



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Emergency Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RQUD 2026 MAY 12 AM 8:22

Present via Zoom: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalic A. Mello, and Keith R. Hickey

Present: Amy Hart

Not Present: Keith Silvia, Andrew Saunders

Mr. Romano opened the Select Board meeting at 5:31 pm

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Annual Town Election Ballot Question for June 9, 2026 regarding the Charter

The Board posted this emergency meeting in anticipation of the Governor signing the Bill for the Town Charter. The Bill was signed and a Town Election ballot question is needed for the final step to adopt the Charter.

Mr. Romano read the summary: The state legislature has adopted Chapter 71 of the Acts of 2026 “An Act relative to the charter of the town of Fairhaven,” which provides that the proposed Charter for the Town of Fairhaven will take effect if approved by a majority of the voters at the election. If accepted, the Charter will consolidate and replace the provisions of various special acts that currently establish the government structure of the Town of Fairhaven. The Charter substantially retains the current government structure with a few exceptions. Significant changes include: roles of the Select Board and Town Administrator are clarified; the number of Planning Board members is changed from 8 to 9; the number of School Committee members is changed from 6 to 5.

The proposed Ballot Question: “Shall An Act Relative to the Charter of the Town of Fairhaven be accepted?
YES __, NO __”

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to approve the language for the ballot question, to accept the Charter of the Town of Fairhaven and to request the Town Clerk place the question and summary on the ballot for the June 9, 2026 election. Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion passed (3-0-0).

The Select Board adjourned at 4:04pm

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

Accepted on May 11, 2026