the Town, to determine the most effective location to place speed cushions aimed to reduce speeds. The cushions are expected to be placed in April or May of 2027.

Personnel Update

- Members of the Planning, Building and Conservation Offices requested the to allow some staff to relocate to the former Tourism Department on the second floor. After consideration, moving the Conservation and Planning Departments upstairs to share the vacant office and have the Building Department remain in their current office was deemed to be the most prudent use of the space.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Letters are currently being drafted to send to property owners who own property in the Waterfront and Plaza Districts. The letters are being provided to remind property owners that their property is located in the Smart Growth Overlay District, which is designed to promote sustainable development and smart growth principles by allowing higher density, a streamlined permitting process and offers financial incentives. There is a link in the front apge of the Town's website that brings visitors to a webpage filled with information about the 40R districts. A copy of the image to the link is below.



  Thanks to Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director Anne Carreiro, Conservation Administrative Assistant Danielle Kirkwood, Assessor Bruce Cabral, IT Director Steve Rosa, and Erick Sa from Fairhaven TV for all of their efforts to in organizing and promoting this available economic development opportunity.

- Board members Kuechler, Romano and I met with New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell on July 21st to reestablish a relationship between the communities and begin discussions on opportunities to collaborate on projects and services that will benefit both communities. I look forward to working with Mayor Mitchell and his staff to explore new opportunities to provide more cost-effective ways to provide regional municipal services.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN
POLICE DEPARTMENT
1 Bryant Lane
Fairhaven, MA 02719
Phone 508-997-7421
Fax 508-997-3147
www.fairhavenpolice.org

Daniel M. Dorgan
Chief of Police

To: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator

July 27, 2026

From: Daniel M. Dorgan, Chief of Police

Fairhaven Police Department

RE: Flock Safety Cameras

Mr. Hickey,

Flock Safety cameras provide the Town of Fairhaven with a valuable tool to enhance public safety by helping law enforcement quickly identify vehicles associated with stolen vehicles, AMBER Alerts, missing persons, and criminal investigations. In Fairhaven, real-time alerts are limited to stolen vehicles and AMBER Alerts. The cameras capture license plate information and vehicle characteristics to generate investigative leads, improve response times, and assist officers in solving crimes more efficiently. Communities across the country have successfully used this technology to deter crime and support investigations without requiring a constant police presence.

It is important to note that the Flock Safety system is not used for traffic enforcement. The cameras do not issue citations for speeding, red-light violations, stop sign violations, expired registrations, or any other routine motor vehicle infractions. Fairhaven has not used, and does not intend to use, the system to generate automated traffic tickets. The technology is intended solely as an investigative tool to assist law enforcement in protecting the community and solving crimes.

Privacy protections are built into the Flock Safety system. Data collected by the cameras is automatically deleted after 30 days, unless a different retention period is required by law or approved by the Town. The Town of Fairhaven controls access to the data, every search is logged and auditable, and Flock Safety does not sell or share the data with third parties.

Since these cameras were installed the types of cases that these cameras have help us investigate include but are not limited to, two stabbing incidents, multiple instances of vandalism, multiple hit and run accidents, motor vehicle homicide, multiple breaking and entering cases into vehicles and buildings, assault with a firearm, illegal possession of a firearm, drug distribution, multiple motor vehicle thefts, fatal motor vehicle crash investigation, larcenies, and illegal dumping.

Any questions that either you or the board have please feet free to ask me. I believe that these cameras play a valuable role in the safety and enforcement of law in the Town of Fairhaven.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel M. Dorgan

Chief of Police

Fairhaven Police Department

July 27, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Emails: Michelle Costen: Ref Select Board Meeting 7/13-Public Response; Appropriation Process of CPA funds-Ref 7/13 SB meeting; No More Debt, a Public Comment; New Homes and Housing law targets affordability-

Ref: Select Board Meeting 7/13-Public Response
1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com> Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 8:04 AM
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>, "Patrick J. Carr" <pjcarr@a1crane.com>, Jessica Fidalgo <jessica.wilder13@yahoo.com>, "kt91054@comcast.net" <kt91054@comcast.net>, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>, Andrew Romano <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Select Board, Planning Board, Finance Committee, CPC, Town Meeting Members, and the Public,

Following the discussion regarding the proposal to direct Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds toward the historic preservation of the Millicent Library, I urge the Board to reconsider the town's current financial strategy.

Fairhaven is currently facing a deficit that appears linked to a failure to optimize CPA funds and other resources over the past eight years. While CPA law tasks the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) with studying the town's specific needs, the current process often prioritizes the preservation of objects over the primary needs of taxpayers.

Affordable Homes initiatives are a fundamental requirement for our residents, providing opportunities to build equity and reinvest in the local economy. Of the four CPC funding categories—historic preservation, recreation, open space, and housing—creating affordable home-building initiatives offers the most significant potential for a tangible return on taxpayer dollars. Allocating 20% to 50% or more of CPC funds toward single-family home development would greatly improve the community's financial health and cash flow. Had this been the strategy over the last eight years, I believe we could have avoided our current deficit.

Furthermore, I recommend that the Millicent Library and other historic entities establish independent annual fundraising initiatives to secure necessary resources. This would alleviate the burden on taxpayers, particularly regarding the interest repayments associated with bond funding.

I urge you to pivot our strategy to ensure that CPA funds address Fairhaven's most pressing basic financial needs . It is time to provide a direct financial benefit to the people of Fairhaven through their tax surcharges. Additionally, we must improve public involvement in the CPA process as required by law. Many residents and town meeting members remain unaware of how these funds can be leveraged to provide the greatest financial return.

I hope you will make the necessary decisions this year to lead us toward a sustainable financial future rather than further into debt.

In God We Trust,

Michelle Costen

Appropriation process of CPA funds-Ref 7/13 SB meeting

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com> Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 9:24 AM

To: Andrew Romano <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Jessica Fidalgo <jessica.wilder13@yahoo.com>, "Patrick J. Carr" <pjcarr@a1crane.com>, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>

Dear Andrew Romano, Select board, Finance committee, Planning Board, and To All Involved Committees, Town Meeting Members, Public.

I am writing to clarify the strategic responsibilities of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) in response to recent comments made by the Chair. During a Finance Committee question, it was stated that the CPC waits for applications to arrive before deciding how to appropriate funds. I believe this approach does not align with our legal mandate.

Per Chapter 44B Section 5(b)(1), the CPC is legally required to "study the needs, possibilities and resources of the city or town regarding community preservation." This mandate necessitates a proactive needs assessment to ensure we are addressing the community's primary requirements with due diligence, rather than simply reacting to submitted applications.

For the past eight years, the Master Plan has identified affordable, moderate-income single-family homes as a critical priority. Residents earning between $68,000 and $150,000—including those at our 2026 median income of $92,000—are currently priced out of the Fairhaven housing market. These individuals provide vital services to our community, yet they lack the opportunity to build equity and achieve financial stability here.

The need is well-documented. We should not wait for applications to address these identified gaps. Instead, we must leverage CPA funds to fulfill this petitioned need for purchasing an affordable home that meets our median income, ensuring the greatest financial impact and return for Fairhaven residents.

I hope this clarifies our collective responsibilities and helps guide our strategy moving forward.

In God We Trust,

Michelle Costen

No More Debt, a Public Comment

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com> Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 4:49 PM
To: "kt91054@comcast.net" <kt91054@comcast.net>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia2@yahoo.com, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>, Jessica Fidalgo <jessica.wilder13@yahoo.com>, "Patrick J. Carr" <pjcarr@a1crane.com>

Hi Ken,

We currently have enough debt to be concerned about paying 12 years of interest on a bond funded by our community's surcharged taxes. Instead of draining our resources and increasing our debt obligations, we should use CPA funds to generate revenue and build equity.

To illustrate how we can leverage CPA funds to our greatest advantage, here is a hypothetical but highly doable scenario:

Suppose we purchase a property for $400,000 using CPA funds. If this property is suitable for building 10 to 15 moderate-sized homes on small lots, we could create a charming small-home village. Residents in need of affordable, steady monthly housing payments could purchase these homes, allowing them to build equity over time. This approach would support residents who provide vital services to our town, help them build wealth, and generate ongoing revenue for the town through property purchases.

This model is highly achievable. We have several lots available throughout Fairhaven where we could implement this, especially if we return to our previous zoning standards of 5,000-square-foot lots. Since this initiative aims to bring revenue to the town and provide affordable housing for moderate-income residents, we could seek a zoning waiver for this lot size at the Town Meeting. It would be a win-win for residents and business owners alike, bringing money into the town rather than draining it on interest payments. This entire process could start with just $400,000-500,00

It will take a few years to recover from our current financial situation, which has been worsened by not optimizing our resources for the greatest financial impact and return. However, starting with initiatives like this will set us on the right path.

Best regards,

Michelle Costen

It's going to take a few years to get us out of the mess we put ourselves in. By not knowing how to optimize our resources for the greatest financial impact and return.

Michelle Costen

New Homes and Housing law targets affordability-

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com> Thu, Jul 16, 2026 at 11:50 AM
To: Andrew Romano <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>, "Patrick J. Carr" <pjcarr@a1crane.com>, Jessica Fidalgo <jessica.wilder13@yahoo.com>, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>, "kt91054@comcast.net" <kt91054@comcast.net>, buildingcommissioner@fairhaven-ma.gov, Beth David <neighbnews@comcast.net>

Dear Select Board, Planning board, and all Committees, Public

I wanted to share some recent news regarding housing legislation.

Reports indicate that the 21st century Road to housing act became law on July 11, 2026-

Bipartisan legislation intended to increase the U.S. housing supply and improve affordability is now law.

This legislation combines dozens of housing measures aimed at encouraging home construction, expanding access to financing, and restricting purchases by large institutional investors.

We see here this is a primary need in all local towns across the US.

We need to address it here in Fairhaven as a primary obligation. No more delays or excuses to delay.

We need to utilize all resources and creative abilities that we have, in order to fulfill this obligation.

Where there is a Will of the Good People, there is a Way-

And God We Trust,

Michelle Costen.