



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 SEP 15 AM 11:39

Present: Andrew Romano, Pam Kuechler, Andrew Saunders, Richard F. Trapilo and Keith R. Hickey

Present via Zoom: Natalie A. Mello

Mr. Romano opened the Select Board meeting at 6:00pm and confirmed members present and on zoom and that all votes would be via roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Messier addressed the Board and referred to the Board's meeting from August 10, 2026, Army values with examples, leadership and suggestions for members on self-reflection to improve conduct during meetings.

APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

Request from the Public Safety Complex Committee to Authorize the Town Administrator to Expend Funds for Legal Expenses Related to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Article 5 of the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting

Mr. Romano asked for a motion to table until the end of the meeting or until Chief Correia or Dogan arrive to address the Board.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to table this item until the end of the meeting or Chief Correia or Chief Dorgan arrive. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Review, Award and Execute General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes

Treasurer/Collector Carla Mourao addressed the Board about the general obligation bonds, bond anticipation notes, bid process and what she is seeking from the Board. Ms. Mourao answered clarifying questions from the Board. Mr. Hickey added that the Town has maintained its AA+ bond rating. Ms. Mourao said the Town also has the highest available short-term rating on S&P on BANS at SP1+ (BANS are Bond Anticipation Notes).

The Board was in consensus that the Town be disciplined in its capital expenditures to maintain the ratings.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned that the Board approve the sale of the Town's \$7,970,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2026 Bonds of the Town dated September 2, 2026, to the winning bidder, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. at the price of \$8,104,887.16 and (ii) \$3,200,000 4.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes dated September 2, 2026 to the winning bidder, Truist Securities, Inc., at the price of the par amount of the notes plus a premium of \$40,320.00, all as set forth in the vote drafted by bond counsel and before the Board in writing. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Hickey congratulated Ms. Mourao on passing the Massachusetts Treasurers certification and said she will begin the certification process for Massachusetts Collectors.

Town of Fairhaven Electric Vehicle Community Engagement Presentation

William Lefebvre from Weston and Sampson, the Town of Fairhaven's contracted Municipal Energy Manager through the Mass Save Municipal Energy Grant Program, addressed the Board via Zoom and reviewed a presentation regarding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and an upcoming community engagement event (*Attachment A*). Rebecca Roughly also introduced herself to the Board and explained her role as the Town's grant consultant.

The Board clarified the details of chargers listed on slide 3as far as the type, that the chargers at Public Works are inactive at this time and if activated the cost would be paid by the individual using it to charge. Mr. Hickey advised of other initiatives being reviewed like solar canopies to help generate other revenue opportunities.

Mr. Romano recused himself as a direct abutter of the next item and exited the Banquet Room

Event Request: Podkowa 5K Run/Walk: Sunday, October 4, 2026

The Board reviewed the request. Adriann Corazzini addressed the Board via Zoom about the event details.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Podkowa 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, October 4, 2026 as presented with conditions or requirements of Police, Fire and Public Works. Mr. Trapilo seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello in favor and Mr. Romano recused. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Romano recused.

Mr. Romano returned to the Banquet Room

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:30PM New Class II Auto Repair/Auto Body License

Mr. Romano opened the Public Hearing at 6:31pm and read the notice.

Mr. Trapilo recused himself due to his involvement with the sale of the property and left the Banquet Room

The applicants, Joseph Wilkerson and Antoine Boutros, addressed the Board and confirmed this is for a license for 2 used cars and for a used car repair shop.

Public Comment: none received

Mr. Romano closed the Public Hearing at 6:33pm

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the application for a new Class II Auto Repair/Auto Body License for Stealth Collision Inc. d/b/a Artistic Auto Body and Stealth Auto Center located at 98-99 Middle Street for 2 retail autos. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor, Mr. Trapilo recused. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Trapilo recused.

Mr. Trapilo returned to the Banquet Room

Request from the Public Safety Complex Committee to Authorize the Town Administrator to Expend Funds for Legal Expenses Related to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Article 5 of the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting

Chief Correia addressed the Board about the vote taken at the last Public Safety Complex Committee meeting seeking the Board's approval for the Town Administrator to expend from the \$50,000 appropriated at Special Town Meeting in November, 2025 for legal expenses related to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

The Board clarified that the request was for up to \$50,000 and for legal or related expenses for an RFQ.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Town Administrator to expend up to \$50,000 as approved under Article 5 of the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting for legal expenses related to a Request for Qualifications. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Use of Town Hall: Girl Scout Troop 63502 Award Ceremony, September 9, 2026 5:30-6:30pm

The Board reviewed the request.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the request for the use of the Town Hall auditorium on September 9, 2026 as presented with any conditions or requirements from the Facilities Manager. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Historical Commission, Associate Member: Hailey Hemingway

Ms. Hemingway's application was reviewed.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Hailey Hemingway as a. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler and Ms. Mello in favor; Mr. Trapilo and Mr. Romano opposed.
The motion passed (3-2-0) Mr. Trapilo and Mr. Romano opposed.

Appointment Request: Budget Working Group: Kevin Gallagher

Mr. Gallagher addressed the Board about his application, experience and clarified any questions from the Board.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Kevin Gallagher to the Budget Working Group under category four, retired police, fire, EMS, public safety professional. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Review Open Volunteer Opportunities

As part of the Board's efforts to highlight volunteer opportunities, the agenda and packet will have a list of openings that appear on the Volunteer Opportunities page of the Town's website as of the morning the agenda is posted. The list may change as openings are identified. The Board's process will be to announce vacancies, including resignations received since the last meeting. Interested applicants should review the page and can contact the Town Administrator's office with any questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to change the deadline under Special Bylaw Review Committee to "open until filled". Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Romano read the list from the Board's packet (*Attachment B*). Mr. Trapilo asked Mr. Hickey for assistance organizing the Budget Working Group's first meeting.

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Consider Creation of a Fairhaven Tourism Committee

Tabled per request of the applicant, will be on a future agenda

Authorize the Town Administrator to Issue a Request for Proposals for Municipal Legal Services

During discussion at the August 10, 2026 meeting Board members stated general and labor counsel should be competitively bid. A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) was prepared for services from November 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029 was reviewed. If the Board approves, the RFP will be advertised and then brought to the Board for review and next steps.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Request for Proposals (RFP): Legal Services, General and Labor and authorize the Town Administrator to advertise the approved RFP. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Request a Review of the Town's Financial Forecast by the State's Financial Management Resource Bureau

Mr. Hickey reviewed the suggestion made by Ms. Carreiro for the Board to formally request the State's Financial Management Resource Bureau (FMRB) to prepare an independent five-year financial forecast. The FMRB will perform this task free of charge with consent by the governing body.

The Board spoke in support of this independent review.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to have the Select Board authorize the Finance Director to send a letter signed by the Chair of the Select Board requesting the State's Financial Management Resource Bureau develop a five-year financial plan. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Establish Town Administrator Goals

The Board reviewed the draft goals for the upcoming fiscal year that will be used for the annual review (*Attachment C*). Mr. Hickey summarized the goals, process for reviewing progress with the Board in future meetings and continued collaboration with community partners to support the Board and community efforts.

Discussion ensued about the goal document and a suggestion was made to update “maintain financial stability” to “pursue and maintain financial stability.”

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the FY27 Town Administrator goals as amended. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Declare Surplus Items for Town Auction on September 19, 2026 at Public Works

The Board reviewed the list of items for surplus. Mr. Hickey asked the Board to hold on the 2017 Ford SUV from the Police Department so that the vehicle could be transferred to Town Hall for use by departments to conduct Town business; this would enable departments, such as Assessors or Board of Health, to be better identified while in the community and to minimize mileage reimbursement. The vehicle needs about two thousand dollars in repairs through public works.

Discussion ensued about low value items, the surplus policy, use between departments, miniscule items like general office folders and whether to find a different way to handle. The consensus was to review the policy against MGL to gauge whether the current process is efficient and effective. During discussion, Doug Brady asked to be recognized to ask a question about the legal process moving forward, Mr. Romano advised him to forward questions or comments to the Town Administrator.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to declare the items listed as surplus as presented, minus the Ford SUV, and to send to Public Works for the Town Auction on Sept. 19, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hickey reviewed his report (*Attachment D*). He also thanked the Recreation Center staff for a great summer program that just wrapped up.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders and Ms. Kuechler had no reports

Mr. Trapilo:

- Attended the Atlas Tack Working Group meeting, Chief Correia presented a “what if” on fire, they discussed EPA testing and the Chair is drafting a letter to the Select Board about reaffirming the demolition order.
- SRPEDD finance met, transportation met and discussed that the SRTA membership rides on the South Coast was the highest this year. He expressed concern for those waiting out in the weather conditions and Mr. Romano said he would forward Mr. Trapilo’s name to the Fairhaven Housing Authority because the Director is working to address this.
- He offered to attend the meeting Mr. Hickey has with New Bedford about CSOs
- He will send Mr. Hickey information to disseminate to the BWG in preparation for the first meeting.

Ms. Mello:

- Attended the Commission on Disability meeting, next meeting is September 10, 2026
- Historical Commission meets on September 8, 2026
- Will be meeting with West Island residents and Mr. Hickey on September 3, 2026

Mr. Romano:

- The Library Trustees have a meeting scheduled.
- The FinCom At-large interview meeting was postponed and is being rescheduled.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of July 27, 2026 and August 10, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Executive Session minutes of August 10, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on **Monday, September 14, 2026** at 6:00pm

Mr. Romano announced his next open office hours will be on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 4:30pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. (Conservation Commission Chair) AND not to return to open session. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:45 pm, not to return to Open Session

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Electric Vehicle Community Engagement Presentation
- B. Open Volunteer Opportunities from the Town's website
- C. FY27 Town Administrator goals
- D. Town Administrator Report
- E. Correspondence: as listed on the agenda for August 24, 2026

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

Accepted on September 14, 2026



Town of Fairhaven Electric Vehicle Community Engagement

Fairhaven, MA | August 24, 2026

Weston & Sampson

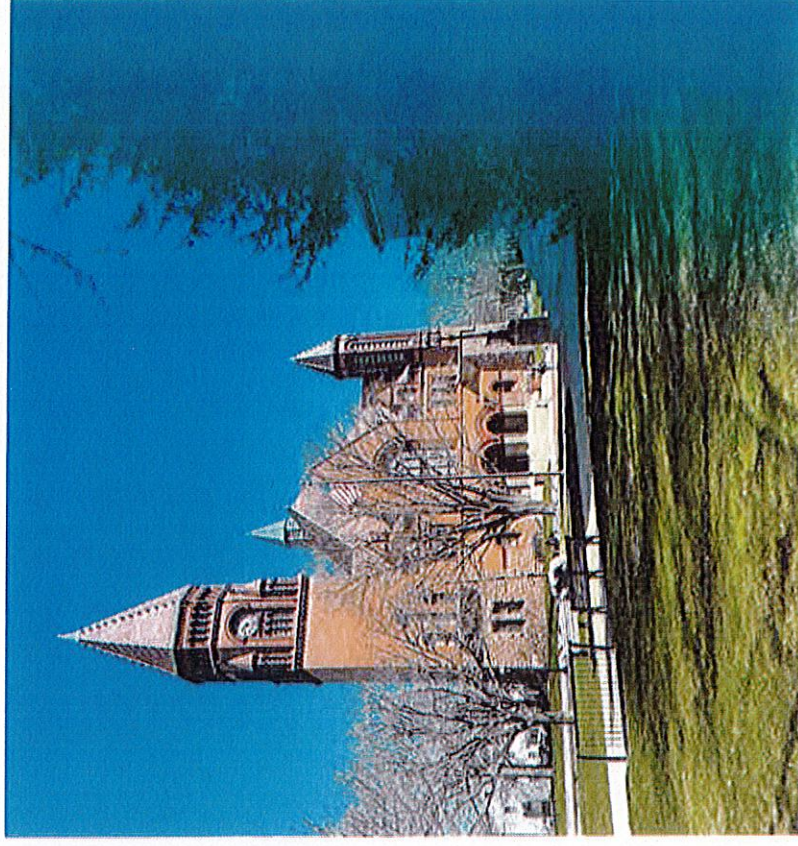
Introductions

Weston & Sampson



William Lefebvre

**Municipal Energy
Manager**



Current Electric Vehicle Charging

- The Town of Fairhaven currently has 3 locations that provide access to public electric vehicle charging
 - Rockland Trust (2 L2 Ports)
 - Alden Buick GMC (1 L3 Port)
 - South Coast Health System (12 L2 Ports)
 - Fairhaven DPW (2 L2 Ports)
- As of 7/1/2026, Fairhaven has 247 registered plug-in hybrid or electric vehicles

Total Active Vehicle Count

247

Average Daily Miles Driven

36.4

Total Daily VMT

8,996

Looking Ahead

- To prepare for future municipal EV installations, we are holding a community engagement event
 - Gauge public in...
 - Future potential EV charging locations
 - Barriers to EV adoption
 - Educate public in...
 - Available incentives
 - Existing resources



Community Input & Engagement

We will be tabling at the North Fairhaven Open Air Market on September 19th

- Interactive map with pins
- Flyer with survey
- Eversource provided Mass Save resource pamphlet

Will represent the Town of Fairhaven in this effort



Importance

- Qualitative data collected will be used to help plan for future EV charging placement
- Residents and visitors are able to identify where they would like to use an EV charger
- Does not require Fairhaven to take any immediate next steps
- Enables residents to be part of the process



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN – ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Electrify Fairhaven!

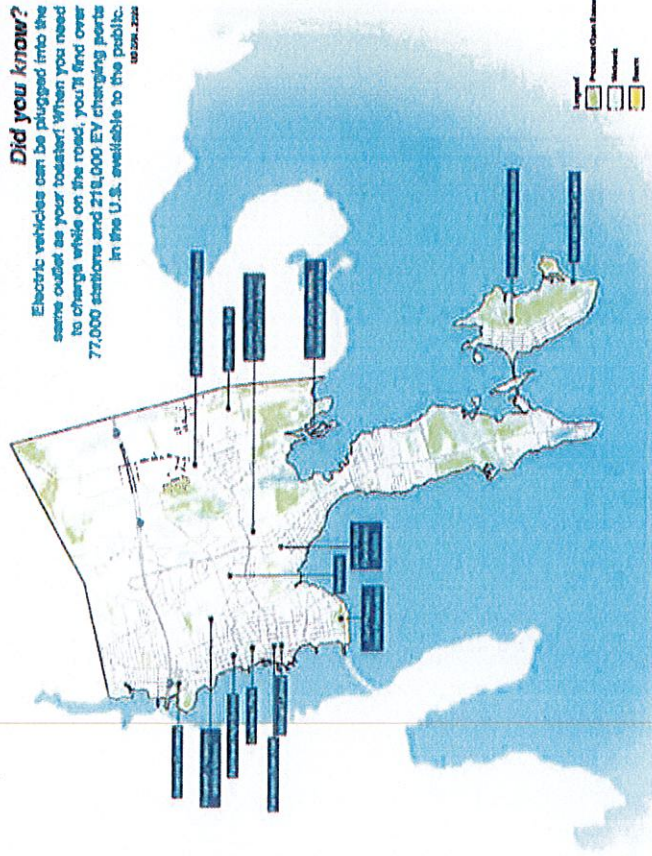
Where Do You Want Electric Vehicle Chargers?



In an effort to expand access to charging, make it easier for residents and visitors to take their electric vehicle around town, and to reduce emissions, Fairhaven wants your input on the best places for EV chargers.

Use the thumbtacks to identify locations where you would want to see EV chargers!

Did you know?
Electric vehicles can be plugged into the same outlet as your toaster! When you need to charge while on the road, you'll find over 77,000 stations and 219,000 EV charging ports in the U.S. available to the public.
10.2014.2015

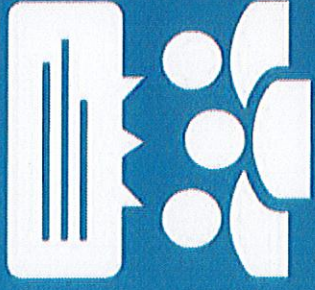


Electrify Fairhaven! What Are Your Barriers to Electric Vehicle Adoption?

Whether you live in Fairhaven, or are just visiting, we want to know how to make owning an electric vehicle, or EV, easier for you. Please take this short survey to help Fairhaven understand barriers that exist in EV adoption.

Scan to fill out
the survey!





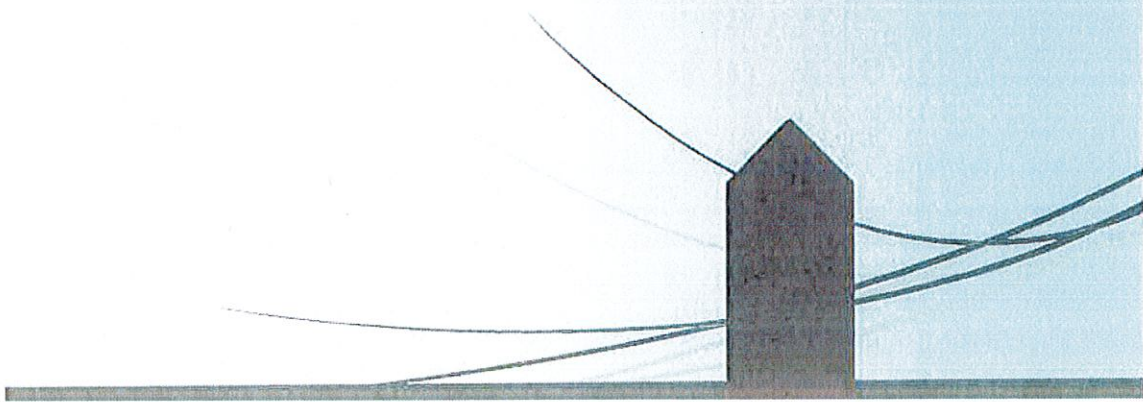
Thank you!
Questions?

Board or Committee	Vacancy available	Deadline to apply
Special Bylaw Review Committee	One Member, term through completion of the project	noon on August 19, 2026, submit a volunteer application <i>note-remains unfilled beyond deadline</i>
Belonging Committee	One Member	open until filled
Board of Assessors	One Member	to complete term through 2028
Cable Advisory Committee	Two Members	open until filled
Cultural Council	One Member	open until filled
Historical Commission	Associate Members, not to exceed number of Full Members	open until filled
Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee	One Member	open until filled
Livable Streets Committee	Unlimited	open until filled



Fairhaven Town Administrator Proposed FY28 Annual Goals

Performance Goals and Objectives





Goal 1 – Maintain Long-Term Financial Stability



- Develop and present a balanced FY28 operating budget.
- Update the Town's five-year financial forecast.
- Maintain structural balance between recurring revenues and expenditures.
- Identify opportunities to increase local revenues and reduce long-term operating costs.
- Continue implementation of financial policies regarding reserves, free cash, stabilization, and capital planning.
- Monitor enterprise fund finances to ensure long-term stability of water and sewer operations.

Goal 2 – Strengthen Capital Planning



- Provide a more complete multi-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- Prioritize municipal building improvements.
- Advance planning for Police and Fire facility replacement.
- Continue roadway, drainage, sidewalk, and ADA improvement projects.
- Pursue state and federal grant opportunities for capital improvements.

Goal 3 – Improve Organizational Effectiveness



- Meet regularly with department heads to review priorities.
- Continue fostering teamwork between departments.
- Evaluate opportunities to improve organizational efficiency.
- Implement technology improvements that increase efficiency and customer service.
- Review departmental policies and procedures where appropriate.



Goal 4 – Labor Relations and Human Resources



- Begin to identify recommended changes and appropriate wage and benefit schedule to present to the Select Board in preparation for upcoming negotiations of collective bargaining agreements.
- Continue regular communication with employee unions.
- Improve recruitment and retention of employees.
- Review compensation and benefit practices for long-term sustainability.



Goal 5 – Improve Public Communication and Transparency



- Continue preparation of citizen-friendly budget documents.
- Improve communication regarding major projects and financial issues.
- Increase availability of information on the Town website.
- Provide timely reports to the Select Board and residents.



Goal 6 – Economic Development



- Work with Planning and Economic Development officials to encourage appropriate commercial investment.
- Pursue redevelopment opportunities for underutilized properties.
- Review Town owned property for need and present a list of recommended properties that can be sold or leased to provide additional recurring revenues to the Town.
- Support local businesses through improved permitting and interdepartmental coordination.
- Seek grant funding for economic development initiatives.

Goal 7 – Grant Administration



- Identify and pursue applicable state and federal grants.
- Successfully administer awarded grants.
- Coordinate grant opportunities among Town departments.
- Report annually on grants received and associated financial benefits.

Goal 8 – Select Board Support



- Prepare complete and timely meeting agendas.
- Provide objective policy recommendations.
- Ensure timely implementation of Board decisions.
- Maintain regular communication with individual Board members.



Goal 9 – Community Partnerships



- Continue collaboration with regional agencies.
- Maintain positive working relationships with state legislators and state agencies.
- Support regional public safety and emergency management initiatives.
- Work cooperatively with schools, nonprofits, and community organizations.

Stretch Goals – Strategic Initiatives



- Develop a long-range financial strategy for future public safety facilities.
- Complete an organizational review of Public Works operations.
- Develop a long-term facilities master plan.
- Continue enterprise fund financial planning.
- Develop departmental performance measures (KPIs).



August 24, 2026
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT



Town of Fairhaven Report of the Town Administrator August 24, 2026

Financial Updates

- The Seaport Economic Council has approved an additional \$470,000 to complete the Union Wharf construction project. This additional funding, along with the \$280,000 funded at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting will complete the project. The project scope includes creating an area where people can sit and enjoy the bay.

Project Updates

- I met with City of New Bedford Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship Michele Paul about submitting regional brownfields grant with the city. The EPA prefers regional applications. New Bedford, Acushnet and Fairhaven will submit an application to address a brownfield site in each community.

Personnel Update

- Board of Assessor member Amanda Robinson has submitted her letter of resignation effective August 18th. The position has been added to the available Board and Commission list on the website.

Board and Commission Openings

- Below is a list of the current Boards and Commissions openings. If you are interested in applying, please visit the Town webpage at fairhaven-ma.com.

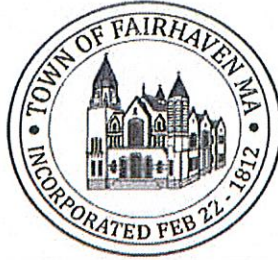
<u>Board or Committee</u>	<u>Vacancy available</u>	<u>Deadline to apply</u>
Special Bylaw Review Committee	One Member, term through completion of the project	noon on August 19, 2026, submit a volunteer application
Budget Working Group	Member Category: Category 4 – One resident with public safety experience, such as retired police, fire, EMS.	noon on August 19, 2026
Belonging Committee	One Member	open until filled
Board of Assessors	One Member	to complete term through 2028

<u>Board or Committee</u>	<u>Vacancy available</u>	<u>Deadline to apply</u>
Cultural Council	One Member	open until filled
Historical Commission	Associate Members, not to exceed number of Full Members	open until filled
Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee	One Member	open until filled
Livable Streets Committee	Unlimited	open until filled

Miscellaneous Updates

- Fairhaven Recreation is hosting a special outdoor movie night on Friday, August 28, at 7:00 PM, featuring a 55th Anniversary showing of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Admission is just \$10 per family, and popcorn and a sweet treat are included. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy a fun evening under the stars. Registration is available now at fairhavenrecreation.activityreg.com.
- The State Primary will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Here are some important dates and information for Fairhaven voters:
 - VOTER REGISTRATION – DEADLINE AUGUST 22
 - The deadline to register to vote or change your party enrollment for the State Primary is Saturday, August 22 at 5:00 p.m.
 - The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on August 22nd for voter registration.
 - Early Voting will be held at the Town Hall, 40 Center Street on Saturday, August 22: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Monday, August 24 – Friday, August 28 during regular Town Hall business hours.
 - Vote by Mail applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25th. Completed ballots may be returned by mail, placed in the ballot drop slot at the Town Clerk's Office, or delivered to the Town Clerk's Office. All ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on September 1st. Vote by Mail ballots cannot be returned at the polling location on Election Day. You can track your ballot at TrackMyBallotMA.com.

If you have questions, please contact the Fairhaven Town Clerk's Office at 508-979-4023.



August 24, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: Food for thought
2. Email: Budget Working Group Appointment Process
-Request for the Record
3. Office of the Attorney General: OML 2026-104
4. Email: Warrantless surveillance
5. Email: Flock

Food for thought

1 message

Fri, Aug 7, 2026 at 10:48 AM

Concerned Employee <reallyexhaustedbutstillworking@yahoo.com>

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov
Cc: khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

I have written and rewritten this many, many times after casually picking up the neighborhood news for the wah may coupon. That is the end of my joking for a moment.

This is specifically in response to Mr. Trapilo's repeated comments about "efficiency" and all the stuff that directly and indirectly implies that staff is the problem.

As someone who works for the Town and has dedicated myself to serving Fairhaven, I would respectfully ask that the conversation about fiscal responsibility not lose sight of the people behind the numbers. **Town employees are not simply positions, classifications, or expenditures on a spreadsheet.** They are the people who answer residents' calls, maintain our roads and buildings, process permits and payments, respond to emergencies, care for our seniors and children, manage payroll and finances, enforce regulations, maintain public records, support our boards and committees, and keep the day-to-day operations of Town government moving.

We come to work every day with the expectation that our work matters and that our efforts are valued. A blanket hiring and wage freeze, particularly when presented without consideration of the workload, retention, recruitment challenges, cost of living, and responsibilities carried by individual departments, can understandably feel demoralizing to the very employees being asked to continue providing excellent service with limited resources.

Fiscal responsibility and employee appreciation should not be mutually exclusive. *You cannot continually ask employees to do more with less while publicly framing their wages and positions as the problem.* And using multiple social media pages to rally people around a problem that has not been fully evaluated. Reading through the comments is truly eye-opening and made me sick. I have been up all night thinking through this response and it is why I am sending it anonymously.

If Fairhaven is facing a structural financial challenge, I believe the answer should include a comprehensive examination of revenues, expenditures, efficiencies, staffing needs, service levels, unfunded obligations, capital planning, and opportunities for sustainable growth. It should also include meaningful input from the employees and department heads who understand firsthand where efficiencies can be found—and where reductions or vacancies would ultimately affect the services residents receive.

There is certainly room for government to continually ask, "Can we do this better?" But I would also encourage us to ask, "What does it take to retain the people who make this Town function well?"

I am proud to be a Town employee. I am proud of the work I do and of the many dedicated employees I work alongside. We may not always agree on how Fairhaven should address its financial challenges, but I hope we can agree that the people who serve this community deserve to be part of the solution—not characterized primarily as a cost to be controlled.

I'm going to go back to work now, smile and do the best I can and as I do every single day.

Sent from Yahoo Mail

Budget Working Group Appointment Process – Request for the Record

1 message

Jennifer Cardoza <jisabel508@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 11, 2026 at 8:53 AM

To: Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, pkuechler@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, rtrapilo@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Members of the Select Board and Mr. Hickey,

I am writing regarding the application and appointment process for the Budget Working Group and, specifically, the application deadline that was advertised to the public.

I believe it is important that the Town adhere to the deadline and criteria that were publicly established for this process. No candidate should be admitted into the applicant pool after the advertised deadline has passed.

When the Town establishes and advertises a deadline, residents should reasonably be able to rely upon that deadline as applying equally to everyone. Individuals who wished to serve were given the same opportunity to review the requirements, submit their materials, and meet the established deadline.

Allowing additional candidates to enter the process after that deadline whether they are one hour late, one day late, or otherwise undermines the integrity and fairness of the process for those residents who complied with the requirements as advertised.

This concern became particularly significant during the Select Board's discussion of the Budget Working Group appointments. The Board discussed whether to expand participation or adhere to the criteria that had been established and ultimately indicated that the established criteria would be followed.

If that is the standard, it must be applied consistently.

For the Emergency Management position, an applicant who submitted their application by the deadline appeared before the Board and answered the Board's questions. The appointment was then tabled, providing an opportunity for an individual who submitted an application after the deadline to potentially be considered at a subsequent meeting.

That raises a fundamental issue of fairness.

This is not a statement regarding the qualifications, experience, or character of any individual who applied. The issue is whether the rules established by the Town apply equally to every applicant.

If an advertised deadline can be disregarded after it has passed, it puts applicants who complied with the process at a disadvantage and creates uncertainty about whether future deadlines established by the Town are actually meaningful.

It also sends a troubling message to residents who volunteer their time to serve their community. We should be encouraging residents to become involved in municipal government. People are far less likely to step forward when they believe established procedures may be changed or applied differently after they have done everything that was asked of them.

For those reasons, I respectfully request that only applications received by the publicly advertised deadline be considered for appointment to the Budget Working Group and that applications received after that deadline not be added to the candidate pool.

If the Board determines that it wants to reopen the application process, I believe the fair and transparent approach would be to formally reopen it for everyone, establish and publicly advertise a new deadline, and provide all interested residents with the same opportunity to apply.

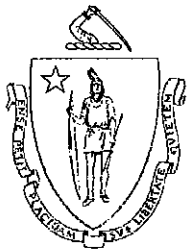
Going forward, I also respectfully request that application deadlines and eligibility criteria established by the Town be consistently enforced so that every resident participating in a public appointment process is treated according to the same standards.

Please include this correspondence in the record for the next Select Board meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cardoza



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200
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August 11, 2026

OML 2026 – 104

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Andrew Romano
Chair, Select Board
Town of Fairhaven
aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov

RE: Open Meeting Law Complaint

Dear Chair Romano:

This office received a complaint from Patrick Higgins (the "Complainant") on October 29, 2025, alleging that the Fairhaven Select Board (the "Board") violated the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. The complaint was originally filed with the Board on October 15¹ and former chair Charles K. Murphy² responded to the complaint, on behalf of the Board, by letter dated October 28. The complaint alleges that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law by failing to respond to a request for executive session minutes within the 10 days required by the Law.

Following our review, we resolve this complaint by **informal action**, in accordance with 940 CMR 29.07(2)(a), and find that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law in the way alleged. In reaching this determination, we reviewed the original complaint, the Board's response to the complaint, the request for further review and the minutes of the Board's October 14 meeting.³

¹ All dates are in 2025 unless otherwise noted.

² At the time the complaint was filed, Mr. Murphy was Chair of the Board. However, he is no longer a member of the Board.

³ The meeting minutes can be found on the "2025 Select Board Agenda and Minutes" page of the Fairhaven Select Board's website: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/document/select-board-2025/>.

The Open Meeting Law requires that a public body “create and maintain accurate minutes of all meetings, including executive sessions.” G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a). The Open Meeting Law further provides that “minutes of an open session, if they exist and whether approved or in draft form, shall be made available upon request by any person within 10 days.” G.L. c. 30A, § 22(c). When a public body receives a request for executive session minutes, the body must also respond to the request within 10 days. See G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(2). If at the time of the request the public body has not recently performed a periodic review of the requested minutes, as provided by G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(1), the body must perform the review and release the non-exempt minutes, or any portion thereof, not later than the body’s next meeting or 30 days, whichever occurs first. Id. If this review is required, the public body must still respond to the requester within 10 days of receiving the request, informing the requester that the public body will conduct a review to determine whether the minutes may be withheld or must be released. See OML 2023-62; OML Declination 10-15-23 (Hubbardston Select Board).⁴

Here, on October 3, the Complainant sent an email to then-Board Chair Charles Murphy requesting a “copy of the minutes of all executive sessions held by the Select Board in calendar years 2024, and 2025.” Mr. Murphy responded on October 4 acknowledging the request, writing, “I have forwarded this.” On October 5, the Complainant emailed Mr. Murphy reminding him of the 10-day requirement. The Town Administrator responded that same day stating that the Board was “aware of the timeline” and would “respond accordingly.”

During a meeting held on October 14, the Board reviewed numerous minutes of executive sessions held in 2024 and 2025 and voted to release certain of those minutes. On October 15, 12 calendar days after the Complainant’s initial request, the Board provided copies of executive session minutes. We acknowledge that the Board initially replied to the Complainant’s request within 10 days acknowledging receipt. However, the Board did not inform the Complainant that it would conduct a review of the executive session minutes. See OML 2017-159. The Board also did not provide minutes that it had previously reviewed, prior to receiving the request, and determined could be released. The Open Meeting Law requires that upon request by any person to inspect or copy the minutes of an executive session or any portion thereof, the body must respond to the request within 10 days following receipt and release any such minutes where publication would not defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session. See G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(2). Here, both Mr. Murphy’s and the Town Administrator’s responses were ambiguous, simply suggesting that the request had been “forwarded” and that the Board would “respond.” Therefore, we find that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law by not properly responding to a request for meeting minutes. However, we commend the Board for promptly reviewing and approving minutes for release at its next meeting.

In instances where all appropriate corrective action has already been taken, such as here where the Board provided copies of responsive meeting minutes on the day the instant complaint was filed, we urge complainants not to consume resources by requesting further review where the transparency purpose of any such complaint or review has already been addressed. See OML 2026-12; OML 2024-224; OML 2023-113; OML 2017-191; OML 2012-46. Indeed, the Open Meeting Law complaint process is designed to allow public bodies to take corrective action and

⁴ Open Meeting Law determinations and declination letters may be found at the Attorney General’s website, <https://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law>.

address concerns raised in a complaint without this office's involvement. See G.L. c. 30A, § 23(b) ("At least 30 days prior to the filing of a complaint with the attorney general, the complainant shall file a written complaint with the public body, setting forth the circumstances which constitute the alleged violation and giving the body an opportunity to remedy the alleged violation."). Pursuing such complaints takes up scarce state and local resources without advancing the Open Meeting Law's goal of improved governmental transparency.

For the reasons stated above, we find that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law by failing to properly respond to a request for executive session minutes within the 10 days required by the Law. We order the Board's immediate and future compliance with the Law and caution that similar future violations could be considered evidence of intent to violate the Law.

We now consider the complaint addressed by this determination to be resolved. This determination does not address any other complaints that may be pending with the Board or with our office. Please feel free to contact our office at (617) 963-2540 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



KerryAnne Kilcoyne
Assistant Attorney General
Division of Open Government

Assisted by Andrew Guay, Legal Intern

cc: Patrick Higgins (via email: patrick@openmeetinglawenforcer.com)
Fairhaven Select Board (via email: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov)
Fairhaven Town Administrator (via email: khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov)
Fairhaven Town Clerk (via email: clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov)

This determination was issued pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 23(c). A public body or any member of a body aggrieved by a final order of the Attorney General may obtain judicial review through an action filed in Superior Court pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 23(d). The complaint must be filed in Superior Court within twenty-one days of receipt of a final order.

Warrantless surveillance

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com>
To: **selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov**

Fri, Aug 14, 2026 at 3:28 PM

<https://ij.org/case/san-jose-license-plate-readers/>

Happening across the US a breach in the fourth amendment.

Michelle Costen

Flock

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 16, 2026 at 11:10 AM

To: Andrew Romano <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>

Dear members of Fairhaven's Select,

I am writing to express strong opposition to the surveillance cameras installed in Fairhaven, and to request an immediate removal.

Through research into automated enforcement and surveillance, I have noted that the systems faced technical limitations, such as windshield and license plate glare. To combat this, industries are increasingly adopting, advanced glare - mitigation technologies- Such as flocking technology, which is currently utilized in automotive and military applications-As it appears, to maximize data capture capabilities.

The implementation of this pervasive surveillance apparatus raises profound concerns regarding public oversight and civil liberties. Installing these systems prior to public notification, undermines transparency and directly infringe upon our fourth amendment rights. Furthermore, relying on internal privacy agreements and oaths apparently provides insufficient protection against potential misuse as evidenced by documented abuses of surveillance technology by law enforcement personnel across the country.

Given the significant risk to personal privacy and constitutional rights, I urge our Select Members to dismantle this current camera network and reject further expansion of what citizens deem as Mass Surveillance in Fairhaven.

Protection is vital but should never be at the expense of privacy for every day law abiding citizens.

It leaves a dark and creepy feeling in our town. Is that what you want?

Not to mention who is paying for Flock cameras, especially while we are in deficits? And whose idea was it to implement this in the first place?

The public needs to know.

Michelle Costen