FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
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Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Centre Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

Town of Fairhaven Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes, 29 October 2026

Members Present – Chairman Pat Elliott, Bob Grindrod, Ken Blanchard, Claire Millette, Pattie Pacella, Steve Riley, Linda Gallant, and David Patterson

Peter Gardner was on via Zoom.

Absent: James Souza, Steve Levesque, and Nancy Santoro
Town Administrator Keith Hickey was present via Zoom.

1. Call meeting to order.
Chair Pat Elliot called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Law Notice.

2. Approval of Minutes – 8.26.26
The motion was made by Claire Millette and seconded by Bob Grindrod. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Special Town Meeting (STM): November 17th with Pre-Meeting on November 12th

3. Review of Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles
Article 1: Repairs were complete for a flooding issue – question of the amount that was received by the insurance and the repair cost as members wanted to makes sure procured correctly. FinCom will address the motion at the Pre-Meeting before STM.
Motion: Claire Millette made a motion, seconded by Bob Grindron, to discuss and vote on at the Pre-Special Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote. Vote: 9-0-0.

Article 2: MOU for Dispatchers. Members were not happy about the MOU day differential rate; they gave feedback to Chief Daniel Dorgan, who was on to answer questions via Zoom.
Chief Dorgan explained the continuous role of the dispatchers, which included day-to-day staffing desk, walk-ins, business associated with the field police officers, etc.

Steve Riley asked whether a day differential sets a precedent. Mr. Hickey said No.
Chairman Pat Elliott reminded FinCom members the vote was to approve the MOU; more discussion about the budget will occur again at budget season.

Chief Dorgan will follow up on what the Town was given in return in this MOU.

Motion: Steve Riley moved to recommend Article 2 to Special Town Meeting and seconded by David Patterson. The motion passed with one abstention by Linda Gallant. **Vote:** 8-0-1.

Article 3: Anne Carreiro explained that an RFP needs to be sent out. This would be because it's Town property, and a lease would occur Town Meeting needs to approve. Antennas on the water tower. Bob Grindrod recommended careful review of any lease agreements.

Motion: Claire Millette moved to recommend Article 3 to Town Meeting and seconded by Bob Grindrod. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote. Vote: 9-0-0.

Article 4: Reviewed.
Motion: Steve Riley moved to recommend and seconded by Linda Gallant. The motion passed unanimously. Vote: 9-0-0.

Article 5: Discussion on a smoother transition as Anne C. retires in 2027.
Motion: Claire Millette moved to recommend and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously. Vote: 9-0-0.

Article 6: No money involved. Yield to Petitioner
Motion: Claire Millette moved to yield to the petitioner and was seconded by Bob Grindrod. The motion passed unanimously. Vote: 9-0-0.

Article 7: Housekeeping/OPEB Trust. Yield to Petitioner.
Motion: Claire Millette moved to yield to the petitioner and was seconded by Bob Grindrod. The motion passed unanimously. Vote: 9-0-0

Article 8: Yield to Petitioner

Article 9: Yield to Petitioner

Next meeting: 11/12/2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Special Town Meeting: 11/17/2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Pacella, Recording Clerk

Documents Reviewed:
Warrant for Special Town Meeting
Letter dated October 10, 2026 from Chief Dan Dorgan

Approved on: 11.17.2026