



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 APR 28 AM 9:04

Present: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Keith Silvia, Andrew Saunders and Keith R. Hickey

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 6:30pm

A moment of silence was observed for Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the memory of the six million Jewish men, women, and children, and the millions of other innocent victims who perished during the Holocaust.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property where the chair declares that an open session would have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Select Board (Atlas Tack conservation restriction) **and to return to Open Session.** Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session from 6:33pm to 6:46pm

PUBLIC COMMENT - No Public Comment

APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

Appointment Request: Dog Park Study Committee: Hailey Hemingway, one-year term

The Board reviewed the application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Hailey Hemingway to a one-year term on the Dog Park Study Committee expiring May, 2027. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee: Melanie Jansky, ad-hoc

Ms. Jansky addressed the Board about her application and interest.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Melanie Jansky as an ad hoc member of the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Commission on Disability: Noah Brine

Mr. Murphy recused himself on this item and exited the Banquet Room from 6:51-6:52pm. The Board reviewed the application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Noah Brine to the Commission on Disability to a three-year term expiring May, 2029. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Murphy recused himself.

Proclamation: John Rotundi, Katie Brienza Lifetime Achievement Award

Ms. Mello read the proclamation.

Event Request: Conrad's Law 5K: Saturday, September 12, 2026

The Board reviewed the application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Conrad's Law 5K to be held Saturday, September 12, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Event Request: Nemasket Group 13th Annual 5K Walk/Run: Saturday, May 2, 2026

The Board reviewed the application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Nemasket Group 13th Annual 5K Walk/Run to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Event Request and Temporary Street Closure: Cherry Blossom Festival: Sunday, May 3, 2026

The Board reviewed the application received and clarified the streets for the temporary street closure. Mr. Murphy

advised the Board they are invited to attend including a bento box lunch.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the temporary street closure for the Cherry Blossom Festival to be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026 contingent upon review and requirements of Police, Fire and Public Works. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Select Board Representative Request: Hastings Middle School Softball Field Renaming Selection Committee: Charles Murphy

The Superintendent of Schools is forming a Selection Committee to consider renaming the softball field at the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School. Per Policy 1339, Naming/Renaming School Facilities, a request was made to the Superintendent for Mr. Murphy to represent the Select Board. Associated meetings would be completed by June when Mr. Murphy's tenure on the Board concludes.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Charles Murphy as Select Board Representative on the Hastings Middle School Softball Field Renaming Selection Committee. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Mr. Hickey asked the Board to consider taking the Recreation Center rates out of order.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to take item D2 out of order. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Consider Proposed Recreation Center Membership Rate Adjustment for FY2027

Recreation Center Director Bernadette Barreira addressed the Board about the proposed adjustment to fees.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to adopt the proposed Recreation Center Membership Fees as presented, effective July 1, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Ms. Barreira reminded Town Meeting members that the Recreation Center will be providing free childcare for children K-8th grade the day of Town Meeting on Saturday, May 2, 2026 and to reach out to register.

Project Eligibility Letter Application Support Presentation on Proposed Friendly 40-B on the former G. Bourne Knowles Site

Mr. Hickey introduced Lynne Sweet of LDS Consulting Group, LLC., Developer Ricardo Raposo and Richard Rheume of Prime Engineering to present a 224-unit Friendly 40B project to the Board. The term "Friendly 40B" means that the developer and local officials collaborate on design and approval for the development of the housing units.

Ms. Sweet addressed the Board and reviewed the details of the proposal (*Attachment A*). She advised that this is in very preliminary stages. Discussion ensued on the proposal, details, floor-plan design, shovel-ready date, move-in dates, Planning Board involvement, maximum number of units if not a 40B, purchase and sales agreement, if there are closing dates, who is the enforcer of "affordable in perpetuity," regulatory agreement enforcer, tax rate and impact, staffing impacts and capacity for Police, Fire, Schools and other departments.

Ms. Sweet advised the Board that the developer is committed to working with the Town and appropriate departments and would be back to see the Board's support on their application to the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC). She will provide a revised presentation to address grammatical corrections to a typo on slide 5 and "age restriction" references on slide 7.

No vote taken.

Authorize Town Clerk to Request Election Workers from the Democratic and Republican Town Committees

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 54, § 12, each political party town committee is entitled annually to submit to the Board of Registrars of Voters a list of enrolled party members who are interested in serving as election officers. Such lists must be filed no later than June 1 of the same year and may be submitted to the Board of Registrars of Voters, care of the Town Clerk, for review and certification.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 54, § 12, the Board of Registrars shall review the submitted names and provide the certified lists to the Select Board no later than June 30 for appointment.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to authorize the Select Board to send a letter to each political party town committee seeking individuals for inclusion on the list of election officers. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Discussion with Public Works Superintendent: Beach and Trash Fees

Brief discussion ensued as to whether Mr. Furtado would join after the Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting or if the Board would schedule a separate joint meeting with BPW to discuss the beach and trash fee. Mr. Hickey advised the Board he would like people to have as much time as possible to consider options.

Mr. Hickey explained the conversations with Mr. Furtado about the BPW considering an increase to the trash fee to fund some or all the expenses proposed in the override article (Article 9) at Town Meeting. BPW would propose an amount of money to increase the operating budget by and then what departments to fund with the offsetting revenue. Additionally, a suggestion was made to consider increasing the beach permit fee to potentially fund the lifeguards. If BPW votes to increase the trash fee, Mr. Hickey asked BPW to bring forward a motion at Town Meeting; if the motion passes he would recommend Town Meeting pass over Article 9 (the override article).

Discussion continued regarding the difference in an override impact and the trash fee increase and the strain on some where the trash fee increase is more than the override impact. Mr. Hickey suggested continuing the meeting tonight and not adjourning tonight's meeting. The Board discussed their availability if the meeting was continued.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hickey reviewed his report (*Attachment B*) and added,

- The Fire Department received a grant through the Commonwealth for \$14,618 to replace equipment.
- Senator Montigny's office notified the Town of \$100,000 in funding to address sidewalks that are not ADA compliant.
- Mr. Romano asked if there is a target date for posting the Planning Director position. Mr. Hickey advised the Board that the Town is using a consultant at this time to support the Planning Board and based on conversations with the Chair, they seem satisfied with the support. Miles Grant addressed Mr. Hickey via zoom and said that he was not speaking for the whole Planning Board and that an applicant and their lawyer spoke at the last meeting and Mr. Grant said not having staff felt like the Planning Board was not on equal ground and a full-time Planner would be welcomed. Mr. Silvia asked about the cost and Mr. Hickey will get the amount paid to the consultant to date and send to the Board.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders reported:

- Marine Resources met and discussed a delay in the West Island dredging and reviewing the rules and regulations format to make a more user-friendly version.

Ms. Mello reported:

- Historical Commission met, the Academy Building re-shingle project has started. There was a discussion about the Rogers Bell and how to display it.
- She mentioned Lagoa needs members. Mr. Romano said check with previous applicants for interest.

Mr. Murphy reported:

- The Sister City Committee met about the upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival on May 3, 2026

Mr. Romano reported:

- SRPEDD met and discussed the Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP).
- The Belonging Committee met, he could not attend and said they are planning for Fairhaven's Got Pride.
- He attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony and there are four upcoming Eagle Scouts, he congratulated Mr. Dorgan (Chief Dorgan's father).
- Mr. Romano congratulated Mr. Murphy on the recent M.O.L.I.F.E. Gala

Mr. Silvia reported:

- Commission on Disability met and discussed handicap parking and the need for Police enforcement.
- Mr. Silvia asked what the procedure is to have an audit on the School operating budget and that the Finance Committee has been waiting for information. Mr. Hickey advised that there is an annual audit and questions should be referred to the Superintendent or a School Committee member. Mr. Hickey said he would make the Superintendent aware that the Finance Committee is waiting for information.

Mr. Saunders added that he met with Senator Montigny and discussed increasing local aid. Senator Montigny will be scheduling a meeting with Anne Carreiro and School Business Manager Nikki Potter to discuss issues. Mr. Saunders said the city of Boston is asking for relief and all other cities and towns should too. Mr. Murphy said he also spoke with Senator Montigny.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the open session minutes of March 30 and 31, 2026 as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Copy of Letter to the Finance Committee in support of Tourism: Eleanor Chew; Memorial Day Parade invitation; Fairhaven Village Militia-Harbor of Courage Encampment invitation; Emails regarding the Animal Shelter; Email: M. Hayes: HHR; Email: Michelle Costen: Shortfall-Override-Rain Ref: SB 3/23/26; And Open Meeting Law Appeal: Patrick Higgins: Re. Emergency Meeting: September 30, 2025 Executive Session (*Attachment C*).

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Monday, April 27, 2026* at 6:30pm. Precinct Meetings followed by the Annual Town Meeting Preview will be on Thursday, April 30, 2026 starting at 6:30p.m. at the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School, 30 School Street and the Annual Town Meeting will be on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 9:00a.m. in the Walter Silveira Auditorium at the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School, 30 School Street

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) and 21(a)(7) to comply with or act under authority of the Public Records Law to discuss sharing the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision Investigative Report with members of the Planning Board, NOT to return to Open Session and to continue the open session to Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:30pm. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Select Board motioned to enter Executive Session, not to return to Open Session, at 8:33pm

The Select Board recessed Open Session at 8:33pm to Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:30pm

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Presentation on Proposed Friendly 40-B on the former G. Bourne Knowles Site
- B. Town Administrator Report
- C. Correspondence: Copy of Letter to the Finance Committee in support of Tourism: Eleanor Chew; Memorial Day Parade invitation; Fairhaven Village Militia-Harbor of Courage Encampment invitation; Emails regarding the Animal Shelter; Email: M. Hayes: HHR; Email: Michelle Costen: Shortfall-Override-Rain Ref: SB 3/23/26; And Open Meeting Law Appeal: Patrick Higgins: Re. Emergency Meeting: September 30, 2025 Executive Session

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

Accepted on April 27, 2026



**PEL APPLICATION PRESENTATION TO THE
FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD**



**NASKETUCKET RESIDENCES
267-271 HUTTLESTONE AVENUE
APRIL 13, 2026**

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Developer

Ricardo Raposo – Raposo Legacy Development

Civil/Stormwater

Richard Rheame- Prime Engineering

Building Architect

Dan Herchenroether – Herchenroether Architecture

Traffic Engineer

Jeffrey S. Dirk , PE, PTOE, FITE – Vanasse & Associates Inc.

M.G.L. Chapter 40B Consultant

**Lynne D. Sweet, Management Member
LDS Consulting Group, LLC**

PEL PROCESS

Request to the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities for a Project Eligibility Letter ("PEL") Process:

- **Requesting the town to sign the PEL application and sign a letter of support**

Once the PEL application has been submitted to the state:

- **The Town will be provided with a 30 day comment period**
- **The state will schedule a site walk with Town Officials and Boards.**
- **The state will order an as is appraisal at the applicants expense.**
- **The state has to make 7 findings.**
- **In 60-90 days, the state will make its findings and issue a PEL.**



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PROCESS

The Applicant can then file for a Comprehensive Permit with the Zoning Board of Appeals

The subsidized Housing Inventory (“SHI”) was 6.91%* per the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (“HLC”) on 9/30/2025.

- **Town can request MHP Grant for board training and technical assistance**
- **Distribute Application - 7 Days**
- **Notice of Public Hearing - 14 days**
- **Open public hearing within 30 days**
 - **Peer reviews can commence**
 - **Discuss waivers and conditions**
- **Close Public Hearing - 180 days**
- **Vote on decision - 40 days**

Back to state for final closing and regulatory agreement before obtaining a building permit

DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

- **12.29 Acres site, dilapidated greenhouses on site will be raised**
- **Proposing 224 Units, majority two bedrooms**
- **3-4 Buildings - Central Courtyard with fire pit**
- **On site amenities: fitness center, business center, dog run, tot lot, many acres of open space for passive recreation**
- **Adjacent to Bike ("rail") trail**
- **Meets all underlying dimensional set backs**
- **Front buildings 3 Stories**
- **Rear buildings - drive under parking and 4 stories residential**
- **Approximately 1.7 spaces per unit**
- **Dark sky compliant**
- **Guest parking scattered throughout the site**
- **EV Charging stations,**

AFFORDABILITY

- **25% of all units will be affordable to households earning at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. Therefore, all 224 will count on the SHI.**
- **70% of the affordable units may have a local preference if approved by the state.**
- **All the units will be affordable in perpetuity.**
- **Affordable and market rate units will have the same basic level of finishes**
- **The initial leases for the affordable units will be based on a state approved marketing plan.**
- **Income for a two person household at 80% at AMI is \$86,100.**
- **Affordable rents today \$1,623-\$1,806**



NEED FOR AGE RESTRICTED AND AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP

- According to the 2020-2024 Census ACS, 48.9% of renters or 893 households in Fairhaven are rent burdened, meaning they are paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs.
- According to the 2020-2024 Census ACS, 20.6% of renters or 377 of the 893 households in Fairhaven are severely rent burdened, meaning they are paying more than 50% of their income on housing costs

Transportation Impact Evaluation Summary

- ▶ The Project is expected to generate 1,256 vehicle trips on an average weekday (two way, 24-hour volume), with 92 vehicle trips expected during the weekday morning peak-hour and 105 vehicle trips expected during the weekday evening peak-hour;
- ▶ With consideration of the dispersal of Project-generated trips over the respective peak hours and to Route 6, the predicted peak-hour traffic volumes that are expected to be associated with the Project will not result in a significant increase in motorist delays or vehicle queuing over existing conditions;
- ▶ A review of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) high crash location database indicates that there are no (0) high crash locations along Route 6 in the vicinity of the Project site;
- ▶ The available lines of sight at the Project site driveway intersection with Route 6 and at the Route 6/Peirce's Point intersection are sufficient to allow the intersections to operate in a safe and efficient manner; and
- ▶ The Project does not generate sufficient traffic on a continuous basis in and of itself to justify (warrant) the installation of a traffic control signal at the Route 6/Peirce's Point intersection or to the extent that a full access driveway were to be developed along Route 6 to support the Project.



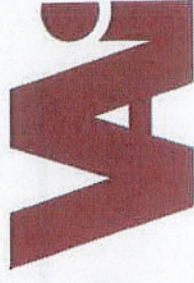
Recommendations – Site Access and Circulation

- The full access Project site driveways along Peirce’s Point should be 24-feet in width and designed to accommodate the turning and maneuvering requirements of the largest anticipated responding emergency vehicle.
- The right-in/right-out driveway that will intersect the south side of Route 6 should provide 20-foot wide entering and exiting travel lanes, unless a reduced width is approved by the Fire Chief, separated by a raised island that channelizes entering and exiting traffic to right-turn movements only.
- Where perpendicular parking is proposed, the drive aisle behind the parking should be a minimum of 23 feet wide in order to facilitate parking maneuvers.
- Vehicles exiting the Project should be placed under STOP-sign control with marked STOP-lines provided.
- “No Left-Turn” signs (graphic symbol) should be installed on Route 6 at the Project site driveway facing westbound traffic and for motorists exiting the Project site. In addition, a “Right Turn Only” sign (graphic symbol) should be installed facing motorists exiting the Project site.



Recommendations – Site Access and Circulation

- All signs and pavement markings to be installed within the Project site should conform to the applicable standards of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).
- Marked crosswalks and ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps will be provided at all pedestrian crossings to be constructed or modified as a part of the Project.
- Signs and landscaping located within sight triangle areas should be designed and maintained so as not to restrict lines of sight.
- Snow accumulations (windrows) within sight triangle areas should be promptly removed where such accumulations would impede sightlines.



Transportation Demand Management Measures

- A Transportation Coordinator (TC), who may also have other duties and responsibilities, should be assigned for the Project to coordinate the TDM program;
- The TC will facilitate a rideshare matching program for residents to encourage carpooling;
- A “welcome packet” will be provided to new residents that will include the contact information for the TC and detailing available public transportation services, bicycle and walking alternatives, and other commuter options;
- Short-term parking spaces should be located proximate to the residential building entrances for use by ride-hailing and delivery service providers;
- A central mailroom and package delivery station should be provided within both buildings;
- Pedestrian accommodations should be incorporated within the Project site and should extend to Route 6 to encourage walking; and
- Secure bicycle parking should be provided to include weather protected bicycle parking for residents and exterior bicycle parking located proximate to the building entrances.



Front Building



Front Building View- Note there will be two buildings in the back



Front Building View- Note there will be two buildings in the back





NEXT STEPS

- **Feedback from BOS on Concept**
- **If positive, the Development team will put together all the paperwork necessary to file a Project Eligibility Letter with the State.**
- **The Development Team will meet with the State for feedback**
- **Finalize application and submit to BOS for review**
- **Request BOS to sign the application and provide a letter of support.**

THANK YOU

Lynne Sweet
Principal

LDS Consulting Group, LLC
170 Worcester Street, Suite 206
Wellesley, MA 02148
788-943-3963

Idsweet@ldsconsultinggroup.com



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

Financial Updates

- The Town Meeting warrant that is prepared for Town Meeting members has been completed and will be mailed to members later this week.
- The Fairhaven Fire Department received a \$14,618 grant to replace aging department equipment. The equipment includes a hose tester, thermal imaging camera, one battery and two gas powered chainsaws.
- I received notification this morning from Senator Montigny's office that the Senator has secured an additional \$100,000 for the Town of Fairhaven to be used toward ADA-compliant sidewalk upgrades.

Project Updates

- Building Commissioner Rick Forand and I met with Superintendent Tara Kohler and Assistant Superintendent Mark Balestraccito discuss and finalize the plans for the high school football field bathrooms. Mr. Forand and Assistant Superintendent Balestraccito are working together to finalize the plans to place the bathrooms in the existing building currently used in part for concessions.

Personnel Update

- Tax Collector/Treasurer Carla Mourao and Conservation Administrative Assistant Danielle Kirkwood began their employment on March 30th.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Anne Carreiro and I met with the West Island Improvement Association on Wednesday, April 6th to discuss the FY27 Town Meeting warrant.



Monday, April 13, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copy of Letter to the Finance Committee in support of Tourism: Eleanor Chew
2. Memorial Day Parade invitation
3. Fairhaven Village Militia-Harbor of Courage Encampment invitation
4. Emails regarding the Animal Shelter
5. Email: M. Hayes: HHR
6. Email: Michelle Costen: Shortfall-Override-Rain Ref: SB 3/23/26
7. Open Meeting Law Appeal: Patrick Higgins: Re. Emergency Meeting: September 30, 2025 Executive Session

180 Main St.
Fairhaven, MA. 02719
March 30, 2026

Mr. Charles Murphy
Chair, Fairhaven Select Board
40 Center St.
Fairhaven, MA. 02719

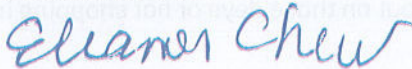
Mr. Murphy and Members of the Select Board,

I am providing you with a copy of the letter that I sent to the Finance Committee on March 26, 2026 expressing my concerns with the potential elimination of the position of Tourism Director and the entire department.

I hope you will take the time to read this letter and to think about the overall costs and impacts of the elimination of this department as expressed in the attached letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Eleanor Chew

Cc: Copy of letter to Finance Committee Dated 3/26/2026

180 Main St.
Fairhaven, MA. 02719
March 26, 2026

Mr. Padraic Elliott, Chair Fairhaven Finance Committee
40 Center St.
Fairhaven, MA. 02719

Mr. Elliott and the Members of the Finance Committee,

Although I realize the decision was made to eliminate the Tourism Director and department I still feel as though I needed to speak about this as I feel this is ultimately not in the best interests of the town. I was unable to call Tuesday night thus the reason for the letter.

1. Tuesday night it was said by a member of the Fin Com that if the position became part-time and Ms. Botelho did not want it someone would take it. Why would we want just anyone to take it? That person (if we could hire someone) would have to recreate the wheel and how much time, and money is that going to cost us? We have someone in this position who is passionate, creative, experienced, and dedicated as evidenced by how much was implemented last summer.

2. Events have been planned, announced broadly, and vendors have begun to sign up and I would guess they have paid their fee for a booth. How do we refund their money which is going to take time to do. What is the long-term impact when we reinstate this position. I would doubt that any of those vendors would return to anything in Fairhaven as our trust with them was broken, and they have found new places to go. Vendors also provide publicity as many have social media pages sharing their activities, locations and talk about their experiences after the event. How much positive impact does this have on the town?

3. What is the negative impact of people not coming and residents not going out on those days or not shopping in town as there was nothing to keep residents here?

4. There is no method to quantify the positive impacts of this nor the intrinsic values of the Tourism Director and her position. Were other department heads asked to quantify the benefits they brought to town and how much of their positions were covered by fees etc.? If not, why not?

5. If my understanding is correct, didn't the Recreation Department leave an administrative position open when that individual resigned? If so, then where is that funding and can it be used for the Tourism Director along with what was mentioned Tuesday for funding?

6. What is the potential cost of paying unemployment for Ms. Botelho? Wouldn't that funding in tight budget times be more effectively utilized paying someone who is working and benefitting the town rather than paying someone who is not working? I didn't hear this discussed Tuesday night.

My hope is that you as a committee will reconsider your decision and reinstate this position fully for FY 2027 while having a discussion about how this position can bring in more funding. My hope is that you can look at the LONG-TERM benefits and not use this position as a short-term, short-sighted decision to balance a budget.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor Chew



Fairhaven
MASSACHUSETTS

H 2

Office of Veterans Services
229 Huttleston Avenue
Fairhaven, MA 02719
508-202-4603 (Mike) or 508-658-3719 (Jane)
FAX: 508-979-4116
Mjenney@fairhaven-ma.gov
jbettencourt@fairhaven-ma.gov

SELECT BOARD
2026MAR25 9:139:13

March 24, 2026

Fairhaven Select Board
40 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719

Dear Members,

You are cordially invited to participate in Fairhaven's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2026.

Parade participants will assemble behind Fairhaven High School on Larch Avenue at 8:30 AM. The parade will commence at 9:00 AM.

The parade route will travel north down Main Street to Riverside Cemetery. Our traditional ceremony will take place there.

Afterwards there will be a gathering at the Fairhaven Senior Center located at 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven MA.

Please join us to commemorate the day.

If you are interested (and we hope you are!), please reply by Friday, May 8, 2026 by contacting Mike or Jane in the Veterans Office.

Should we experience inclement weather, there will be a Memorial Service at 11:00 AM with a gathering afterwards at the Fairhaven Senior Center.

Sincerely,

Mike Jenney, VSO and Parade Committee Members

Harbor of Courage Encampment- Fairhaven Village Militia

1 message

Fairhaven Militia <fairhavenvillagemilitia@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 6, 2026 at 9:23 PM

To: Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Andrew Romano <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "Natalie A. Mello" <namello@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Andrew Saunders <asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Members of the Select Board,

On behalf of the Fairhaven Village Militia, we are writing to invite you to our upcoming "Harbor of Courage" Spring Encampment, taking place at Fort Phoenix on Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, 2026.

This year's encampment holds particular significance as we commemorate the 250th Birthday of the United States and the 251st Anniversary of the First Naval Engagement of the Revolution, which took place right here in our own waters. Our goal is to provide an immersive educational experience for residents and visitors alike, featuring:

- Period-accurate military drills and musket demonstrations during the day.
- Colonial craft displays leather working, sewing, camp cooking and more.
- A battle reenactment between the Tories and the Patriot militia is scheduled for Saturday at 2:00 PM.
- A commemorative cannon firing at dusk on Saturday evening.

Co-hosted by the Fairhaven Village Militia and Discover Fairhaven with support from SRPEDD and BayCoast Bank, this event invites you to see history in action at the very spot where courage met the sea.

We are also proud to announce that this event has been made possible through the generous support of the Fairhaven Cultural Council. Their recent grant award to the Militia ensures that we can keep this event free and accessible to the public, fostering a deeper appreciation for Fairhaven's pivotal role in American history.

We would be honored to have the Select Board members in attendance at this historic celebration. We remain committed to working closely with Discover Fairhaven to ensure a fun, safe, educational, and memorable weekend for all.

Thank you for your continued support of our local heritage.

Sincerely,

Wayne Oliveira
Commander

Matt McDonald
Lt. Commander

Oppose Animal Shelter Closure and Reduction of Animal Control Position

H 4

Leanne Manning <leannemanninamac@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:31 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Members of the Select Board and Town Administration,

I am a Fairhaven resident writing in strong opposition to the proposal discussed in the recent Finance Committee meeting to close the animal shelter and reduce the animal control position to part-time.

Hearing this proposal, along with the suggestion that the shelter could instead operate through donations and volunteers, is deeply concerning. The idea that the care of living, vulnerable animals could be dependent on inconsistent donations is not realistic or responsible. Anyone with even a basic understanding of budgeting should recognize that donations are unpredictable and cannot be relied upon to sustain ongoing, essential care such as food, medical treatment, emergency services, and facility upkeep.

Beyond that, shifting the responsibility onto volunteers is not a viable or safe solution. Volunteers play an important role, but they are not a substitute for trained, accountable, full-time professionals. Running an animal shelter requires consistent oversight, experience, and the ability to respond to complex and often urgent situations. Expecting volunteers to take on that level of responsibility without proper structure, staffing, and support is setting the entire system up to fail.

Closing the shelter would also place an unfair and dangerous burden on surrounding towns and their already limited resources. Local shelters are not equipped to absorb an influx of animals from Fairhaven without consequence. This will inevitably result in overcrowding, reduced care capacity, and, ultimately, more animals being put at risk. We do not need fewer animal shelters we need to maintain and strengthen the ones we have.

Additionally, the suggestion that surrounding towns or nonprofit shelters could absorb Fairhaven's animals is not grounded in reality. Facilities like Dartmouth's are already operating at or near capacity and are actively working to manage overflow within their own systems, including assisting other municipalities. Shifting Fairhaven's responsibilities onto already strained resources will not solve the problem it will intensify it, placing more animals at risk and overwhelming neighboring communities.

Animal control is not a part-time responsibility. It is a critical public safety role that extends far beyond standard hours. Animal control officers handle lost and found animals, cruelty and abuse cases, dangerous situations, public safety concerns, inspections of kennels and facilities, and emergency responses at all hours. This is not a job that can be effectively performed on a limited, part-time schedule.

Reducing this position sends a clear message that the work is undervalued, despite the reality that it is demanding, essential, and often emotionally taxing. It also raises serious concerns about the town's ability to retain qualified individuals. Fairhaven already offers some of the lowest pay in the surrounding area for this role. Further reducing the position will make it nearly impossible to attract or keep someone with the experience, dedication, and compassion required to do this job properly.

Animals in this community rely on these services for protection, advocacy, and care. They do not have a voice, and it is the responsibility of the town to ensure they are not neglected or put at risk due to budget decisions. At the same time, residents rely on animal control for safety, support, and intervention in urgent situations. Eliminating or weakening these services affects the entire community.

It is extremely concerning that a decision of this magnitude is even being considered as a solution to budget constraints. Essential services should not be dismantled and replaced with uncertain, unsustainable alternatives. This is not a responsible or ethical approach.

Rather than eliminating these services, the town should be exploring ways to support and strengthen them. Other communities have implemented programs such as educational initiatives, community events, and seasonal programs that both engage residents and generate supplemental funding. With the level of community support this shelter has, there are clearly opportunities to build sustainable support systems without dismantling essential services.

I strongly urge the town to reconsider this proposal and to prioritize maintaining a fully staffed animal control position and a properly supported municipal shelter. This is not an area where corners can be cut without serious and lasting consequences.

I ask that you consider this decision not just as officials, but as people, and truly sit with the full weight of it because the consequences will not be numbers on a page, but real lives that cannot be undone, especially for those who have no ability to advocate for themselves.

Respectfully,
Leanne Manning
Fairhaven Resident

Animal Shelter Closure

1 message

kylie serpa <kylieaserpa@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 8:19 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

My name is Kylie Serpa. I am a Fairhaven resident and long time volunteer at the Fairhaven animal shelter. I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposal to close the animal shelter and reduce the animal control position to part-time. This is irresponsible and poor long-term planning for our town. The shelter and the position of ACO is a public safety service that protects everyone including animals and residents - including everyone in this email chain and your family and pets too. It is not sustainable to merely rely on donations and volunteers as the town has been for so long. I am strongly urging the town to reconsider the proposal and find a way to maintain proper funding and staffing. For the first time in my life, I will be extremely ashamed and disappointed in my hometown if this proposal goes through. Please don't do this, as this will go down in history as a very very big mistake.

Oppose Animal Shelter Closure

1 message

Caitlin Reed <creed5793@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 21, 2026 at 7:13 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

I am a Fairhaven resident and I strongly oppose the proposal to close the animal shelter and reduce the animal control position to part-time. This is an essential public safety service that protects both animals and residents. Relying on donations and volunteers is not a reliable or sustainable solution. I urge the town to reconsider this proposal and maintain proper funding and staffing.

Sincerely, Caitlin Reed

Oppose Animal Shelter Closure

1 message

KEVIN LUCIDI <lucidi@comcast.net>

Sat, Mar 21, 2026 at 7:22 AM

To: "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov" <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov" <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "namello@fairhaven-ma.gov" <namello@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov" <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov" <asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov" <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>

I am a Fairhaven resident and I strongly oppose the proposal to close the animal shelter and reduce the animal control position to part-time. This is an essential public safety service that protects both animals and residents. Relying on donations and volunteers is not a reliable or sustainable solution. I urge the town to reconsider this proposal and maintain proper funding and staffing.

Sincerely,
Jane Lucidi

Oppose Animal Shelter Closure

1 message

Carol Sawicki <csaw13@live.com>

Sat, Mar 21, 2026 at 11:17 AM

To: "aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov" <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "namello@fairhaven-ma.gov" <namello@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov" <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov" <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov" <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov" <asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov>

I am a Fairhaven resident and I strongly oppose the proposal to close the animal shelter and reduce the animal control position to part-time. This is an essential public safety service that protects both animals and residents. Relying on donations and volunteers is not a reliable or sustainable solution. I urge the town to reconsider this proposal and maintain proper funding and staffing.

Sincerely,
Carol Sawicki
Resident for 71 years

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Oppose Animal shelter Closure

1 message

MADLINE SULLIVAN <maddypaul@verizon.net>
To: "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Sun, Mar 22, 2026 at 8:24 AM

To A;; the members of the Selectboard,

I am a Fairhaven resident and I strongly oppose the proposal to close the animal shelter and reduce the animal control position to part-time. This is an essential public safety service that protects both animals and residents. Relying on donations and volunteers is not a reliable or sustainable solution. I urge the town to reconsider this proposal and maintain proper funding and staffing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Madeline & Paul Sullivan
121 Washington St.
Fairhaven, Ma 02719

Proposed closure of Fairhaven Animal Shelter

1 message

Jennifer Botelho <crssngguard97@comcast.net>
To: "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 2:05 PM

To the Fairhaven selectboard,

I am a Fairhaven resident, and I strongly oppose the proposal to close the animal shelter and reduce the ACO position to part-time. This is an essential public safety service that protects both animals and residents. Relying solely on donations and volunteers is not a reliable or sustainable solution. I urge the town to reconsider this proposal and maintain proper funding and staffing. While I realize that this topic may or may not be under the purview of the selectboard, my hope is that you will entertain discussion of this matter with the appropriate department heads and decision makers. I believe that this is a decision that should not be taken lightly.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Botelho

Oppose Animal Shelter Closure

1 message

Sam DeFrias <samanthadefrias@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 7:44 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

I am a Fairhaven resident and I strongly oppose the proposal to close the animal shelter and reduce the animal control position to part-time. This is an essential public safety service that protects both animals and residents. Relying on donations and volunteers is not a reliable or sustainable solution. I urge the town to reconsider this proposal and maintain proper funding and staffing.

Sincerely,
Samantha DeFrias

Follow Up: Animal Shelter & Animal Control Discussion

1 message

Leanne Manning <leannemanningmac@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 9:34 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Members of the Select Board and Town Administration,

After listening to the recent meeting, I wanted to follow up with additional concerns. It was very clear that there is a misunderstanding of how animal shelters and animal control actually operate day to day. I personally have worked with animals for nearly two decades, including over ten years in the veterinary field, and have worked closely alongside both shelters and animal control officers. From that experience, I can say with certainty that the idea of replacing a municipal shelter with donations, volunteers, or reliance on outside facilities is not realistic or sustainable.

It was especially concerning to hear references to other shelters, such as Dartmouth, as a potential solution. Facilities like the Humane Society in Dartmouth are already operating at or near capacity and are actively supporting multiple surrounding towns. Adding Fairhaven's animals into that system would not solve the problem, it would overwhelm it further. When shelters reach capacity, difficult decisions are made. Euthanasia in these cases is not about funding for medical care; it is often about space, time, and the inability to safely house additional animals. Shifting responsibility elsewhere only increases the likelihood that more animals will be put at risk. Additionally, any reliance on outside shelters would require formal agreements or contracts, assuming those facilities are even able or willing to take on additional volume. This has not been clearly addressed, and it raises serious concerns about the feasibility of the proposal. The suggestion that a shelter could operate primarily through volunteers or donations also overlooks the reality that these facilities require consistent leadership, trained staff, and structured oversight. Volunteers are an important support system, but they cannot replace the responsibility and accountability of a properly staffed municipal service.

Reducing the animal control position to part-time is equally concerning. This is not a 9–5 role... emergencies involving animals happen at all hours. Animal control officers respond to situations involving injured, loose, aggressive, and abused animals, often in coordination with public safety efforts. Limiting this position will not reduce the need; it will shift the burden elsewhere, including onto the police department and members of the public who are not trained to handle these situations safely. Without adequate coverage, we will continue to see situations where residents are left trying to intervene on their own, which creates unnecessary risk for both people and animals. This is not a theoretical concern, it is already happening. The animal control position is not taken as seriously as it should be, yet it is just as essential to public safety. We would never expect a town to operate with only one police officer or one firefighter. so it is unreasonable to expect a single, under-supported animal control officer to carry that same level of responsibility alone. Reducing and underfunding this role is not only impractical, it is insulting to the profession and to anyone considering applying in the future, especially when Fairhaven already offers some of the lowest pay for this position compared to surrounding cities and towns, it sends a clear message that this work is not valued.

There are also alternative approaches that appear to have not been fully explored. Other towns have implemented educational programs, community events, and structured fundraising initiatives that both support shelter operations and generate revenue. Given how much this community values the shelter, it is hard to understand why those options are not being prioritized before considering complete closure or reduction of services. Before eliminating an essential public safety service, the town should be exploring realistic alternatives such as relocating non essential spending, modest revenue adjustments, regional cost sharing agreements and structured programs that allow the shelter to generate supplemental income not defaulting to dismantling a critical resource that protects both animals and residents.

These decisions carry real consequences not just for the town, but for the animals who will be directly affected. The outcome of this proposal will not remain contained within a budget; it will result in increased strain on surrounding communities, decreased public safety, and ultimately, more animals losing their lives. I strongly urge the town to reconsider this approach and to seek guidance from professionals actively working in animal care, sheltering, and animal control before moving forward with decisions of this magnitude.

Respectfully,

Leanne Manning
Fairhaven Resident

Fairhaven Animal Control

1 message

Bridget O'Donnell Szymczuk <bodonnell38@aol.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 10:48 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov, townadministrator@fairhaven-ma.gov

Hello,

My name is Bridget O'Donnell, and I am writing to you in regard to the Fairhaven Animal Shelter and Animal Control Officer position. Although I am not a resident of Fairhaven, I have worked closely with FACO for many years as a veterinarian at New England Animal Hospital in Fairhaven, and Dagenais Veterinary Clinic in Dartmouth. I can tell you first hand, the role of the shelter and the ACO are crucial to helping animals in this town.

Closing the Fairhaven animal shelter will not eliminate the need for it- it will simply push the burden onto already overwhelmed surrounding shelters and lead to worse outcomes for animals. It is all too often that animals are euthanized due to lack of space and length of stay when shelters are full. This will only get worse if the Fairhaven shelter is closed. The Dartmouth shelter is already contracting with several cities and towns, and adding Fairhaven to that list is only going to further overwhelm them and put more animals at risk.

Furthermore, reducing the ACO position to part-time is not realistic. It is a 24/7 public safety role, and emergencies do not follow a schedule. These decisions also impact public safety situations involving loose, injured, or aggressive animals and now will fall on the public or already stretched police, who are not specifically trained to handle dangerous animal situations.

We need people with real, hands-on experience in animal care, sheltering, and animal control involved in these conversations before decisions like this are made. Caring for animals- especially those that are sick, abandoned, or abused- is not an easy job, and should be taken seriously.

I hope you take the time to reflect and reconsider closing the Fairhaven Animal Shelter and changing the Animal Control Officer position. Thank you for your time!

Bridget O'Donnell

Animal Shelter - grave concerns

1 message

Nicole Heath <nmg.heath@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 7:49 AM

To: "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

To the esteemed Members of the Select Board,

I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the insufficient allocation of taxpayer funds to the town's animal shelter. The proposed measure to transfer our homeless and neglected animals to shelters in other municipalities is unacceptable. Such a decision would inevitably overburden those facilities, potentially leading to increased euthanasia rates for our town's animals. I question the rationale behind this consideration. Is this decision being contemplated because the animals lack a voice and the ability to vote against this neglectful, inhumane, and frankly, cowardly proposal?

As a devoted taxpayer and homeowner in Fairhaven, I intend to utilize every appropriate measure at my disposal to prevent this closure. Furthermore, the proposal for a part-time Animal Control Officer is highly problematic. This change risks placing an undue burden on our police department, potentially necessitating overtime pay to manage the expected increase in emergency calls now falling under their purview. A part-time role cannot adequately anticipate or respond to the unpredictable nature of animal emergencies. This represents a serious misallocation of our taxpayer resources, especially if the town must ultimately pay another municipality to house our animals.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and work collaboratively to identify the necessary funding to keep the animal shelter operational. It is also unclear to me if an override would even definitively guarantee the shelter's continued operation. I implore you to demonstrate compassion and act decisively to support the welfare of these animals.

Sincerely,

Nicole Heath
10 Plymouth Ave

Concerns Regarding the Fairhaven Animal Control and Shelter

1 message

Corrine Camara <c.victoriamae07@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 2:34 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, townadministrator@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Town Officials,

I am writing with great compassion to express serious concern about the proposal to close the Fairhaven animal shelter and reduce animal control services.

Eliminating the town's shelter will not remove the need for these services. This will shift the responsibility onto our neighboring shelters that are already operating at or beyond capacity. Not only will this inevitably lead to poorer outcomes for animals and the community as a whole, it will affect law enforcement and first responders. When there is no one to call or go to for the safety and well-being of animals, there will be countless calls to those who are not trained, nor have the time for, animal operations, care, safety, or control.

Overcrowding in shelters is a very real issue that surrounding towns already face. Fairhaven Animal Shelter is a no-kill shelter. Though not all facilities around us are. When those are full, animals are often euthanized due to limited space and extended lengths of stay. Increasing the burden on surrounding shelters will only intensify this problem and put more animals at risk.

Reducing animal control services to part-time is also not a practical solution. Animal control is a 24/7 public safety responsibility. Emergencies involving injured, loose, or aggressive animals can happen at any time, and delayed response can create dangerous situations for both residents and animals. Again, putting this onto law enforcement and other first responders is not ideal, as there is enough for them to handle as it is.

Nonprofit organizations, while incredibly valuable, are not equipped to take on the full responsibility of an entire town's animal services. Many are already stretched thin, especially in nearby communities.

Relying primarily on donations and volunteers to manage essential services is not a sustainable or responsible approach in any way. The municipal shelters are intended to work in partnership with nonprofit organizations—not replace them entirely. I am sure there are multiple foundations that would likely help support the Fairhaven Animal Control and Shelter as well.

To reiterate one last time, these changes you are trying to impose will have direct public safety implications. Without adequate animal control staffing, situations involving dangerous or distressed animals may fall to the public or to law enforcement officers who are not specifically trained for these types of incidents as I previously mentioned.

It is critical that individuals with hands-on experience in animal care, shelter operations, and animal control are included in these discussions before any decisions are made.

Before removing an essential service, I strongly urge the town to carefully consider the long-term impact on animal welfare, public safety, and surrounding communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Corrine C

A concerned individual advocating for the town, public safety, and animals' well-being.

Urgent Concern: Fairhaven Animal Shelter & Animal Control Services

1 message

jessica.lynne.tyler@gmail.com <jessica.lynne.tyler@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 8:05 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov, townadministrator@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Members of the Selectboard and Town Administration,

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the discussion of closing the Fairhaven Animal Shelter and reducing Animal Control services.

These decisions reflect a lack of understanding of how animal sheltering and animal control operate in practice. Eliminating the municipal shelter will not remove the need..it will shift the burden onto already overcrowded surrounding facilities, leading to worse outcomes, including increased euthanasia due to lack of space.

Reducing Animal Control to part-time is not realistic. This is a 24/7 public safety role, and emergencies involving injured, loose, or dangerous animals do not follow a schedule. Expecting nonprofits to absorb the town's needs is equally unrealistic, as they are already at capacity and cannot sustainably replace municipal services.

These changes will also directly impact public safety, placing additional strain on residents and police officers who are not specifically trained to manage animal-related emergencies.

Before eliminating an essential service, I urge you to involve professionals with real, hands-on experience in animal care and control. The town should instead explore responsible alternatives such as budget adjustments, regional partnerships, and revenue-generating solutions.

Please reconsider these proposals and ensure informed, practical decision-making moving forward.

Sincerely,
Jessica Tyler

Concern Regarding Fairhaven Animal Shelter & Animal Control

1 message

Morgan Lariviere <mlariviere98@gmail.com>
To: "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 1:00 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing as a local pet care provider who works with animals daily, and I'm very concerned about the proposal to close the Fairhaven animal shelter and reduce animal control services.

These are essential services. Closing the shelter will not remove the need—it will shift the burden to already overwhelmed surrounding facilities, increasing the risk of overcrowding and poor outcomes for animals.

Reducing animal control to part-time is also unrealistic. Emergencies involving loose, injured, or aggressive animals require consistent, trained response for public safety.

Nonprofits and nearby shelters are already at capacity and cannot absorb the needs of an entire town.

I strongly urge you to reconsider these decisions and explore alternatives that maintain these critical services. Please include professionals with hands-on animal care experience in these discussions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Morgan Lariviere

Animal Shelter

1 message

Jerilyn Skolis <jerilynskolis@comcast.net>

Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 2:22 PM

To: "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov" <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov" <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "namello@fairhaven-ma.gov" <namello@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov" <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov" <asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov" <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "townadministrator@fairhaven-ma.gov" <townadministrator@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Please think of the animals! Please remove nonessential spending and adjust budgets. Instead of paying 6 workers to drive around town flushing hydrants together, something one person can do, focus on spending money on actual programs that need it ! I have lived in Fairhaven my entire life, I am appalled by the way this town handles things. It gets worse every year!
DO BETTER!

HHR

1 message

Maddie Hayes <bynightagency1985@yahoo.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 3:29 PM

To: "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, townadministrator@fairhaven-ma.gov

After watching the joint meeting from last week I must say, good ole Henry is probably rolling over in his grave at the way some expressed their entitlement to whatever they want without compromise!

It's 2026, I'm pretty sure a "google search" can get you most research material without leaving the house. In other words, reducing the library could be done creatively.

And the schools ultra blind loyalty to their queen! I smell something fishy going all the way back to calling the question on that field of dreams under her predecessor.

No new taxes, yeah, we get it but, whose household budget never fluctuates? Costs increase for everyone, towns and businesses alike. I'm sure Mr. Sousa will be more than happy to cash those checks from the governor for the "killing" he made off the blizzard.

All kidding aside, you can tell the true burden will be on staff in the end, cuts will continue, burn out will happen and good ole HHR will be shaking his head at the mess that this entitlement mentality has created because residents can't see past the \$1-2 per day an override would cost to keep the services and staff that do the work they expect, demand and "pay taxes for" cmon

Good luck to you.

M. Hayes

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Shortfall-Override-Rain Ref: SB 3/23/26

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 9:20 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Charlie Murphy <cmurphy@molifeinc.com>, Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>, Elizabeth Warren <Elizabeth_Warren@warren.senate.gov>

To The Select Officials of Fairhaven,

It's Spring time, and we need some Rain.

The conversation that took place at the meeting last night, especially in reference to the proposition, 2 1/2 override, and the "Realizations" made by Mr. Saunders about the Rainy Day fund, was actually profound.

Talk about transparency-Kudos to you, Mr. Saunders!

This has been a conversation in the public sector as well.
Here is what some of us are realizing out here in the public.

—The time is approaching for re-elections. One of the things that we have noticed is that there's been some conversations made by our State leaders that the federal government is causing a financial strain on Massachusetts by holding back funding. —Yet we are also being investigated for fraud as per the media. —We all watch the news and we all know what the bickering conversations are.

The big question you have to ask here is why would people want to approve a 21/2 override when the public continues to see how our taxes are being misappropriated time and time again. -Our most fundamental economical needs continue to linger and grow, year after year. And you keep asking us for more money?

—All the while, the majority of hard working people can't even afford a home anymore. And are struggling to pay rent as well. There's no wealth building opportunities for them anymore, and they just keep getting bled to death.

We need Rain! It's a Matter of Urgency!

—It appears that Governor Healey would love nothing more than to blame all of our financial woes in our local towns, on the federal government. —This of course, helps her campaign, she may think.

—However, we the people, Are wising up- which is why here in Massachusetts, so many Democrats and Republicans have become Independents- This being a fact also right here in Fairhaven.

Turning away from the parties and the color Codes of blue and red, Is turning our Massachusetts Into the color purple.

—Did you know the tones of purple is the highest vibrational frequency of energetic color in the atmosphere? Isn't that interesting? and it's a fact, a scientific fact. The color Violet carries the highest frequency of energy.

Will Governor Healy take responsibility for the lack of appropriate distributions to help our local towns and for ignoring us? Or will she just blame it on the President of the United States in her campaign, while she professor to help us, If we re-elect her?

—Let's be honest with each other, When it's time for reelection, candidates have to make people believe that we need them, and they do this by Promising that they're going to fix our economic and housing problems, while instead, they make it worse, through misappropriations of our tax dollars & extreme lack of priority management. —Which has NOW, become clearly evident, to many of the people of Massachusetts.

—Mr. Saunders made a good example of irresponsible spending, last night, when he spoke of 10 million being distributed for frivolous activities. —While local towns are struggling.

— This very Topic of great concern, should be on the headline news. And reported to the television news stations, as well-

—Mark Sylvia, please help us!

—I also believe that if the State will continue to ignore us, then we should write a letter about this Urgent matter directly to the Federal dept Of Justice!

—Insisting a release of those rainy day funds be brought into our local towns, to help us out, immediately. —Our housing crisis alone, is an urgent matter that has been far too long ignored, and a huge culprit of our financial instability in our local towns.

—We have reached a time where our next message about the rainy day fund and our local financial needs, be sent as a matter of Urgency- Put a letter together and have as many people in the community sign it, as you possibly can.

—It's a sorry thing to have to say this, but politicians are not getting the job done. I think of the millions and billions of dollars that they're getting and how poor the people are getting.

—And on a local level , we also have to re-examine how we have misappropriated funds.

—The local towns I do believe have also been guilty of lack of priority financial management. Often times putting our funds and tax dollars towards things that do not bring us a Prosperous return, both financially, and to the people within the communities. I believe this is the fault of uneducated volunteers. I'm not directly blaming them, and I give them credit for volunteering, but again, I stress the importance of understanding the positions you volunteer for, and the knowledge you need to have in order to be a successful servant for the community.

For goodness sake, people are struggling to keep up with heating bills, taxes, inflation of groceries. Medical bills, excise tax, inspection, stickers, water, bills, garbage Pick up bills, the list goes on and on. How much more does the state of Massachusetts want to bleed the people? And then keep asking us for more money, and on top of that, you ask us to reelect you.

I don't think so- The people of Massachusetts are wising up!

Again, I would like to thank Mr. Saunders and all of our Select, for last night's meeting!

Best Regards,

Michelle Costen

From: Jane Friedman <jane@mtclawyers.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 3:53 PM
To: khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov
Cc: Alex Castro <alex@mtclawyers.com>
Subject: FW: Open Meeting Law complaint - Fairhaven

H 7

Hi Keith,

An appeal has been filed by Patrick Higgins regarding the response he received on 10/20/25. Please provide us with the Executive Session minutes from the 9/30/25 Select Board meeting. Thanks.

Jane



Jane Medeiros Friedman
[she/her/hers]
Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC

227 Union Street, Suite 606

New Bedford, Massachusetts · 02740

Office Phone: (978) 463-7700 ext. 302

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 Think before you print.

From: Kilcoyne, Kerry (AGO) <kerry.kilcoyne@mass.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 10:53 AM
To: Jane Friedman <jane@mtclawyers.com>
Subject: Open Meeting Law complaint - Fairhaven

You don't often get email from kerry.kilcoyne@mass.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning Attorney Friedman,

I write with respect to an Open Meeting Law complaint that this office received from Patrick Higgins alleging that the Fairhaven Select Board (the "Board") violated the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. You responded to the complaint, on behalf of the Board, by letter dated October 20, 2025. The complaint challenges the propriety of the Board's September 30, 2025, executive session.

Under the Open Meeting Law, the Attorney General has responsibility for investigating this matter. In order for us to assess the merits of the complaint we received, I request that you provide this office with the information and materials below, in writing *via email*, on or before **April 17, 2026**:

- A copy of the executive session minutes, whether approved or in draft form, of the Board meeting that was held on September 30, 2025

We note that you are not required to reveal any privileged matters in response to this request. We will maintain the confidentiality of all executive session minutes and materials provided to our office, and will review them for the purpose of resolving this complaint. We may, however, describe the nature of the topics discussed in executive session in general terms.

In addition, please provide this office with any other information that you believe may be helpful to the resolution of this matter. If you have any questions regarding the complaint, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for helping to resolve this complaint.

Sincerely,

Kerry Kilcoyne (she/her/hers)

Assistant Attorney General

Division of Open Government

Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General

One [Ashburton Place](#)

[Boston, MA 02108](#)

617-963-2064

kerry.kilcoyne@mass.gov



Monday, April 13, 2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) and 21(a)(7) to comply with or act under authority of the Public Records Law to discuss sharing the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision Investigative Report with members of the Planning Board.