



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2026 - remote

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 MAR 10 PM 12:36

Present via zoom: Charles Murphy Sr., Natalie A. Mello and Anne Carreiro

Present via telephone: Keith Silvia

Not Present: Andrew Romano, Andrew Saunders and Keith R. Hickey

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 6:06pm

Due to Winter Storm Hernando, the meeting was remote with participation via zoom or phone dial-in.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to *table all agenda items except B1, D2 and the Town Administrator Report*. Mr. Silvia seconded. Roll Call Vote. Ms. Mello, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Murphy in favor. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

Consider Appointment: Treasurer/Collector: Wendy Cochrane

Ms. Carreiro addressed the Board to introduce Wendy Cochrane for the position of Treasurer/Collector. Ms. Carreiro thanked the interview panel and advised that Ms. Cochrane's recommendation is unanimous from the panel. Ms. Cochrane appeared via zoom and thanked the Board for the opportunity and will attend the next meeting to meet the Board in person.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Wendy Cochrane as Treasurer/Collector. Mr. Silvia seconded. Roll Call Vote. Ms. Mello, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Murphy in favor. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Call Local Town Election on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 and Sign Public Notice

Town Clerk Elisabeth Horan addressed the Board regarding setting the date for the 2026 Annual Town Election. Candidates can pull papers on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 8:30am; the memo lists the positions and term lengths (*Attachment A*).

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to set the date and call the next Annual Town Election to be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 with the positions and term lengths as presented in the Town Clerk's memo. Mr. Silvia seconded. Roll Call Vote. Ms. Mello, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Murphy in favor. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Hart advised the Board that the Town's Community Emergency Response Plan Incident Command Team (CEMP) met and will continue to meet to review storm coordination efforts and alerts for the public. Fire Chief Todd Correia addressed the Board with a recap of the storm conditions: thirty-plus (30+) inches of snowfall, approximately thirty percent (30%) of the Town is without power, additional heavy equipment and salt have been requested from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Eversource is addressing power outages across Town in coordination with Public Works and, due to safety concerns, there was a time where plowing and recovery efforts were at a standstill.

Chief Correia anticipates about three days to return to normal, in the next 24-48 hours crews will be clearing the main roads and then move to clearing the side streets. The Town will use the reverse 911 system to send alerts out. He reminded everyone about the Governor's travel ban and asked for residents to clear hydrants and check on elderly neighbors. There is a temporary shelter at the Fire Station which will be transitioned to the Middle School.

The Town Administrator has closed Town offices for Tuesday; School has been cancelled for Tuesday and Wednesday. Trash pick-up is delayed two days and will be reevaluated as conditions change; any further delays will be communicated. Chief Correia reminded everyone to check generators for a clear output due to potential for

carbon monoxide; check and clear storm drains and watch out for plows.

He also asked for patience as storm recovery efforts are underway and he asked people to stay off the roads so crews can work. The Board thanked those in public safety and public works that are working to get the Town back on track and the CEMP team for the continued updates.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to adjourn at 6:22pm. Mr. Silvia seconded. Roll Call Vote. Ms. Mello, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Murphy in favor. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm

ATTACHMENTS

A. Town Clerk's Office Memo: 2026 Annual Town Election

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

Accepted on March 9, 2026



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN HALL · 40 CENTER STREET · FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719
TELEPHONE: 508-979-4023 · EMAIL: CLERK@FAIRHAVEN-MA.GOV

ELISABETH E. HORAN
TOWN CLERK

A

MEMO

To: Select Board
From: Elisabeth E. Horan, Town Clerk *EEH*
Date: February 18, 2026
Re: 2026 Annual Town Election

Honorable Select Board:

I am writing to request that you take action relative to our Annual Town Election. If you would kindly add this to your next Select Board meeting agenda.

CALLING FOR THE ELECTION & SETTING THE DATE:

Attached is the Public Notice for the Select Board to call and set the date for the next Annual Town Election on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

Once adopted and signed, please return the original Public Notice to my office so that it may be posted in accordance with MGL. Ch.41 § 10.

Nomination papers will be available the first business day in March, which will be Monday, March 2, 2026 at 8:30 am.

A proposed motion is included for your convenience.

Proposed Motion:

I hereby move that the Select Board set the date and call for the next Annual Town Election to be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 for the following positions and term lengths:

- Two **Select Board** Members - 3-year term
- Two **Planning Board** Members - 3-year term
- One **Planning Board** Member - 2-year term
- Two **School Committee** Members - 3-year term
- One **School Committee** Member - 1-year term
- One **Board of Health** Member - 3-year term
- Two **Board of Public Works** Members - 3-year term
- One **Commissioner of Trust Funds** Member- 3-year term
- One **Housing Authority** Member – 5-year term
- **Precinct One - Town Meeting Members** – Number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Two - Town Meeting Members** – Number of open seats to be determined*

- **Precinct Three - Town Meeting Members** – Number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Four - Town Meeting Members** – Number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Five - Town Meeting Members** – Number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Six - Town Meeting Members** – Number of open seats to be determined*

**In accordance with Section 2 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 1930 and amendments thereto establishing in the Town of Fairhaven Representative Town Government by Limited Town Meeting.*



ELISABETH E. HORAN
TOWN CLERK

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The **Fairhaven Annual Town Election** will be held on **Tuesday, June 9, 2026** from 10:00am to 8:00pm at the following polling location:

Precincts 1-6: Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Registered voters of the Town of Fairhaven will elect the following positions into office on June 9, 2026:

- **Two (2) Select Board Members** – three-year term
- **Two (2) Planning Board Members** – three-year term
- **One (1) Planning Board Member** – two-year term *(to fill a vacancy)*
- **Two (2) School Committee Members** – three-year term
- **One (1) School Committee Member** – one-year term *(to fill a vacancy)*
- **Two (2) Board of Public Works Members** – three-year term
- **One (1) Board of Health Member** – three-year term
- **One (1) Commissioner of Trust Funds** -- three-year term
- **One (1) Housing Authority Member** – five-year term

- **Precinct One – Town Meeting Members** – number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Two – Town Meeting Members** – number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Three – Town Meeting Members** – number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Four – Town Meeting Members** – number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Five – Town Meeting Members** – number of open seats to be determined*
- **Precinct Six – Town Meeting Members** – number of open seats to be determined*

**In accordance with Section 2 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 1930 and amendments thereto establishing in the Town of Fairhaven Representative Town Government by Limited Town Meeting.*

Nomination papers for the above positions will be available at the Town Clerk's Office beginning **Monday, March 2, 2026 at 8:30am.**

SELECT BOARD OF FAIRHAVEN

CHARLES K. MURPHY, SR., CHAIR

ANDREW ROMANO, VICE CHAIR

NATALIE A. MELLO, CLERK

ANDREW B. SAUNDERS

KEITH SILVIA

Date: _____