



# FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA - **REVISED**

*March 23, 2026 6:30 p.m.*

*Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven*

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2026 MAR 19 AM 10:38

The meeting can also be viewed on Channel 97 or on FairhavenTV.com

## **A. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **B. APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS**

1. Consider Appointment: Treasurer/Collector: Carla Mourao
2. Eagle Scout Recognition: Patrick Timothy Fleming
3. Appointment Request: Economic Development Committee: Emily Gauger
4. Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Hanami Tea House, Sunday, March 29, 2026 5:00-9:00pm

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
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## **C. ACTION / DISCUSSION**

1. Consider Request from Marine Resources Committee: Union Wharf North Side Annual Rental Fee
2. 2025 Annual Report Cover Photo Selection
3. Consider Participation in Opioid Litigation Settlement with Six Remnant Defendants (RDSA)
4. **Review and Discuss FY27 Budget**
5. Review and Consider Voting Recommendations for Articles for the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants
6. Close and Sign the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrant

## **D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

## **E. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

## **F. MINUTES**

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of March 2 and 9, 2026
2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of March 2 and 9, 2026

## **G. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email: Cultural Council: Mass Cultural Council, the Creative Individual Grant awarded to three Fairhaven residents
2. Emails: Michelle Costen: A lovely home built on a Housing Trust in Falmouth; Falmouth Housing Trust; Fwd: SRPEDD-Housing Grants & Law Breaking; 16 Powers-MAHT petition on the warrant

## **H. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Monday, April 13, 2026* at 6:30pm

## **I. ADJOURN**

**Log on or call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 894 8599 3911, Passcode: 330130**

*Subject matter listed in the agenda consists of items reasonably anticipated (by the Chair) to be discussed. Not all items listed may be discussed and other items not listed (i.e. urgent business not available at the time of posting) may also be brought up for discussion in accordance with applicable law.*



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# FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA ADDENDUM

*March 23, 2026 6:30 p.m.*

*Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven*

The meeting can also be viewed on Channel 97 or on FairhavenTV.com

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

On March 28th, 2025, the bill to extend Open Meeting Law regulations governing remote participation has passed MA legislation and been signed by the Governor. This bill will allow remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through June 30, 2027.

Pursuant to an amendment to Town By-Law Chapter 50-13, all government meetings are available through web/video conference and are recorded.

This meeting is being recorded by the Government Access Channel. It will be replayed on Channel 97 and posted on FairhavenTV.com. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the Chair at this time.

Due to recent security breaches, Fairhaven TV has implemented a new protocol: Zoom camera video for all participants is disabled. If participants would like to speak or be recognized, click “raise hand” under “reactions”, and change your name to a full name to be unmuted. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting the integrity of Fairhaven government meetings.

- For anyone interested in volunteering for Town boards committees and commissions, you can view a list of current openings by visiting the Town’s website at [www.fairhaven-ma.gov](http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov) Go to Boards and Committees then select Volunteer Opportunities

## **A. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **B. APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS**

1. **Consider Appointment: Treasurer/Collector: Carla Mourao** – The Town Administrator, Finance Director and the Interim HR Director interviewed Ms. Mourao last week. Ms. Mourao is currently the Treasurer/Collector in Somerset who comes highly recommended by several people, including George Samia.

Upon completion of our interview, references and a CORI check was completed. No concerns were raised during the background checks. Ms. Mourao is scheduled to begin work on April 6, 2026. A copy of Ms. Mourao’s resume has been included in your Board materials.

### **Suggested Motion:**

“Move to (appoint/not appoint) Carla Mourao as Treasurer/Collector effective April 6, 2026”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

2. **Eagle Scout Recognition: Patrick Timothy Fleming** – Mr. Fleming is a member of Troop 52 at St. Mary’s Church in Fairhaven and recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

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**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to issue a certificate to Patrick Timothy Fleming recognizing his rank of Eagle Scout.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

3. **Appointment Request: Economic Development Committee: Emily Gauger** – Ms. Gauger applied to fill a vacancy on the Economic Development Committee, based on the timing of annual reappointments, it is recommended the Board consider a term through May, 2027.

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to (appoint/not appoint) Emily Gauger to the Economic Development Committee for a term through May, 2027.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

4. **Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Hanami Tea House, Sunday, March 29, 2026 5:00-9:00pm** – The Hanami Tea House will be holding a “Global Flavors, A Culinary Journey” event on Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 5-9pm and is seeking a special 1-day All alcohol license.

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to (approve/not approve) a Special One-Day All Alcohol License for William Foley, Hanami Tea House for Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 5:00-9:00pm contingent upon the fee paid prior to the event.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

**C. ACTION / DISCUSSION**

1. **Consider Request from Marine Resources Committee: Union Wharf North Side Annual Rental Fee** – The Marine Resources Committee voted unanimously to raise the rental fee for the North Side of Union Wharf from \$1,500.00 to \$2,305.05. The increase would match the South Side fee and reflect improvements made, including access to amenities like electricity that was not previously available. The Committee will continue to review comparable towns rates on an ongoing basis.

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to (set/not set) the annual rental fee for the North Side of Union Wharf to \$2,305.05, effective April 1, 2026.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

2. **2025 Annual Report Cover Photo Selection** – The Town received 40 submissions were received; all submissions have been presented to the Board with the top 10 choices ranked by the number of likes on social media listed for the Board’s consideration. The Board’s top choice for front cover will be used for the 2025 Annual Report, the Board can consider a back-cover photo as well.

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to select photo # \_\_\_\_ to be on the 2025 Annual Town Report cover.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

3. **Consider Participation in Opioid Litigation Settlement with Six Remnant Defendants (RDSA)** –A new national settlement has been finalized with the following six additional opioid distributor/dispenser defendants under the Remnant Defendants’ Settlement Agreement dated February 23, 2026: Associated Pharmacies, Inc. (and American Associated Pharmacies); JM Smith Co.; Morris and Dickson; Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; North Carolina Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; and UNFI/SuperValu. The total value of this national settlement is \$97,625,000.

Opioid counsel strongly recommends participating in the settlement, and Attorney White recommend following special counsel’s recommendation given their expertise in this area and their primary representation of the Town in this litigation.

If the Select Board agrees, they could authorize you to sign the Participation Form upon receipt from opioid counsel.

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form on behalf of the Town of Fairhaven.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

4. **Review and Discuss FY27 Budget** – Based on discussion during the Joint Meeting with the Finance and School Committees on March 19, 2026, the Town Administrator will present and review revisions to the FY27 budget.

**Suggested Motion:**

“No Motion Needed”

5. **Review and Consider Voting Recommendations for the Annual and Special Town Meeting Articles** – Included in your Board materials is the draft 2026 Annual Town Warrant. The Select Board should review each article and vote their recommendation for each article. The potential vote per article is to recommend adoption, pass over, at Town Meeting, indefinite postponement or yield to petitioner.

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to recommend \_\_\_\_\_ for Article \_\_\_\_\_.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

6. **Close and Sign the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrant** – Once the Board has voted whether to support each article, the Board should make a motion to close the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants.

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to close and sign the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

“Move to close and sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant.”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

**D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

**E. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

**F. MINUTES**

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of March 2 and 9, 2026

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to (accept/not accept) the open session minutes of March 2 and March 9, 2026 (as presented/as amended)”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of March 2 and 9, 2026

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to (accept/not accept) the executive session minutes of March 2 and March 9, 2026 (as presented/as amended)”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

**G. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email: Cultural Council: Mass Cultural Council, the Creative Individual Grant awarded to three Fairhaven residents
2. Emails: Michelle Costen: A lovely home built on a Housing Trust in Falmouth; Falmouth Housing Trust; Fwd.: SRPEDD-Housing Grants & Law Breaking; 16 Powers-MAHT petitions on the warrant

**Suggested Motion:**

“Move to (enter/not enter) the Select Board correspondence as listed into the record”

Moved by, seconded by. Any discussion on the motion. Vote.

**H. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Monday, April 13, 2026* at 6:30pm

**I. ADJOURN**



**Monday, March 23, 2026**

**APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS**

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# Carla S. Mourao

123 Keene Road, Acushnet, MA 02743  
508-728-7298 cmourao123@gmail.com

B 1

## Education

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### Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School

New Bedford, Massachusetts

Received HS Diploma and Highest Honors in the study of Data Processing and Academics

## Experience

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### Town of Somerset Treasurer/Collector

01/2025-present

- Direct Treasury and Collections operations, managing all municipal cash receipts, disbursements, and investments to ensure liquidity and fiscal compliance.
- Serve as Treasurer and Tax Collector, overseeing billing, recording, and enforcing municipal taxes, user charges, and fees.
- Ensure proper investment and borrowing procedures, optimizing yields and maintaining compliance with statutory and rating agency requirements.
- Manage issuance and administration of long- and short-term debt, including planning, negotiating, and preparing disclosure documents.
- Maintain custody of stabilization, trust, and enterprise funds, ensuring funds were available for all obligations (payroll, bills, bonds, notes).
- Oversee payroll processing for all town departments, including benefits deductions, insurance payments, retirement contributions, and tax withholdings.
- Conduct monthly reconciling of withholdings accounts.
- Coordinate annual Open Enrollments, disseminate information to all employees/retirees and apply enrollments and changes.
- Review and determine eligibility of all FMLA and unemployment requests
- Assist Accountant with frequent inquiries for information, projections, and responding to document requests from the Auditor for annual audit.
- Oversee internal controls and reconciliation systems to ensure accuracy of all accounts receivable records. Supervise legal procedures for overdue receivables – including tax title.
- Customer service operations, responding to inquiries from citizens, departments, companies, attorneys, and agencies.
- Prepare and submit all town, state, and federal financial reports, ensuring accuracy and timeliness.
- Ensure daily operational coverage of the office, maintain schedules, review correspondence, and secure all equipment and financial assets.
- Complete special financial projects as assigned and provide leadership across finance and administrative functions.

### Town of Acushnet Assistant Treasurer/Collector (HR Generalist)

4/2022-01/2025

- Process bi-weekly payroll for Town and School Department using payroll software and time and attendance system.
- Coordinate the day-to-day operations of the benefits administration program, which includes employee and retiree health, dental, and vision insurance programs and other benefits such as life insurance, voluntary plans such as disability insurance, employee savings plans such as deferred compensation and flexible spending accounts, COBRA compliance and notices, and any other related benefits provided or required by retiree health insurance and group insurance, applicable state and local laws and collective bargaining agreements.
- Conduct monthly reconciling of active/retired health plans, dental, life, and vision insurance participants to ensure enrollment and records are accurate.
- Coordinate the on-boarding and off-boarding of employees related to benefits.
- Coordinate annual Open Enrollments, disseminate information to all employees/retirees and apply enrollments and changes.
- Prepare state and federal reports, including W-2s and ACA reporting.
- Process mandatory and voluntary wage deductions – as well as military leave and worker's compensation payments
- Review and determine eligibility of all FMLA and unemployment requests
- Assist Town Administrator with internal investigations
- Assist Town Administrator with updating outdated policies and procedures
- Process Public Records Request and FOIAs in accordance with the MA Public Records Law

- Supervise and coach lesser grade employees
- Provide accounting, administrative and technical support to the Town's Leadership Team
- Conduct weekly review of invoices from Vendor Warrants, printing and mailing checks, funding all approved warrants and maintaining Treasurer's cashbook.
- Assist Treasurer/Collector with cash management; budget preparation; reconciling cash book, tax title and takings, communicating with residents regarding tax bills and resolving any issues
- Assist Accountant with frequent inquiries for information, projections, and responding to document requests from the Auditor for annual audit.

**Coderre Law**  
Office Manager

**9/2021 – 3/2022**

- Assisted in document retrieval from government agencies and prepared government filings
- Prepared, recorded and filed a variety of documents including municipal lien certificates, deeds, mortgages, assignment of leases, etc.; Assisted attorneys with closing preparation
- Maintained records regarding billable hours and expenses spent on specific cases
- Conducted legal research and drafting as requested
- Monthly banking reconciliation of all client accounts; Maintained confidentiality of client information
- Client management - including scheduling appointments, managing attorney calendars, and drafting correspondence in preparation for and after a closing

**New Bedford Fire Department**  
Administrative Finance Manager

**1/2015 – 9/2021**

- Processed and compiled entire operating budget, managed and reviewed financial items for Department including accounts payable, accounts receivable, grant budgets, purchase orders, contracts, bids, payroll and monthly reconciliations
- Prepared Department, Division, or Committee agendas for meetings including preparing minutes, tracking attendance and distributing applicable agenda items necessary to the meeting
- Processed Public Records Request and FOIAs in accordance with the MA Public Records Law
- Prepared a multitude of financial/budget charts for City's CFO and elected officials
- Received and reviewed reports pertaining to specific Department matters; analyzed and provided documentation of the filing of reports; followed up with appropriate employees regarding information contained in reports
- Performed office administrative duties dealing with incoming and outgoing correspondence, mailings, phone calls, forms, requests, bills, permits and fees; ensured all correspondence was sent or received through follow-up procedures; apply corrective office policies to ensure maximum efficiency
- Handled complaints reported to the Department, filed correspondence, and notified appropriate personnel on issues; monitored response efforts and served the public
- Assisted Fire Chief in internal investigations and disciplinary hearings as needed with all employees
- Performed related work and duties as required and requested by the supervisor and administration.
- Supervised, evaluated and coached lesser grade employees

**New Bedford Public Schools**  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & School Committee

**4/2002 – 1/2015\***

- Provided administrative support to the Superintendent, School Committee members, Central Office administrators and other supervisors
- Administered telecommunications, calendars, agendas, reports, budget organization, set up meetings and conferences
- Organized details of specific events within the District or for the public and coordinated travel arrangements
- Problem resolution and customer relations
- Composed multitude of written communications
- Prepared agendas, reports, documents, and key correspondence
- Handled complaints reported to the Department – working as a mediator for both; filed correspondence, and notified appropriate personnel on issues monitored response efforts and served the public
- Interfaced with a variety of parents, principals, teachers, support staff, students and community leaders from diverse backgrounds
- 2011-2012 – covered all School Committee meetings – posted meetings as per Open Meeting Law, transcribed minutes for both public and executive sessions

*\*(From 2002-2010, I held the position of Assistant to the Headmaster at New Bedford High School. I can provide these duties and tasks upon request.)*

## ***Additional Information***

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- Notary Public ~ Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Completed Year 2 of MCTA Treasurer's School and continue to attend multiple trainings/seminars or workshops to maintain knowledge of changes pertaining to municipal Treasurer's department.
- Speak, read and write Portuguese fluently
- Ability to learn quickly and effectively; handling multiple tasks - paying strict attention to detail
- Excellent telephone and people skills
- Self-motivated and strong work ethic; Goal oriented
- Extremely proficient in all Microsoft Office applications, MUNIS, and Harper's Payroll - with an independent willingness to upgrade skills as necessary.
- Prince Henry Society of New Bedford, member
- K9 Sgt. Sean M. Gannon Memorial Playground Committee, Chairwoman

## FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Be it hereby known to all that:  
The Select Board of Fairhaven, Massachusetts joins in wishing heartfelt  
congratulations and best wishes to:

### PATRICK TIMOTHY FLEMING

In celebration of your Eagle Scout rank achievement

This prestigious accomplishment represents years of dedication, leadership, and service to both the scouting community and the Town of Fairhaven. Your commitment to the values of citizenship, character, and service reflects great credit upon yourself, your family, your troop, and the community you proudly serve.

The Town of Fairhaven commends you and wishes you continued success in all your future endeavors.

Given this 23<sup>rd</sup> day  
of March, 2026



Charles K. Murphy, Sr., Chair



Andrew Romano, Vice-Chair



Natalie A. Mello, Clerk



Keith Silvia



Andrew B. Saunders

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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

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**Emily Gauger Emily Gauger** <no-reply@jgpr.net>  
Reply-To: ETHORNTO@gmail.com  
To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Wed, Mar 4, 2026 at 1:08 PM

**Full Name**

Emily Gauger

**Address**

116 Chestnut St

**Email**

[ETHORNTO@gmail.com](mailto:ETHORNTO@gmail.com)

**Phone**

(508) 971-1594

**How long have you been a Fairhaven resident?**

20 months

**What Board(s) or Committee(s) are you interested in joining? What is your reason for joining?**

I'd like to join the Economic Development Committee. I love our town and want to see it flourish. My experience with MassDevelopment has shown me how effective local governments can be. I would love to bring my experience, love of the town, and energy to the community and encourage the vibrancy of Fairhaven.

**Have you attended a meeting of this Board or Committee?**

No

**Have you served or are you currently on any Town of Fairhaven Boards? If so, please indicate what Board and number of years**

None

**Interests and Qualifications.**

I am interested in economic development, underutilized properties, the waterfront economy, and local businesses. I bring my experience from being a Senior Program Manager at MassDevelopment. Previous to MassDevelopment I worked closely with small businesses, at a factory in Brooklyn, NY. I also have worked with manufacturers large and small across the world from my time working as a designer and product developer. I'm thoughtful and love to learn more about the history and stories of a place. I appreciate your consideration of me for this role.

**Consent**

I agree to the privacy policy.



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL LICENSE

General Law Chapter 138, Section 14

Date: 2/2/2016

To the Licensing Board:

The undersigned hereby applies for a SPECIAL LICENSE under provisions of Chapter 138, Section 14

to sell

All Alcoholic Beverages  
(Beer and Wine) or (All Alcoholic Beverages)

for a Dinner Party to be held at

Honors Tea House  
350 Main St Fairhaven, MA 02719

by Sevens House Hospitality LLC

on Sunday March 29, 2016

from 5pm to 9pm

Name of Applicant: William J Foley

Address of Applicant: 456 Main St

Fairhaven, MA, 02719

Telephone: 508 817-2965

For a banquet or public dinner, the applicant should be responsible, manager of the banquet or public dinner.

For a picnic, field day or outing, applicant should be a representative of responsible organization or individual.

FEE:

Beer & Wine \$50.00

All Alcoholic \$75.00



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# SELECT BOARD'S MEETING

**Monday, March 23, 2026**

**The Marine Resource Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the Select Board to raise the Union Wharf North Side annual rent fee from \$1500.00 to \$2305.05. This is the same rate that the South Side currently pays.**

# 2025 Annual Report Cover Photo Submissions

# Summary

- 40 Submissions received
- Posted on the Town's social media
- Took the # of likes per photo and have the top 10 to be voted on for cover and runners-up for consideration of back cover

SUB#	#LIKES
10	159
7	139
12	130
26	121
3	111
11	98
1	89
6	89
19	82
20	78

# All Submissions in order received

Submission1.jpeg



Submission2.jpeg



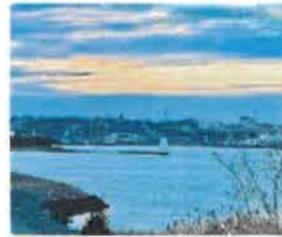
Submission3.jpg



Submission4.jpg



Submission5.jpg



Submission6.jpg



Submission7.jpg



Submission8.jpg



Submission9.jpg



Submission10.jpg



Submission11.jpg



Submission12.jpg



Submission13.jpeg



Submission14.jpg



Submission15.jpg



Submission16.jpg



Submission17.jpg



Submission18.jpg



Submission19.jpg



Submission20.jpg



Submission21.jpeg



Submission22.jpg



Submission23.jpeg



Submission24.jpeg



Submission25.jpeg



Submission26.jpeg



Submission27.jpeg



Submission28.jpg



Submission29.jpg



Submission30.heic



Submission31.jpeg



Submission32.jpeg



Submission33.jpg



Submission34.jpg



Submission35.jpeg



Submission36.jpeg



Submission37.jpeg



Submission38.jpeg



Submission39.JPG



Submission40.JPG



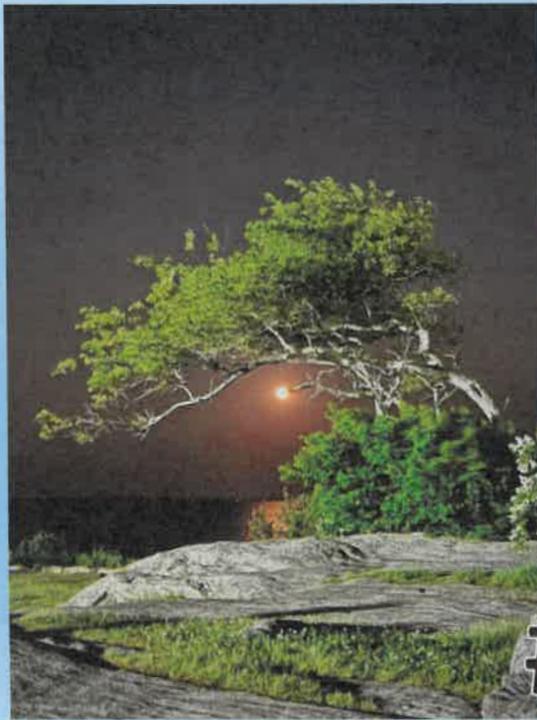
Top 10 liked images from all submissions that were posted on the Town's social media page



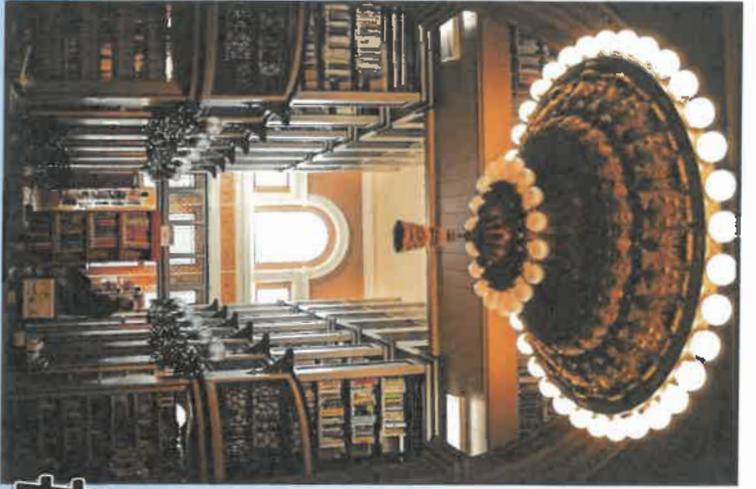
#10



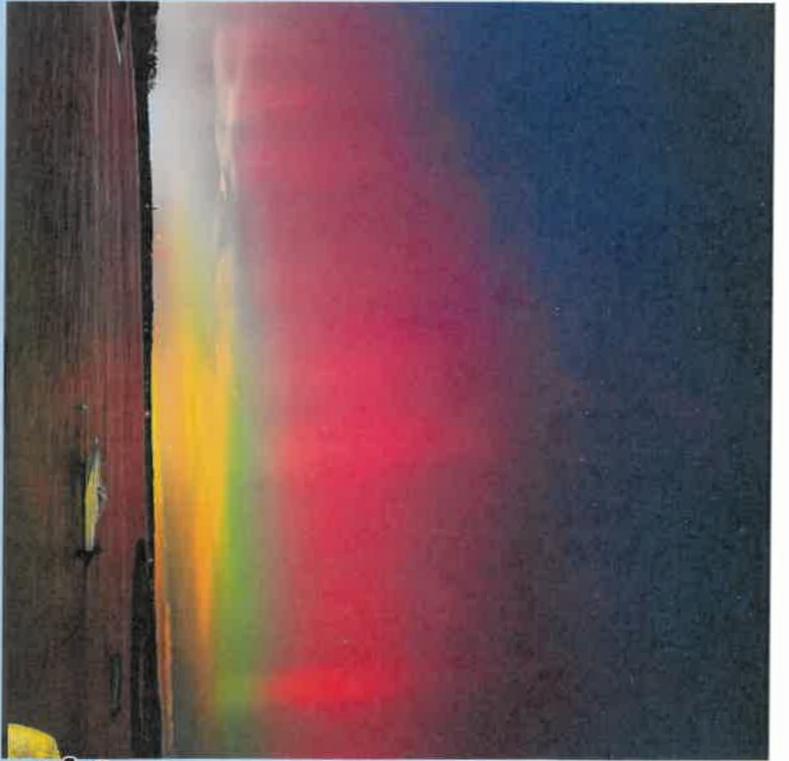
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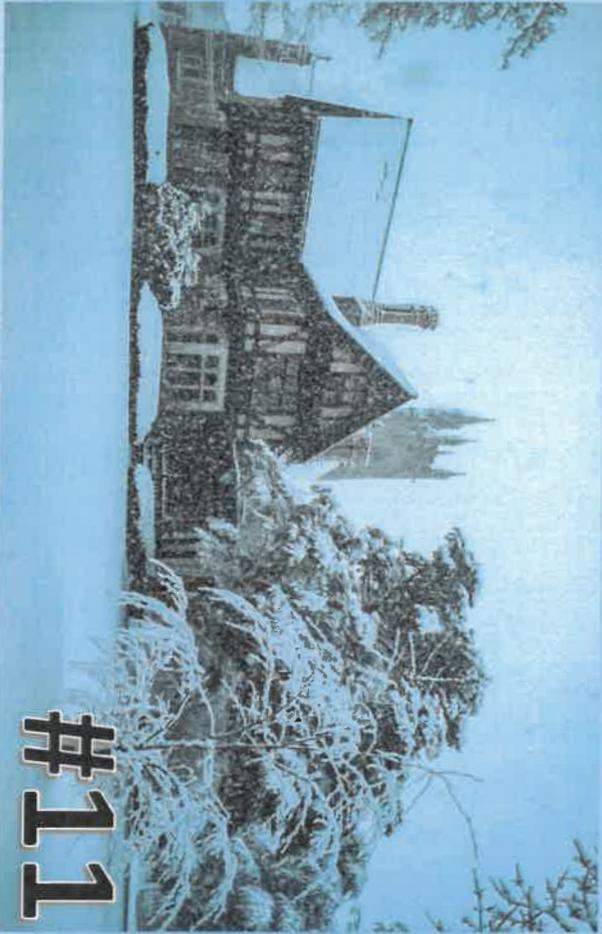
#12



#26



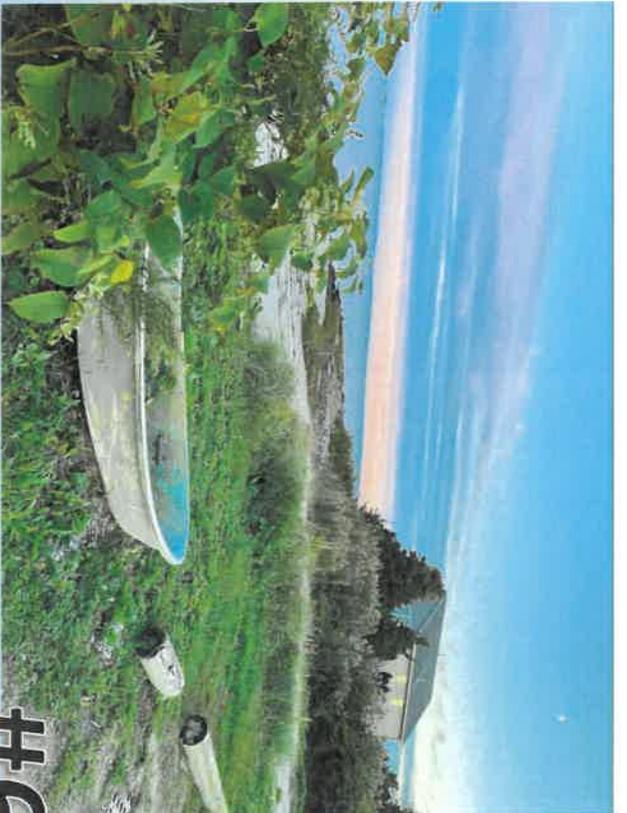
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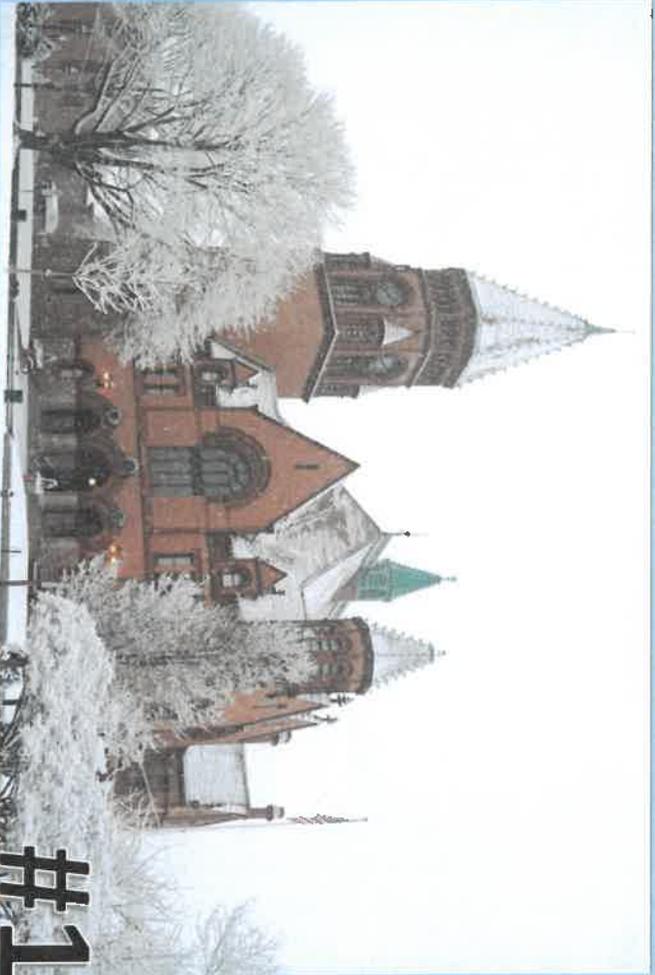
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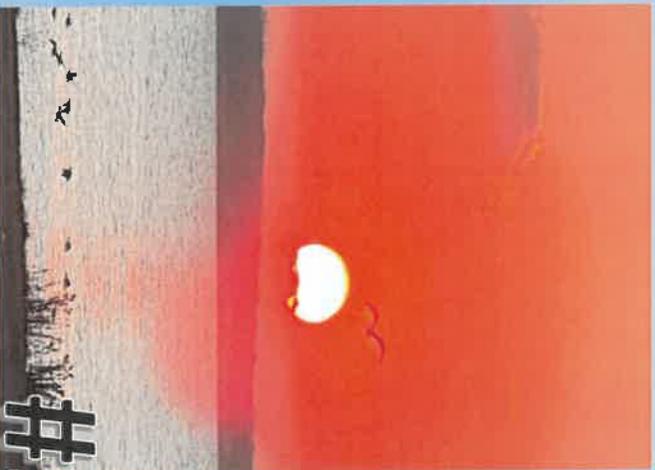
#1



#6



#19



#20

### Town of Fairhaven

#### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT (MISC.)</b>									
1	114	Moderator Salary	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	
<b>122/195/40! Select Board/Town Report/Engineering</b>									
2		Salaries & Wages	\$352,693	\$328,644	\$328,644	\$0	\$0	\$328,644	
3		Operating Expenses	\$31,440	\$31,290	\$31,290	\$0	(\$2,500)	\$28,790	Reduction in G/F Reserve Fund Transfer
<b>153 Human Resources</b>									
4		Salaries & Wages	\$151,065	\$194,437	\$141,508	(\$52,929)	\$0	\$141,508	
5		Operating Expenses	\$78,695	\$62,925	\$47,925	(\$15,000)	\$0	\$47,925	
<b>113/131 Town Meeting/Finance Committee</b>									
6		Salaries & Wages	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	
7		Operating Expenses	\$6,400	\$5,075	\$5,075	\$0	(\$1,500)	\$3,575	
8		Reserve Fund	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	
9	151	Legal	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	(\$25,000)	\$275,000	
<b>192 Facilities Management</b>									
10		Salaries & Wages	\$178,426	\$190,092	\$190,092	\$0	(\$2,604)	\$187,488	
11		Operating Expenses	\$79,777	\$78,279	\$74,279	(\$4,000)	(\$7,604)	\$66,675	Repairs & Maint. Bldg. \$5,000 Contracted Services \$3,000 Electricity \$3,604
<b>155 Consolidated Information Technology</b>									
12		Salaries & Wages	\$371,169	\$413,546	\$413,546	\$0	\$0	\$413,546	
13		Operating Expenses	\$221,760	\$255,450	\$205,450	(\$50,000)	(\$2,190)	\$203,260	

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
		General Government Salaries & Wages	\$1,055,353	\$1,128,719	\$1,075,790	(\$52,929)	(\$2,604)	\$1,073,186	
		General Government Operating Expenses	\$793,072	\$808,019	\$739,019	(\$69,000)	(\$38,794)	\$700,225	
		Subtotal General Government	\$1,848,425	\$1,936,738	\$1,814,809	(\$121,929)	(\$41,398)	\$1,773,411	
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT (MUNICIPAL FINANCE)</b>									
	<b>135</b>	<b>Accounting</b>							
14		Salaries & Wages	\$205,498	\$233,911	\$233,911	\$0	\$0	\$233,911	P-time Asst Accountant & Annual Audit
15		Operating Expenses	\$64,480	\$79,310	\$79,310	\$0	(\$1,600)	\$77,710	Eliminate Acctg Seminars
	<b>145</b>	<b>Treasurer/Collector</b>							
16		Salaries & Wages	\$256,307	\$262,390	\$262,390	\$0	\$0	\$262,390	
17		Operating Expenses	\$63,155	\$65,815	\$55,815	(\$10,000)	\$0	\$55,815	Elimin. Partial Tax Title Funding, Postage \$14,500 prop tax bills, \$12,000 for excise, remainder boat reg. & misc.
	<b>141</b>	<b>Assessors</b>							
18		Salaries & Wages	\$144,395	\$160,659	\$160,659	\$0	\$0	\$160,659	
19		Operating Expenses	\$43,121	\$71,550	\$71,550	\$0	\$0	\$71,550	Recertification
		Municipal Finance Salaries & Wages	\$606,200	\$656,960	\$656,960	\$0	\$0	\$656,960	
		Municipal Finance Operating Expenses	\$170,756	\$216,675	\$206,675	(\$10,000)	(\$1,600)	\$205,075	
		Subtotal Municipal Finance	\$776,956	\$873,635	\$863,635	(\$10,000)	(\$1,600)	\$862,035	

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT (TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS)</b>									
20	161/163	Subtotal Salaries & Wages	\$168,127	\$210,312	\$210,312	\$0	(\$749)	\$209,563	Additional Elections
21	161/163	Subtotal Operating Expenses	\$44,652	\$62,524	\$62,524	\$0	(\$869)	\$61,655	Additional Elections
<b>PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b>									
	<b>175-00</b>	<b>Planning Board</b>							
22		Salaries & Wages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
23		Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	<b>175-01</b>	<b>Planning and Economic Development</b>							
24		Salaries & Wages	\$129,567	\$121,157	\$121,157	\$0	\$0	\$121,157	
25		Operating Expenses	\$8,171	\$5,290	\$5,290	\$0	\$0	\$5,290	
	<b>175-02</b>	<b>Economic Development Committee</b>							
26		Salaries & Wages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
27		Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	<b>176</b>	<b>Board of Appeals</b>							
28		Salaries & Wages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
29		Operating Expenses	\$3,500	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$0	\$0	\$3,900	
	<b>171</b>	<b>Conservation Commission</b>							
30		Salaries & Wages	\$75,683	\$78,718	\$78,718	\$0	\$0	\$78,718	
31		Operating Expenses	\$6,150	\$6,150	\$6,150	\$0	(\$135)	\$6,015	
32	<b>122</b>	<b>Buzzards Bay Action Committee</b>	\$1,800	\$1,870	\$1,870	\$0	\$0	\$1,870	Assessment

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
		Planning & Development Salaries & Wages	\$205,250	\$199,875	\$199,875	\$0	\$0	\$199,875	
		Planning & Development Operating Expenses	\$19,621	\$17,210	\$17,210	\$0	(\$135)	\$17,075	
		<b>Subtotal Planning &amp; Development</b>	<b>\$224,871</b>	<b>\$217,085</b>	<b>\$217,085</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$135)</b>	<b>\$216,950</b>	
		<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>							
		General Government Salaries & Wages	\$2,034,930	\$2,195,866	\$2,142,937	(\$52,929)	(\$3,353)	\$2,139,584	
		General Government Operating Expenses	\$1,028,101	\$1,104,428	\$1,025,428	(\$79,000)	(\$41,398)	\$984,030	
		<b>Subtotal General Government</b>	<b>\$3,063,031</b>	<b>\$3,300,294</b>	<b>\$3,168,365</b>	<b>(\$131,929)</b>	<b>(\$44,751)</b>	<b>\$3,123,614</b>	
		<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>							
		210/292 Police Department/Animal Control							
33		Salaries & Wages	\$5,046,875	\$5,063,454	\$5,063,454	\$0	(\$78,935)	\$4,984,519	Reduction in Overtime/Reduce Animal Control to PT
34		Operating Expenses	\$409,680	\$416,707	\$413,707	(\$3,000)	(\$29,700)	\$384,007	Eliminate Animal Control
		220/225/29: Fire Department/Emergency Management							
35		Salaries & Wages	\$3,613,442	\$3,736,115	\$3,721,286	(\$14,829)	\$0	\$3,721,286	Reduction in Overtime
36		Operating Expenses	\$322,460	\$339,924	\$336,274	(\$3,650)	\$0	\$336,274	
		241 Building Department							
37		Salaries & Wages	\$237,253	\$246,334	\$246,334	\$0	(\$8,325)	\$238,009	Reduction on PT inspection staffing hours
38		Operating Expenses	\$4,481	\$4,331	\$4,100	(\$231)	(\$525)	\$3,575	

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
	298	Marine Resources							
39		Salaries & Wages	\$177,993	\$188,029	\$188,029	\$0	(\$10,036)	\$177,993	Reduce PT staffing hours
40		Operating Expenses	\$38,017	\$37,787	\$37,787	\$0	\$0	\$37,787	
	244	Weights & Measures							
41		Salaries & Wages	\$7,140	\$7,140	\$7,140	\$0	\$0	\$7,140	
42		Operating Expenses	\$300	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$400	
<b>Public Safety Salaries &amp; Wages</b>			<b>\$9,082,703</b>	<b>\$9,241,072</b>	<b>\$9,226,243</b>	<b>(\$14,829)</b>	<b>(\$97,296)</b>	<b>\$9,128,947</b>	
<b>Public Safety Operating Expenses</b>			<b>\$774,938</b>	<b>\$799,149</b>	<b>\$792,268</b>	<b>(\$6,881)</b>	<b>(\$30,225)</b>	<b>\$762,043</b>	
<b>Subtotal Public Safety</b>			<b>\$9,857,641</b>	<b>\$10,040,221</b>	<b>\$10,018,511</b>	<b>(\$21,710)</b>	<b>(\$127,521)</b>	<b>\$9,890,990</b>	
<b>EDUCATION</b>									
43	300	Fairhaven Public Schools	\$25,656,166	\$26,912,487	\$26,531,685	(\$380,802)	\$426,509	\$26,105,176	
44	301	Greater New Bedford Vocational	\$2,631,268	\$2,928,534	\$2,928,534	\$0	\$0	\$2,928,534	
45	302	Bristol Aggie HS	\$332,694	\$291,510	\$291,510	\$0	\$0	\$291,510	
<b>Subtotal Education</b>			<b>\$28,620,128</b>	<b>\$30,132,531</b>	<b>\$29,751,729</b>	<b>(\$380,802)</b>	<b>\$426,509</b>	<b>\$29,325,220</b>	
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>									
	421	Administration Division							
46		Salaries & Wages	\$88,732	\$93,748	\$93,748	\$0	\$0	\$93,748	
47		Operating Expenses	\$8,375	\$8,925	\$8,925	\$0	\$0	\$8,925	
	403/420	Highways Division							
48		Salaries & Wages	\$1,364,760	\$1,381,546	\$1,361,771	(\$19,775)	(\$50,000)	\$1,311,771	Eliminate Truck Driver and OT

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
49		Operating Expenses	\$721,252	\$912,892	\$793,892	(\$119,000)	(\$55,451)	\$738,441	Reduce Curbing & Resurfacing
50		Snow & Ice	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	
	650	Parks Department							
51		Salaries & Wages	\$162,805	\$160,272	\$139,321	(\$20,951)	(\$45,000)	\$94,321	
52		Operating Expenses	\$56,500	\$149,033	\$109,033	(\$40,000)	(\$15,000)	\$94,033	
	294/295	Tree Department							
53		Salaries & Wages	\$0	\$9,200	\$9,200	\$0	\$0	\$9,200	Reduction in tree removal and plantings
54		Operating Expenses	\$68,945	\$120,345	\$65,095	(\$55,250)	(\$10,000)	\$55,095	
55	431	Sanitation - Operating Expenses	\$1,776,332	\$1,855,513	\$1,855,513	\$0	(\$45,000)	\$1,810,513	Eliminate Hazardous Waste Day & leaf pickup
							\$0		
56	424	Street Lighting	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$50,000	(\$12,000)	\$0	\$50,000	Budget Closer to Actual Expense
		<b>Public Works Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>\$1,616,297</b>	<b>\$1,644,766</b>	<b>\$1,604,040</b>	<b>(\$40,726)</b>	<b>(\$95,000)</b>	<b>\$1,509,040</b>	
		<b>Public Works Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,753,404</b>	<b>\$3,168,708</b>	<b>\$2,942,458</b>	<b>(\$226,250)</b>	<b>(\$125,451)</b>	<b>\$2,817,007</b>	
		<b>Subtotal Public Works</b>	<b>\$4,369,701</b>	<b>\$4,813,474</b>	<b>\$4,546,498</b>	<b>(\$266,976)</b>	<b>(\$220,451)</b>	<b>\$4,326,047</b>	
		<b>HEALTH &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>							
	510	Board of Health							
57		Salaries & Wages	\$172,559	\$181,603	\$181,603	\$0	(\$8,994)	\$172,609	
58		Operating Expenses	\$17,500	\$17,550	\$17,450	(\$100)	\$0	\$17,450	
		<b>Subtotal Board of Health</b>	<b>\$190,059</b>	<b>\$199,153</b>	<b>\$199,053</b>	<b>(\$100)</b>	<b>(\$8,994)</b>	<b>\$190,059</b>	

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>									
	541	Council on Aging							
59		Salaries & Wages	\$154,338	\$155,829	\$155,829	\$0	\$0	\$155,829	
60		Operating Expenses	\$35,247	\$35,247	\$35,247	\$0	(\$1,491)	\$33,756	
	543	Veterans Services							
61		Salaries & Wages	\$94,302	\$99,606	\$99,606	\$0	\$0	\$99,606	
62		Operating Expenses	\$545,022	\$545,022	\$452,886	(\$92,136)	\$0	\$452,886	Budget Closer to Actual Expense
63	611	Millicent Library	\$770,528	\$941,032	\$941,032	\$0		\$941,032	Estimated increase based on state requirements
	640	Recreation Department							
64		Salaries & Wages	\$302,971	\$272,017	\$272,017	\$0	\$0	\$272,017	
65		Operating Expenses	\$51,900	\$60,400	\$60,400	\$0	\$0	\$60,400	
	189	Tourism Department							
66		Salaries & Wages	\$58,105	\$76,532	\$76,532	\$0	\$0	\$76,532	
67		Operating Expenses	\$41,309	\$25,709	\$25,709	\$0	\$0	\$25,709	
68	691	Fine Arts - expenses	\$850	\$800	\$800	\$0	(\$600)	\$200	
69	670	Historical Commission - expenses	\$15,200	\$15,200	\$15,200	\$0	(\$5,200)	\$10,000	
70	692	Memorial/Veterans Day - expenses	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$2,500	(\$1,000)	\$0	\$2,500	

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
71	690	Cultural Council	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0	(\$350)	\$900	
72	190	Commission on Disability - expenses	\$900	\$650	\$650	\$0	(\$200)	\$450	
73	191	Belonging Committee	\$900	\$700	\$700	\$0	(\$400)	\$300	
74									
		Community Services Salaries & Wages	\$609,716	\$603,984	\$603,984	\$0	\$0	\$603,984	
		Community Services Operating Expenses	\$1,465,606	\$1,629,510	\$1,536,374	(\$93,136)	(\$8,241)	\$1,528,133	
		Subtotal Community Services	\$2,075,322	\$2,233,494	\$2,140,358	(\$93,136)	(\$8,241)	\$2,132,117	
		<b>NON-DEPARTMENTAL</b>							
75	911	Contributory Retirement	\$4,334,352	\$4,536,937	\$4,536,937	\$0	\$0	\$4,536,937	Actual FY27 amount
76	924	Group Insurance	\$5,445,000	\$6,261,750	\$6,261,750	\$0	(\$440,146)	\$5,821,604	
77	913	MA Employment Security	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	Anticipated Layoffs
78	925	Town General Insurance	\$1,234,320	\$1,383,500	\$1,383,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,383,500	Estimated amount
79	918	Medicare Taxes (Employer Share)	\$502,000	\$521,000	\$521,000	\$0	\$0	\$521,000	
80	122	Wind Turbine Electric Expense	\$625,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$0	(\$33,403)	\$516,597	
81	122	Salary Reserve	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		

## Town of Fairhaven

### Summary of Department Request, Town Administrator Adjustments and Additional Cuts for Budget Without an Override

LINE	Function/ Dept. #	Department Name/Function Totals	FY26 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Dept Request	FY 2027 TA Recommended Budget	TA Recommended Changes	Additional Cuts Needed for Budget Without Override	(Level Funded) FY 2027 Proposed Budget W/O Override	Impact of Budget Adjustments to Proposed Budget Not Needing an Override
		Non-Departmental Salary & Wages	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		Non-Departmental Operating Expenses	\$12,240,672	\$13,403,187	\$13,403,187	\$0	(\$473,549)	\$12,929,638	
		Subtotal Non-Departmental	\$12,340,672	\$13,403,187	\$13,403,187	\$0	(\$473,549)	\$12,929,638	
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>									
82	710	Debt Service							
		Subtotal Debt Service	\$945,820	\$1,017,891	\$1,017,891	\$0	\$0	\$1,017,891	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$61,462,374</b>	<b>\$65,140,245</b>	<b>\$64,245,592</b>	<b>(\$894,653)</b>	<b>(\$1,310,016)</b>	<b>\$62,935,576</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL BREAKDOWN</b>									
		Salaries & Wages - Town	\$13,616,205	\$13,867,291	\$13,758,807	(\$108,484)	(\$204,643)	\$13,554,164	
		Operating Expenses - Town	\$6,039,549	\$6,719,345	\$6,313,978	(\$405,367)	(\$205,315)	\$6,108,663	
		Educational Services	\$28,620,128	\$30,132,531	\$29,751,729	(\$380,802)	(\$426,509)	\$29,325,220	
		Non-Departmental Costs	\$12,240,672	\$13,403,187	\$13,403,187	\$0	(\$473,549)	\$12,929,638	
		Overlay	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$350,000		\$0	\$350,000	
		Debt Service	\$945,820	\$1,017,891	\$1,017,891	\$0	\$0	\$1,017,891	
		<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$61,762,374</b>	<b>\$65,490,245</b>	<b>\$64,595,592</b>	<b>(\$894,653)</b>	<b>(\$1,310,016)</b>	<b>\$63,285,576</b>	



# Town of Fairhaven

## WARRANT

DRAFT 4

C 5

3/19/2026

The inhabitants qualified as Town Meeting Members shall meet on  
**Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 9:00 am**  
in the Walter Silveira Auditorium at the Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School  
to Act on the following Articles in the Warrant:

### WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 AT 9:15 A.M.

Majority Vote needed unless stated otherwise

#### ARTICLE 1 TRANSFER BUDGET FUNDS FOR FY26

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$22,453 from the wage reserve account to Public Safety, Police Salary and Wage line item for FY26 to fund FY26 cost for collective bargaining agreement or take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

<u>Department</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Police	Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiation	\$ 22,453	Wage Reserve Fund

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

#### ARTICLE 2 SETTING SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS FOR FY26

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund additional salary and operating expenses for the following departments. Said sum to be added to previously voted appropriations for FY26, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

<u>Department</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Town Clerk	Salary – Other	\$ 421.00	Wage Reserve Fund

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

#### ARTICLE 3 SUPPLEMENTAL FY26 SNOW AND ICE APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$377,929 from the Stabilization Fund to the FY26 Winter Storm Emergency Special Revenue Fund to fund costs associated with the 2026 blizzard or take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 11-0-0 Favorable Vote**

**Vote Required: Two-thirds (2/3) Vote**

#### ARTICLE 4 OTHER BUDGET ITEM APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$280,000 from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) to the FY26 General Operating Budget to fund costs associated with Union Wharf Construction or take any other action relative thereto.

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

# WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.

Majority Vote needed unless stated otherwise

## ARTICLE 1 MEASURER OF WOOD AND BARK

To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Select Board to appoint a Measurer of Wood and Bark.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

## ARTICLE 2 TOWN REPORT

To receive the Annual Report of Town Officers.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

## ARTICLE 3 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

To hear and act upon the reports of any committees, or committee appointed in Town Meeting and to choose any committees or committee the Town may think proper and to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the expense of same, or to take any other action with relation to either of said matters, as the Town may deem necessary and proper.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

## ARTICLE 4 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGETS – FY27

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the amounts listed on the accompanying table to fund the Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund Operating Budget or take any other action relative thereto:

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

*See Appendix A, page ##### for full budget description*

<u>Dept. Name/Function Totals</u>	<u>FY2026 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY27 Budget No Override</u>
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		
General Government Salaries & Wages	\$2,034,930	\$2,139,584
General Government Operating Expenses	\$1,028,101	\$984,030
Subtotal General Government	\$3,063,031	\$3,123,614

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

	<u>FY2026 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY27 Budget No Override</u>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		
Public Safety Salaries & Wages	\$9,082,703	\$9,128,947
Public Safety Operating Expenses	\$774,938	\$762,043
Subtotal Public Safety	\$9,857,641	\$9,890,990

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote  
 Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

	<u>FY2026</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>FY27</u> <u>Budget</u> No Override
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
Subtotal Fairhaven Public Schools	\$25,656,166	\$26,105,176
Subtotal New Bedford Regional Technical HS	\$2,631,268	\$2,928,534
Subtotal Bristol County Agricultural HS	\$332,694	\$291,510
Subtotal Education	\$28,620,128	\$29,325,220

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote  
 Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

	<u>FY2026</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>FY27</u> <u>Budget</u> No Override
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>		
Public Works Salaries & Wages	\$1,616,297	\$1,509,040
Public Works Operating Expenses	\$2,753,404	\$2,817,007
Subtotal Public Works	\$4,369,701	\$4,326,047

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote  
 Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

	<u>FY2026</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>FY27</u> <u>Budget</u> No Override
<b>HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Board of Health Salaries & Wages	\$172,559	\$172,609
Board of Health Operating Expenses	\$17,500	\$17,450
Subtotal Board of Health	\$190,059	\$190,059

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote  
 Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

	<u>FY2026</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>FY27</u> <u>Budget</u> No Override
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>		
Community Services Salaries & Wages	\$609,716	\$603,984
Community Services Operating Expenses	\$1,465,606	\$1,528,133
Subtotal Community Services	\$2,075,322	\$2,132,117

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote  
 Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

	<u>FY2026</u> <u>Budgeted</u>	<u>FY27</u> <u>Budget</u> No Override
<b>NON-DEPARTMENTAL</b>		
Non-Departmental Salaries & Wages	\$100,000	\$0
Non-Departmental Operating Expenses	\$12,240,672	\$12,929,638
Subtotal Non-Departmental	\$12,340,672	\$12,929,638

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote

Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

	<b><u>FY2026</u></b> <b><u>Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY27</u></b> <b><u>Budget</u></b> <b><u>No Override</u></b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>		
General Fund	\$945,820	\$1,017,891

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote

Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

**ARTICLE 5 WATER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the Water Enterprise Fund for FY27 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<b><u>FY 2026</u></b> <b><u>Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2027</u></b> <b><u>Budget</u></b>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	806,042	954,463
Operating Expenses	2,210,904	2,271,677
Debt Service	<u>364,251</u>	<u>464,106</u>
<b>Subtotal Water Enterprise Appropriations</b>	<b>3,381,197</b>	<b>3,690,246</b>
<b>Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund</b>	<b><u>570,909</u></b>	<b><u>588,036</u></b>
<b>TOTAL WATER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b><u>3,952,106</u></b>	<b><u>4,278,282</u></b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Water Revenue	3,454,106	4,200,000
Water Retained Earnings	<u>498,000</u>	<u>78,282</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b><u>3,952,106</u></b>	<b><u>4,278,282</u></b>

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator and Board of Public Works*

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote

Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

**ARTICLE 6 SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY27 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<b><u>FY 2026</u></b> <b><u>Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2027</u></b> <b><u>Budget</u></b>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	1,423,640	1,594,237
Operating Expenses	1,674,325	1,876,325
Debt Service	<u>839,862</u>	<u>3,131,717</u>
<b>Subtotal Sewer Enterprise Appropriations</b>	<b>3,937,827</b>	<b>6,602,279</b>
<b>Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund</b>	<b><u>822,268</u></b>	<b><u>846,936</u></b>
<b>TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b><u>4,760,095</u></b>	<b><u>7,449,215</u></b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Sewer Revenue	4,750,000	6,275,600
Sewer Retained Earnings	<u>10,095</u>	<u>1,176,615</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b><u>4,760,095</u></b>	<b><u>7,449,215</u></b>

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator and Board of Public Works*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 7 TOWN CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the Town Cable Enterprise Fund for FY27 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<b><u>FY 2026 Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2027 Budget</u></b>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	189,130	193,689
Operating Expenses	31,525	32,290
Debt Service		
<b>Subtotal Town Cable Enterprise Appropriations</b>	<b>220,655</b>	<b>225,979</b>
<b>Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund</b>	<b><u>25,565</u></b>	<b><u>25,225</u></b>
<b>TOTAL TOWN CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>246,220</b>	<b>251,204</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Town Cable Revenue	202,079	140,000
Town Cable Retained Earnings	<u>44,141</u>	<u>111,204</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b><u>246,220</u></b>	<b><u>251,204</u></b>

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 8 SCHOOL CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following amounts to fund the operating budget of the School Cable Enterprise Fund for FY27 or take any other action relative thereto:

	<b><u>FY 2026 Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>FY2027 Budget</u></b>
<b>Amounts Appropriated:</b>		
Salaries and Wages	127,027	163,419
Operating Expenses	21,667	17,036
Debt Service		
<b>Subtotal School Cable Enterprise Appropriations</b>	<b><u>148,694</u></b>	<b><u>180,455</u></b>
<b>Transfer for Amounts Appropriated in the General Fund</b>	<b><u>15,865</u></b>	<b><u>21,300</u></b>
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL CABLE ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b><u>164,559</u></b>	<b><u>201,755</u></b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
School Cable Revenue	<u>156,919</u>	<u>125,000</u>
School Cable Retained Earnings	<u>7,640</u>	<u>76,755</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b><u>164,559</u></b>	<b><u>201,755</u></b>

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator and School Committee*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 9 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PLAN**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following sums of monies to fund the capital equipment and projects listed below, or take any other action relative thereto:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Department/Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
	<b>Public Works Department</b>		
1	Town wide Gas Pump System Replacement	\$100,000	Free Cash
2	Roadwork	\$100,000	Free Cash
3	Street Sweeper Replacement	\$200,000	Free Cash
	<b>Fire / Emergency Management</b>		
4	Light Tower	\$16,895	Free Cash
5	PFAS Free Firefighting Gear	\$133,285	Free Cash
6	Brush Truck Replacement (Unit 5)	\$85,000	Free Cash
	<b>Information Technology (IT)</b>		
7	Replacement of Technology	\$30,000	Free Cash
	<b>Council on Aging</b>		
8	Replace COA Tables and Chairs	\$43,000	Free Cash
9	Replace Ceiling Tiles	\$33,505	Free Cash
	<b>Building</b>		
10	Replace Vehicle	\$48,000	Free Cash
	<b>Police</b>		
11	Cruiser Replacements	\$172,066	Free Cash
12	Body Worn Camera and Taser Project	\$24,748	Free Cash
	<b>Harbormaster</b>		
13	Harbormaster/Shellfish Warden Truck Replacement	\$59,539	Free Cash
	<b>School</b>		
14	FHS Football Field Bathroom Project	\$210,000	Free Cash
15	Tripp School Roof Replacement	\$700,000	Free Cash
	<b>Town Hall</b>		
16	Repair West Retaining Wall	\$40,000	Free Cash
	<b>Total recommended General Fund Capital Budget</b>	<b>\$1,996,038</b>	

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 10 WATER ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL PLAN**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following sums of monies to fund the capital equipment and projects of the Water Enterprise Fund listed below, or take any other action relative thereto:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
1	Replace Backhoe #36	\$126,000	Water Retained Earnings
2	Water Telemetry for Wells	\$200,000	Water Retained Earnings
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$326,000</b>	

*Petitioned by: Board of Public Works*

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote

Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

**ARTICLE 11 WATER ENTERPRISE FUND BORROWING**

To see if the Town will vote to borrow or transfer from available funds the following sum of money to fund the capital equipment and projects of the Water Enterprise Fund listed below, or take any other action relative thereto:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
1	Wolf Island Well Replacement	\$756,000	Borrowing
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$756,000</b>	

*Petitioned by: Board of Public Works*

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote

Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

**Vote Required: Two-thirds (2/3) Vote**

**ARTICLE 12 SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL PLAN**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the following sums of monies to fund the capital equipment and projects of the Sewer Enterprise Fund listed below, or take any other action relative thereto:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
1	Vactor Machine	\$100,000	Sewer Retained Earnings
2	Vehicle Replacement: Dump Truck #43	\$125,000	Sewer Retained Earnings
3	West Island Sewer Plant Generator & Portable Generator	\$400,000	Sewer Retained Earnings
4	Inflow & Infiltration	\$250,000	Sewer Retained Earnings

*Petitioned by: Board of Public Works*

Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote

Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote

**ARTICLE 13 OTHER BUDGET ITEMS - APPROPRIATIONS**

**13A FUNDING OF ARTICLES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of monies for the following purposes or take any action relative thereto.

<u>Line</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>
1	Paramedic Training Tuition	\$20,000	Ambulance Fund
2	Transfer to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund	\$75,000	Ambulance Fund
3	Shellfish Propagation	\$18,600	Free Cash
4	Rogers School Maintenance	\$20,000	Free Cash
5	Town Hall Emergency Repairs	\$40,000	Free Cash
6	Transfer to Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust Fund	\$250,000	Free Cash
7	Replacement Equipment – Recreation Center	\$10,000	Free Cash
8	Compensated Absences	\$75,000	Free Cash
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$508,600</b>	

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**  
**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**13B INCREASE AND FUND COLA BASE FOR RETIREES**

**13B (Option 1) INCREASE AND FUND COLA BASE FOR RETIREES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) the amount of \$98,000 to increase the cost of living (COLA) base for retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors beginning July 1, 2026, from \$17,000 to \$18,000 consistent with the provisions of Chapter 188, Section 19 of the Acts of 2010.

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**  
**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**13B (Option 2) INCREASE AND FUND COLA BASE FOR RETIREES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) the amount of \$98,000 to increase the cost of living (COLA) base for retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors beginning July 1, 2026, from \$18,000 to \$19,000 consistent with the provisions of Chapter 188, Section 19 of the Acts of 2010.

*Petitioned by: Retirement Board*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**  
**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

***Article Summary and Description***

State law allows Massachusetts Municipal Retirement Systems to increase the base pension amount upon which an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) up to 3% can be applied. Currently, the Fairhaven Retirement System’s COLA base is set at \$17,000.

*Option 1* would increase the base to from \$17,000 to \$18,000. This would result in an increase in pension benefits of \$30.00 per thousand-dollar increase, per retiree. The cost of this increase to the Town would be \$98,000.00

*If Option 1 is approved, Option 2* would be an additional increase of the base from \$18,000 to \$19,000. This would result in an additional increase in pension benefits of \$30.00 per thousand-dollar increase, per retiree. The cost of this increase to the Town would be \$98,000.

If both Options are approved, the total increase to the Town would be \$196,000.

**ARTICLE 14 FY27 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPROPRIATIONS**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or to reserve for later appropriation, and to authorize the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to expend or reserve, from the Community Preservation Fund available funds and FY27 Estimated Receipts as set forth herein, the following amounts for community preservation purposes, with such expenditures to be subject to conditions to be specified in applications and award letters from the Community Preservation Committee, with each item considered a separate appropriation:

<b>PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET</b>	
	<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>
	<b><u>Recommended Amounts</u></b>
<b>Reserve for Appropriation</b>	

A.	Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space, and its rehabilitation and restoration.	\$70,000
B.	Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Historic Resources	\$70,000
C.	Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Community Housing	\$70,000
D.	Emergency Reserve Account	\$100,000
	<b>Total Reserves for Appropriation</b>	<b>\$310,000</b>
	<b>Spending Appropriations</b>	
E.	FHA- Oxford Terrace Window Replacement- CH	\$100,000
F.	BPW- Big Belly Trash -OS/R	\$30,000
G.	Sustainability- Mac/Pim Native Garden-OS/R	\$3,505
H.	Livesey Park Tennis/Basketball-OS/R	\$70,000
I.	FIA- Millicent Library Center Street Lighting-OS/R	\$25,000
J.	FHC- Historic Property Survey- H	\$10,000
K.	FPS- Firetruck Restoration #1-H	\$95,000
L.	Town Hall West Wall Repair- H	\$320,000
M.	Millicent Library Restoration/Preservation-H	\$25,000
N.	Riverside Cemetery Project-H	5,000
O.	FHS- Exterior Masonry- H	\$140,000
	<b>Administrative Spending Appropriation</b>	
P.	To fund the Community Preservation Committee's annual expenses for: Personal Service; Purchase of Services; Supplies; Other charges/expenditures (Estimated Receipts)	\$5,000
	<b>Total Recommended Spending Appropriations</b>	<b>\$828,505</b>

*Petitioned by: Community Preservation Committee*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

***Article and Project Summary and Descriptions***

And, whereas Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44B requires that the Town appropriate for spending, or set-aside for future spending, from the fund balance at least 10% for open space, 10% for historic preservation, and 10% for community housing.

And, whereas the existing reserves and recommended appropriations for open space, historic preservation, and community housing each exceed 10% of the Community Preservation Fund Estimated Receipts. And, whereas Town Meeting may vote to delete any of the recommended amounts.

Therefore, in the event that recommended amounts are deleted, vote to appropriate as a reserve for future spending from the FY 2027 Community Preservation Fund Estimated Receipts the minimum necessary amounts to allocate not less than 10% (\$70,000) for open space, not less than 10% (\$70,000) for historic preservation, and not less than 10% (\$70,000) for community housing or take any other action relative thereto.

**A. Open Space Reserve:** This is to reserve at least the minimum 10% of anticipated revenues to remain in compliance with the Community Preservation Act.

**B. Historic Preservation Reserve:** This is to reserve at least the minimum 10% of anticipated revenues to remain in compliance with the Community Preservation Act.

**C. Community Housing Reserve:** This is to reserve at the least the minimum 10% of anticipated revenues to remain in compliance with the Community Preservation Act.

**D. Emergency Reserve Account:** A reserve account for emergencies that need funds but fall outside of the normal CPC Application and Review process. Projects would still need to be approved by Town Meeting.

**E. Fairhaven Housing Authority- Oxford Terrace Window Replacement- Community Housing:** Replace all the original 1976 windows in the 107 apartments in this Senior Housing/Non-Elderly Disabled Development which is two levels in one building.

**F. Board of Public Works- Big Belly Trash -Open Space and Recreation:** Purchase six Big Belly Trash compactors at \$5,000 each. These trash receptacles will allow for less trips to locations to empty trash by BPW staff each week.

**G. Sustainability- Macomber/Pimental Park Native Garden-Open Space and Recreation:** Purchase plants that are Native to Fairhaven and create a walkable garden space in the area of Macomber/Pimental Park which was previously a dirt bike path. Educational signage will also be installed.

**H. Livesey Park Tennis/Basketball-Open Space and Recreation:** Repair and resurface the current two tennis courts and two basketball courts at Livesey Park.

**I. Fairhaven Improvement Association-Millicent Library Center Street Lighting-Open Space and Recreation:** Purchase and install street lights to complete the lighting on center street.

**J. Fairhaven Historical Commission-Historic Property Survey- Historic Preservation;** To hire a professional preservation consultant to conduct a survey plan in order to complete a comprehensive town-wide historical inventory.

**K. Fairhaven Protecting Society- Firetruck Restoration #1-Historic Preservation:** Repair the town owned 1937 Maxim open cab fire truck. This is a mechanical restoration only: including engine, chassis, coolant systems, electrical, brakes, and fuel system.

**L. Town Hall Repairs – West Retaining Wall - Historic Preservation:** Repair the Town Hall West Retaining Wall along the William Street Side of the building. The repair would require disassembling the wall and accompanying wrought iron fence and sidewalk, rebuilding the stonework, fence, and sidewalk, and installing a new drainage system to mitigate future issues.

**M. Millicent Library Restoration/Preservation-Historic Preservation: Three-part request:** Repair the front tile mural at the entrance to The Millicent Library. Provide UV film on windows for protection of historical documents in the archives collection. Repair and remediate the mold on the walls of the tower.

**O. Fairhaven High School- Exterior Masonry/Flashing- Historic Preservation:** Scope of the work includes repointing the ventilator chimney and pair of adjacent dormers with flashing replacement, repointing the limestone cornice and the replacement of the adjoining copper gutter located on the west face of the southeast gable. There is logic in consolidating this work due to providing staging and access to the work area.

**P. Administrative services and operating expenses:** Personal Service; Purchase of Services; Supplies; Other charges/expenditures (Estimated Receipts)

**ARTICLE 15 REVOLVING FUNDS**

To see if the Town will authorize or re-authorize the following Revolving Accounts under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ and to amend General Bylaws Section 2-6 to add new revolving funds under the following terms or take any other action relative thereto:

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Authorized to Spend</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>FY27 Limit</b>
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	Disposal fees/charges	\$100,000
Sustainability	Sustainability Committee	Fees/charges	\$10,000
Hoppy's Landing	Select Board and/or Town Administrator	Fees/charges from users of Hoppy's Landing	\$25,000
Town Hall Auditorium	Town Administrator	Town Hall Auditorium rental fees	\$3,000
Park Utilities	Board of Public Works	User fees	\$2,000
Shellfish Mitigation	Marine Resources	Mitigation fees	\$25,000
Mooring Fees	Marine Resources	Mooring fees	\$4,000
Mattress Recycling	Board of Health	Fees from mattress disposal	\$3,000
Hoarding Remediation	Board of Health	Revenue from textile recovery boxes	\$2,000
Supportive Social Day Program	Council on Aging Director	Receipts reserved for appropriation for supportive social day	\$250,000
Roger A. Grimshaw Park	Council on Aging Director	Receipts from events at Grimshaw Park	\$5,000

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 16 ADOPT CHAPTER 22I, OF THE HERO ACT FOR COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS AND AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

To see if the Town will vote to accept Mass General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E, and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026 or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article Summary and Description**

Clause 22I, if accepted, would increase the amount of tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E, and Clause 22F annually by a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) determined by the Department of Revenue (DOR) based on the consumer price index (CPI). This would work like the annual COLA adjustment determined by DOR that is already a local option for certain senior exemption amounts.

*For example, if a Clause 22E recipient receives a \$1,000 exemption and the community accepts this option, and the CPI increases by 2.5%, the total exemption amount would increase to \$1,025 and continue adding the COLA each ensuing year.*

*Petitioned by: Veterans Service Officer*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 17 ADOPT CHAPTER 22J, OF THE HERO ACT FOR COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS AND AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A Clause 22B, Clause 22C , Clause 22E and Clause 22F by 100% of the personal amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to be applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026 or take any other action relative thereto.

***Article Summary and Description***

Clause 22J, if accepted, provides an additional exemption up to 100% of the amount of tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E, and Clause 22F. The application of the Clause 22J additional exemption cannot reduce the tax owed below what the taxpayer would owe on 10% of the current assessed valuation of the domicile. However, unlike the general additional exemption, the exemption granted to veterans can result in the taxpayer paying less than the taxes paid in the preceding fiscal year. To implement, the city or town must vote to accept the statute and establish the additional exemption percentage before the beginning of July 1 of the fiscal year in which that percentage will first apply. The percentage voted will continue to apply in subsequent years unless and until another percentage is voted before July 1 beginning of a later fiscal year.

*For example, if a Clause 22J recipient receives \$1,000 exemption and the community accepts this option at 50%, the exemption would increase to \$1,500.*

If adopted, both clauses would work together. If a Clause 22 recipient receives a \$1,000 exemption and the community accepts Clause 22I and the CPI increases by 2.5%, the total exemption amount would increase to \$1,025. If the community further accepts Clause 22J and increases the amount of the tax exemption by 50%, in this example the total exemption will increase to \$1,537.

*Petitioned by: Veterans Service Officer*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 18 CIVIL SERVICE REVOCATION – FIRE CHIEF**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court, in compliance with Clause (1), Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments of the Constitution, for a special act in the form set forth below, exempting the fire chief from Massachusetts General Laws chapter 31, Civil Service law and the rules and regulations relating to the same, provided that this revocation will not affect the Civil Service status of the existing fire chief as long as they occupy their current position; and provided that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition, as follows or act in any other manner in relation thereto:

**AN ACT EXEMPTING THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding Chapter 388 of the Acts of 1972, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the fire chief shall be exempt from chapter 31 of the General Laws.

**SECTION 2.** Section 1 shall not impair the civil service status of the incumbent fire chief in the town of Fairhaven on the effective date of this act.

**SECTION 3.** This act shall be effective upon its passage.

**Explanation:** On June 8, 1972, Chapter 388 of the Acts of 1972, An Act Placing the Office of the Chief of the Fire Department of the Town of Fairhaven under the civil service law, was enacted on June 8, 1972, placing the chief of the fire department under Civil Service effective upon the date of passage.

Police Officers and Firefighters, as well as the Police and Fire Chiefs are the only civil service government employees in the Town of Fairhaven. Civil Service restricts who may be on a promotional examination process as well as the timing of said process, which restricts the Town's ability to hire qualified candidates in a timely manner. Civil Service does not prescreen candidates for disqualifying matters and requires Fairhaven to extensively document why a candidate is not selected for appointment (subject to a time-consuming appeal).

Leaving Civil Service will allow Fairhaven to hire a private vendor to test candidates if the Town wishes. The Town will be able to prescreen and identify quality candidates, with college or military experience, prior experience in fire service and other types of skills that would best serve our community.

Further, the proposed change would provide the Town of Fairhaven with more control over personnel choices by allowing the Town to set its own policies, requirements and procedures for selecting a fire chief to lead the Fairhaven Fire Department. Both the Administration and the Fire Union support leaving Civil Service.

*Petitioned by: Select Board*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

## **ARTICLE 19 FAIRHAVEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, s. 55C to establish a trust to be known as the Fairhaven Affordable Housing Trust, the purpose of which shall be to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in Fairhaven for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households, to support efforts to improve housing affordability in Fairhaven in general, and to fund community housing, as defined in G.L. c. 44B, and, in implementation thereof, to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Bylaw entitled "Affordable Housing Trust" as printed in the warrant, or take any other action relative thereto.

### **Section 1. Statutory authority**

The Fairhaven Affordable Housing Trust shall be constituted and operation under MGL c.44, § 55C, and subject to the limitations contained in this bylaw.

### **Section 2. Title**

The Trust shall be called the "Fairhaven Affordable Housing Trust"

### **Section 3. Purpose**

The purpose of the Trust shall be to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable and community housing in the Town of Fairhaven for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households and for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c. 44B ("Chapter 44B"). In furtherance of this purpose, the Trustees are hereby authorized, in accordance with the procedures set forth herein, to acquire by gift, purchase or otherwise real property, personal property, or money, both tangible and intangible, of every sort and description; to use such property, both real and personal, and money in such manner as the Trustees shall deem most appropriate to carry out such purpose, provided however, that all property and money held by the Trust and the net earnings thereof shall be used exclusively for the preservation and creation in the Town of Fairhaven of affordable housing.

#### **Section 4. Composition**

There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Fairhaven Affordable Housing Trust Fund (the "Board"), composed of seven members (7) members: two (2) ex officio non-voting members and five (5) voting members. A member of the Select Board (chosen by the Select Board) and The Town Administrator or the Town Administrator's designee, shall serve as the ex officio members. The voting members shall include: five (5) members appointed by the Select Board, with a preference for members who have professional expertise in fields such as real estate law, architecture, planning, banking, finance and real estate, as well as a member who currently lives in affordable housing.

Excluding the Town Administrator, members must be residents of the Town of Fairhaven. Any Trustee who ceases to be a resident of the Town of Fairhaven shall cease to be a Trustee hereunder and shall promptly provide a written notification of the change in residence to the Board and to the Town Clerk. Any Trustee may resign in writing, signed and acknowledged by such Trustee and duly filed with the Town Clerk. If a Trustee ceases to be a Trustee hereunder before his/her term of office expires, a successor shall be appointed by the Select Board to fill such vacancy provided that in each case the said appointment and acceptance in writing by the Trustee so appointed is filed with the Town Clerk. Upon the appointment of any succeeding Trustee and the filing of such appointment the title to the Trust estate shall thereupon and without the necessity of any conveyance be vested in such succeeding Trustee jointly with the remaining Trustees. Reference to the Trustee shall mean the Trustee or Trustees for the time being hereunder.

#### **Section 5. Declaration of Trust**

The Trustees are hereby authorized to execute a Declaration of Trust and Certificate of Trust for the Fairhaven Affordable Housing Trust Fund to be recorded with the Bristol County Registry of Deeds and filed with the Bristol County Registry District of the Land Court.

#### **Section 6. Meetings of the Trust**

The Trust shall meet at least quarterly at such time and at such place as the Trustees shall determine. Special Meetings may be called by the Chair or by two (2) Trustees. Notice of all meetings of the Trust shall be given in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18 through 25. A quorum at any meeting shall be a majority of the Trustees, qualified and present in person.

The Trustees shall annually elect one Trustee who shall not be a member of the Select Board, to serve as Chairperson. The Chairperson may establish subcommittees and/or ad hoc task related committees to carry out the purposes of the Trust; the Chairperson of any such subcommittee or ad hoc task related committee shall be selected by vote of the subcommittees.

## **Section 7. Powers of Trustees**

The Trustees shall have the following powers, all of which shall be carried on in furtherance of the purposes set forth in General Laws Chapter 44 Section 55C, except that it shall have no ability to borrow money, or mortgage, or pledge Trust assets, purchase, sell, lease, exchange, transfer or convey any interest in real property without prior approval of the Fairhaven Select Board.

(A) To accept and receive property, whether real or personal, by gift, grant, devise, or transfer from any person, firm, corporation or other public or private entity, including without limitation grants of funds or other property tendered to the trust in connection with provisions of any zoning ordinance or bylaw or any General law or Special Act of the Commonwealth or any other source:

(1) Accept and receive real property, personal property or money, by gift, grant, contribution, devise or transfer from any person, firm, corporation or other public or private entity, including but not limited to money, grants of funds or other property tendered to the trust in connection with any ordinance or by-law or any general or special law or any other source, including money from Chapter 44B;

(2) Purchase and retain real or personal property, including without restriction investments that yield a high rate of income or no income;

(3) Sell, lease, exchange, transfer or convey any personal, mixed, or real property at public auction or by private contract for such consideration and on such terms as to credit or otherwise, and to make such contracts and enter into such undertaking relative to trust property as the board deems advisable notwithstanding the length of any such lease or contract;

(4) Execute, acknowledge and deliver deeds, assignments, transfers, pledges, leases, covenants, contracts, promissory notes, releases and other instruments sealed or unsealed, necessary, proper or incident to any transaction in which the board engages for the accomplishment of the purposes of the trust;

(5) Employ advisors and agents, such as accountants, appraisers and lawyers as the Board deems necessary;

(6) Pay reasonable compensation and expenses to all advisors and agents and to apportion such compensation between income and principal as the board deems advisable;

(7) Apportion receipts and charges between incomes and principal as the board deems advisable, to amortize premiums and establish sinking funds for such purpose, and to create reserves for depreciation depletion or otherwise;

(8) Participate in any reorganization, recapitalization, merger or similar transactions; and to give proxies or powers of attorney with or without power of substitution to vote any securities or certificates of interest; and to consent to any contract, lease, mortgage, purchase or sale of property, by or between any corporation and any other corporation or person;

(9) Deposit any security with any protective reorganization committee, and to delegate to such committee such powers and authority with relation thereto as the board may deem proper and to pay, out of trust property, such portion of expenses and compensation of such committee as the board may deem necessary and appropriate;

(10) Carry property for accounting purposes other than acquisition date values;

(11) Borrow money on such terms and conditions and from such sources as the board deems advisable, to mortgage and pledge trust assets as collateral; however, the Trust borrowing shall not exceed fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) at any one time without Town Meeting approval.

(12) Make distributions or divisions of principal in kind;

(13) Comprise, attribute, defend, enforce, release, settle or otherwise adjust claims in favor or against the trust, including claims for taxes, and to accept any property, either in total or partial satisfaction of any indebtedness or other obligation, and subject to the provisions of this act, to continue to hold the same for such period of time as the board may deem appropriate;

(14) Manage or improve real property; and to abandon any property which the board determined not to be worth retaining;

(15) Hold all or part of the trust property uninvested for such purposes and for such time as the board may deem appropriate; and

(16) Extend the time for payment of any obligation to the trust.

(B) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, Select Board approval shall be required for any of the following actions:

(1) To purchase real or personal property

(2) To sell, lease, exchange, transfer or convey any personal, mixed, or real property; and

(3) To borrow money, or mortgage or pledge Trust assets as collateral to the extent of the Trust's assets.

(C) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the Trustees may not borrow, mortgage, or pledge greater than the current Trust assets unless approved by the Select Board.

### **Section 8. Acts of Trustees**

A majority of Trustees may exercise any or all of the powers of the Trustees hereunder and may execute on behalf of the Trustees any and all instruments with the same effect as though executed by all the Trustees. No Trustee shall be required to give bond. No license of court shall be required to confirm the validity of any transaction entered into by the Trustees with respect to the Trust Estate.

### **Section 9. Liability**

Neither the Trustees nor any agent or officer of the Trust shall have the authority to bind the Town, except in the manner specifically authorized herein. The Trust is a public employer, and the Trustees are public

employees for the purposes of G.L. Chapter 258. The Trust shall be deemed a municipal agency and the Trustees special municipal employees for the purposes of G.L. Chapter 268A.

**Section 10. Custodian of Funds**

The Town Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Trust and oversee investments. The books and records of the Trust shall be audited annually by an independent auditor in accordance with accepted accounting practices for municipalities.

**Section 11. Duration of Trust**

This Trust shall be of indefinite duration, until terminated in accordance with applicable law. Upon termination of the Trust, subject to the payment of or making provisions for the payment of all obligations and liabilities of the Trust and the Trustees, the net assets of the Trust shall be transferred to the Town and held by the Select Board for affordable housing purposes. In making any such distribution, the Trustees may, subject to the approval of the Select Board, sell all or any portion of the Trust property and distribute the net proceeds thereof or they may distribute any of the assets in kind. The powers of the Trustees shall continue until the affairs of the Trust are concluded.

**Section 12. Amendments**

The provisions of this Trust can only be amended by a vote of the Fairhaven Town Meeting.

**Section 13. Authority regarding documents**

The Select Board may authorize the Trustees to execute, deliver, and record with the Registry of Deeds any documents required for any conveyance authorized hereunder.

**Section 14. Section titles**

The titles to the various Articles herein are for convenience only and are not to be considered part of said Articles nor shall they affect the meaning or the language of any such Article; or take any other action thereon.

*Petitioned by: Town Administrator*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 20 AMEND BYLAWS CHAPTER 169 §13 REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE**

To see if the Town will vote to amend to Chapter 169-13 Removal of snow and ice by striking some of the existing language as indicated in strikethrough, or adding language as indicated in bold/underlined; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Request to amend as follows:*

§ 169-13 Removal of snow and ice.

The tenant, occupant, owner or agent of any building or lot of land bordering on any street, lane, square or public place shall not allow or permit any accumulation of snow or ice to remain on the sidewalk adjacent to said building or lot of land within **48 hours of snow event** after being ordered to remove same by the Police Department. ~~Upon~~ Failure to comply with the order **will result in a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).**

~~within six hours after notification, by the tenant, occupant, owner or agent above specified, it is hereby ordered that said snow or ice shall be removed by the Board of Public Works, and costs of removal shall be assessed to the owner of the building or lot of land so involved.~~

*Petitioned by: Board of Public Works*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 21 CITIZENS PETITION – Adopt Municipal Housing Trust Fund**

Affordable Housing opportunities urgently needed. This petition is for the adoption of a Municipal Housing Trust Fund MGL c.44s.55. Further explanation attached to this petition with the initials of each signature signed. Petition Brought forward on February 5, 2026 By signed Residents of Fairhaven. Affordable Housing opportunities, Urgently Needed in Fairhaven. Increasing rents and the price of homes are exorbitant, and outpacing the majority of Fairhaven residents, median (H-L) and Moderate incomes. – Median & Moderate income earners of Fairhaven have been priced out of the housing market. Massachusetts zoning laws has purposed housing to be provided for all income levels.

We petition for this Article to go on the Town Meeting warrant at the spring Town Meeting held on May 2, 2026-for the adoption of a Municipal Housing Trust Fund governed by (MGL c.44 s.55) to begin to help solve this Affordable Housing Crisis, Common known, and which has placed seniors, young adults, and residents who offer Vital Services to the community, in a financially unsustainable and displaced, position. We also request that our community preservation, CPA funds, a portion there of-at least 50%, be recommended to be held in reserve, for an approved Municipal Housing Trust Fund for FY2027.

*Petitioned by: Michelle Costen*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 22 CITIZENS PETITION – Amend Bylaws c. 56-13**

To see if Town Meeting will vote to amend Division 1: Bylaws, Part 1: Administration, Chapter 56 by adding “Subsection 56-13 Service by Elected Officials” An elected official shall serve only on the board or body to which they have been duly elected. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an elected official may serve on additional boards, committees or commissions solely in the capacity of a liaison, provided such an appointment is made by the elected officials appointing or governing board. An elected official serving as a liaison shall not be considered a voting member of such board, committee or commission unless otherwise expressly authorized by law or bylaw. An elected official appointed or elected pursuant to this section shall continue to serve in such capacity until the earlier of their next reappointment or re-election, unless sooner removed in accordance with applicable law or bylaw.

*Petitioned by: Miles Grant*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 23 CITIZENS PETITION – Amend Bylaws c. 56-14**

To see if Town Meeting will vote to amend Division 1: Bylaws, Part 1: Administration, Chapter 56 by adding “Subsection 56-14 Service by Appointed Officials” An individual who is not an elected official may seek appointment to and serve on no more than two (2) boards, committees or commissions concurrently, unless otherwise authorized by a specific vote of the appointing authority. Any individual appointed pursuant to this

section shall remain in their appointed capacity until the earlier of their next reappointment or re-election, unless sooner removed in accordance with applicable law or bylaw.

*Petitioned by: x*

**Select Board – 0-0-0 Vote**

**Finance Committee – 0-0-0 Vote**

**ARTICLE 24 OTHER BUSINESS**

To act upon any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting an attested copy thereof on or near the front or main entrance of the polling place for all Precincts at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue, seven days at least prior to the date of the meeting.

DRAFT



**Monday, March 23, 2026**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**



**Monday, March 23, 2026**

**MINUTES**

1. Accept the Select Board Open Session minutes of March 2 and 9, 2026
2. Accept the Select Board Executive Session minutes of March 2 and 9, 2026



**FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 2, 2026**

F 1

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

**Present via zoom:** Andrew Romano, joined Open Session at 8:15pm

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 6:02pm

A moment of silence was observed for the US service members killed in the initial days of the current military strikes against Iran, their families and for the protection and safe return of all American troops deployed to the region.

Mr. Murphy advised that Mr. Romano will join Open Session remotely after Executive Session.

**ACTION / DISCUSSION**

**Consider Lifting the State of Emergency in Fairhaven**

The Board discussed the need for declaring a state of emergency in Town during the storm and the initial recovery efforts and was in consensus that it should be lifted. Ms. Mello asked for an agenda item to conduct an after-storm action review. Mr. Hickey advised the Board that the storm and Town response was discussed at the Department Head meeting today, acknowledged the challenges faced by many residents and communities, the frustration and patience with the storm clean-up efforts and will add a review to the next agenda.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to lift the State of Emergency in Fairhaven. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to discuss results of complaints regarding the constructive approval of the Timothy/Hiller Subdivision under the Former Land Use & Planning Director; **and**, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the board and the chair so declares (Jodi Donahue v. Fairhaven Police Department, 2533CV000869 New Bedford District Court); **and**, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Police Memorandum of Agreement); **and**, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with or act under the authority of the Public Records Law (Discuss confidential Fire Department personnel investigation report) **and to return to Open Session**. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

*The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session from 6:12pm to 8:15pm*

*Mr. Romano joined Open Session via Zoom at 8:15pm*

**ACTION / DISCUSSION**

**Discussion on the Release of Documents Related to the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision Constructive Approval Investigation**

Mr. Murphy clarified that the Board would vote to waive attorney client privilege only on the portion that pertains to the Executive Summary report prepared by legal counsel regarding the Timothy Hiller Subdivision constructive approval.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to waive the attorney/client privilege to release the Executive Summary Report prepared by legal counsel regarding the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision Constructive Approval. Ms. Mello seconded.

Bob Espindola addressed the Board via Zoom and asked if the Board would be complete on the item and discuss the rest of the elements of the report that were provided. He asked if the Board would explain why the other portion would not be released. Mr. Murphy said the Board would only be releasing the Executive Summary and not discuss further.

**On the Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to waive the attorney/client privilege to release the Executive Summary Report prepared by legal counsel regarding the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision Constructive Approval. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Hickey advised the Board that he would have the Executive Summary posted on the Town's website tomorrow and the Board agreed.

### **Consider a Stipend for Town Collector Pam Bettencourt**

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board about Collector Pam Bettencourt. Ms. Bettencourt was set to retire effective February 20, 2026 and due to staffing challenges within the office, she has agreed to remain in her position to provide critical training and support to the Treasurer/Collector Department staff. Because Ms. Bettencourt provided an advanced retirement notice, an annual retirement bonus stipend of two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) was provided and stopped at her retirement date. Mr. Hickey is requesting the Select Board approve continuing the weekly stipend request of \$48.08 per week while Ms. Bettencourt remains a full-time employee.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the stipend of forty-eight dollars and eight cents (\$48.08) per week for Pamela Bettencourt while she remains employed full time to recognize her dedication to the Town of Fairhaven. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

### **Parking Fee Waiver Request: Hoppy's Landing: All Abilities Fishing Derby on Friday, June 19, 2026 from 12:00-3:00pm**

The Recreation Center organized the 3rd Annual All Abilities Fishing Derby at Hoppy's Landing and is requesting a waiver of the parking fees for participants during the event. The Harbormaster has supported this event in the past and is in favor of the parking fee waiver for event participants. The Harbormaster's staff will prepare a parking pass for participants to display on their dashboard during the event which was done for last year's event.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Parking Fee Waiver Request at Hoppy's Landing for the 3rd Annual All Abilities Fishing Derby on Friday, June 19, 2026 from 12:00-3:00pm as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bob Espindola of John Street addressed the Board via Zoom and asked if the Board would explain why the whole report is not able to be released to the public, even redacted.

### **MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the open session minutes of February 2 and February 9, 2026 as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the executive session minutes of February 2 and February 9, 2026 as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Emails: Michelle Costen: Ref: Citizens Petition Submitted; Public Comment-Ref 2/9/2026 SB Meeting; MGL c. 44 s. 55 quick notes; Fwd.: Affordable Home Ownership-Domino Effect; From the White House-21<sup>st</sup> century Housing Act; Reference to zoning delays-PB meeting 2/10/26 public comment; FWD: MAHT; Home Sweet Home

Committee; and (no subject) (*Attachment A*).

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter the Select Board correspondence as listed into the record. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Romano addressed the Board via Zoom and said that he was not on for the first item and wanted to give a shout out to the citizens, the Belonging Committee and other committees that orchestrated snow removal at bus stops and sidewalks.

#### **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Monday, March 9, 2026* at 6:30pm

Mr. Murphy added a final thought and the quote, “Every day brings new choices.” From Martha Beck

*Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm*

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Correspondence: Emails: Michelle Costen: Ref: Citizens Petition Submitted; Public Comment-Ref 2/9/2026 SB Meeting; MGL c. 44 s. 55 quick notes; Fwd.: Affordable Home Ownership-Domino Effect; From the White House-21<sup>st</sup> century Housing Act; Reference to zoning delays-PB meeting 2/10/26 public comment; FWD: MAHT; Home Sweet Home Committee; and (no subject)

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

Accepted on \_\_



# FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

### March 9, 2026

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

**Present via zoom:** Andrew Romano, joined Open Session at 6:45pm

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 6:05pm

A moment of silence was observed for local fisherman Truett "Gene" Holcomb who tragically passed away last week in an accident. Please keep his family in your thoughts.

Mr. Murphy advised that Mr. Romano will join Open Session remotely after Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Atlas Tack) **and to return to Open Session.** Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

*The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session from 6:08pm to 6:45pm*

*Mr. Romano joined Open Session via Zoom at 6:45pm*

### **APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS**

#### **Update on Town Charter: Review Comments on Charter by Massachusetts Legislature with Town Counsel**

Atty. Heather White of Petriani & Associates addressed the Board regarding comments provided from the state legislature on the Town Charter (*Attachment A*), most are stylistic and some are policy-related. Atty. White summarized steps taken, meeting with the senate council, meeting with the Charter Committee and reviewed the provisions and suggested changes with the Board to discuss if the suggestions were in line with the Charter Committee's position.

Discussion ensued on sections ix and x on page 5, section 3-3 on page 14, page 21, 23-24, 26-27, and 35. The Board was in consensus with the Charter Committee's position. Atty. White advised the Board that the Town Meeting vote included allowing the legislature to make changes as to form and, in her opinion, the recommended changes are in line with that authorization where they are necessary for consistency with state law. The next step is for Atty. White to send the comments back and wait to see if it makes it through to complete the process to be in time for a ballot question.

#### **Winter Storm Hernando: After-Storm Action Review**

Mr. Murphy acknowledged the concerns brought forth to the Board regarding the blizzard and said while there is always room for improvement, Fairhaven's Public Works, Police, Fire, and many other dedicated staff members approached storm preparation and recovery efforts with the shared goal of restoring the Town to normal operations as quickly and safely as possible. The Blizzard of '26, resulted in record snowfall across the South Coast region, with many communities in our area receiving in excess of 30 inches of snow. This storm also followed closely on the heels of a significant snowfall event at the end of January with approximately 13 inches of snow in our area.

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board and provided an overview of the Town's operations and response throughout the storm, the challenges and conditions as the storm progressed, safety concerns and changing conditions, emergency management efforts led by Public Safety and Public Works in coordination with the School Department and other departments' staff, emergency shelter space, priority items identified and discussed by the Town's response team on twice daily calls to review and address issues, infrastructure breakdown due to loss of power and generator not auto-starting, internet loss and inability for several hours to access Town Hall to restart power and internet which is

the backbone of the phone system.

Town Department heads met on Monday, March 2, 2026 to assess and discuss improvements for moving forward. Priority items included educating about the reverse 911 notification system to help counter misinformation and looking to build in redundancies to support generators and communication systems with grant funds wherever possible. He thanked residents for dealing with the challenges; this was not the typical winter storm we plan for.

**Public Comment:**

Vincent Manfredi of Houle Street addressed the Board, he thanked Mr. Hickey and staff and mentioned safety concerns about kids walking to the Middle School along Adams Street and a portion of the Dana Farms property on Adams Street and overpasses and corners with large piles of snow that are not cleared. He expressed frustration with conflicting referrals from police to public works and public works to the police. Anything that can be done to improve the situation is appreciated.

Bob Pink of Gull Island Road addressed the Board. He personally commended public safety for their prudence; they had to make hard decisions. Mr. Pink said he was in the middle of it and saw how they worked to provide access for citizens and employees.

The Board shared their perspective, personal stories about residents needing to use the shelter and being welcomed. They thanked Department Heads, staff and those who worked around the clock, neighbors who helped neighbors, shelter support for those who needed it and encouraged those not on the reverse 911 notification system to sign up.

**Consider Proposed Building Department Fee Changes**

Building Commissioner Rick Forand addressed the Board and reviewed the proposed permit fee changes. The Board last reviewed in 2023. The Board asked clarifying questions about the proposed changes to the fee structure.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to adopt the proposed Building Department Fees as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to adopt the proposed Building Department Fees effective no earlier than April 1, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to take action/discussion item D2 out of order. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Ratify Collective Bargaining Agreement: Police: New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA)**

Mr. Hickey and Chief Dorgan addressed the Board regarding the Successor Agreement for the Police Unit effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 and asked the Board to consider ratifying the Agreement. The terms are consistent with other CBAs that have been ratified; the agreement contains other minor language changes, elimination of sick leave buyback, holiday benefit to volunteer for certain holidays and an adjustment to detail rates to be competitive with other towns. Mr. Hickey advised the FY26 cost is approximately twenty-three thousand dollars and is covered by wage reserve funds already appropriated.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to ratify the Successor Agreement between the Town of Fairhaven and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), Local 64. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Appointment Request: Capital Planning Committee, Open Space Representative: Don Collasius**

Don Collasius addressed the Board about his interest in being appointed to the Capital Planning Committee, his professional experience with capital monies and experience from being the Tree Warden. The Board asked clarifying questions about the Capital Planning Committee meetings. Mr. Hickey said the Committee has met for the last time before Annual Town Meeting and may change in the future to monthly meetings.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Don Collasius to the Capital Planning Committee, open space representative for a term through May, 2029. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Event Request: 20th Annual Watershed Ride: Sunday, October 4, 2026**

The Board reviewed the request.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the use of public roads in Fairhaven and placement of signs for the Buzzards Bay Coalition’s 20th Annual Watershed Ride on Sunday, October 4, 2026 contingent upon the approval of Police, Fire, Building and Public Works. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erin Carr of Main Street addressed the Board and asked for the full investigation to be released to the public, it was paid for by the tax payers, the report is vague and open to interpretation. For example, line seven states “several people” and that leaves it open to interpretation. Others should be held accountable; the Neighborhood News is capitalizing on the ambiguity and if someone is guilty the public should know, should have more than the executive summary.

Bob Espindola of John Street addressed the Board via Zoom, he said he would like to make the same request as the prior speaker for the full report. In the spirit of openness and transparency, the full details should be released to the extent possible and he wanted to make that formal request.

**ACTION / DISCUSSION**

**Discussion on Closing a Section of the Bike Path Abutting the Atlas Tack Property**

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board about closing a portion of the bike path on South Street due to potential debris that could land on or come to rest on a portion of the bike path should the structure collapse (*Attachment B*).

Discussion ensued and the Board asked clarifying questions on the area to be closed, one homeowner on South Street that would have access to get to their property, signage on the closure, the use of jersey barriers for the detour and clarification on the building code and amount of clearance required for the fence.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to the temporary closure of a portion of the bike path on a portion of South Street that abuts the Atlas Tack property. Individuals using the bike path will be diverted onto South Street at the beginning of the bike path closure and will reenter the bike path at the end of the portion closed. In addition, while a section of the bike path is closed, South Street will be closed to all vehicular traffic. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Pledge of Collateral, All Alcohol Beverage License: Bitter Wallace, Inc. d/b/a The Bitter End to Bay Coast Bank**

Bitter Wallace, Inc. d/b/a The Bitter End has applied for a Pledge of Collateral for their All Alcohol License to Bay Coast Bank. The Board clarified that this application does not require a public hearing.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the pledge of collateral for their All Alcohol License from Bitter Wallace, Inc. d/b/a The Bitter End to Bay Coast Bank as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Consider Amending Town Hall Business Hours: Monday 7:30am-6:00pm, Tuesday through Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm and Friday 7:30am-11:30am**

Mr. Hickey reviewed the details of the side letter of agreement signed between the Town and AFSCME, the collective bargaining unit for clerical staff. The agreement would modify their members working hours, the working hours would change allowing the Town Offices to open at 7:30am Monday through Friday and remain

open until 6:00pm on Monday and close at 11:30am on Friday. The change would increase the number of hours Town Hall is open from 40 hours per week to 41.5 and also includes a 6:00pm closure on Mondays.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to amend Town Hall hours as presented. Ms. Mello seconded.

The Board asked to clarify the effective date of the change, brief discussion ensued and the consensus was to make the change effective Monday, March 23, 2026.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders amended his motion to amend Town Hall hours as presented effective Monday, March 23, 2026. Ms. Mello amended her second. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

### **Discussion on Select Board Waiving Their Compensation for FY2027**

Mr. Silvia addressed the Board and asked the Board to waive their stipends for FY2027. He explained that FinCom has been reviewing the budget and if the residents will be asked to consider an override and the Board supports without compensation that would be about thirty-four thousand back into the budget.

Discussion ensued regarding whether this was for one fiscal year, if it would be contingent upon an override, whether to table until after the election in June, whether this would impact a volunteer motivated by the stipend, does Town Meeting need to vote on it and what the deadline is to have on the warrant.

Mr. Hickey proposed voting on FY27 effective July 1, 2026 and then revisiting with the new Board after election.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to waive Select Board compensation for FY27 and recommend the Finance Committee not include the stipend amount in the FY27 budget. Mr. Silvia seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders in favor, Ms. Mello in favor, Mr. Murphy abstained, Mr. Silvia in favor and Mr. Romano opposed. The motion passed (3-1-1) Mr. Murphy abstained and Mr. Romano opposed.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Hickey reported:

- FY27 budget discussions continue, the Finance Committee continues to meet. Mr. Hickey recommends a joint meeting on a Saturday to deliberate the budget with and without an override. He will propose the date to the Finance Committee and check availability. Some line items have changed due to revisions received from Bristol Agricultural High School, Greater New Bedford Vocational High School, the Library and Medicare adjustments. Mr. Hickey continues to work with the departments to identify areas for cuts.

The Board agreed to hold a joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

- The blizzard cost estimate is at about one million dollars. Normal day-to-day expenses are not recoverable and the Town is applying for reimbursement from the state and an article will be added to the warrant. Reimbursement amount notification

### **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

*Mr. Saunders had no updates or meeting updates to report.*

*Ms. Mello reported:*

- She attended the SRPEDD meeting in Mr. Romano's place. Representative Sylvia presented updates on his work and upcoming projects. There was a Q&A and the Chair of SRPEDD is calling on the state to slow down on mandates.
- The Historical Commission met, discussed the struggle of a thirty-three percent budget cut. Work at the Academy Building will begin soon.

*Mr. Murphy reported:*

- Lagoa met, the Chair designed a brochure that was distributed at the Fairhaven birthday celebration. Ms. Botelho also participated in the birthday celebration from Portugal.

- Mr. Murphy thanked Todd Migliacci for his support onsite at the event

*Mr. Silvia had no updates or meeting updates to report.*

*Mr. Romano reported:*

- No meetings to report on.
- He thanked the Belonging Committee and the Commission on Disability for promoting snow removal across Town. He also thanked Ms. Mello for stepping on at the SRPEDD meeting.

### **MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the open session minutes of February 22 and February 23, 2026, 2026 as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Email: Michelle Costen: Weekly-Town of Fairhaven Podcast (*Attachment C*).

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter the Select Board correspondence as listed into the record. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Romano addressed the Board via Zoom and said that he was not on for the first item and wanted to give a shout out to the citizens, the Belonging Committee and other committees that orchestrated snow removal at bus stops and sidewalks.

### **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Monday, March 23, 2026* at 6:30pm

Mr. Murphy added a final thought: “At the end of the day, we all share the same goal: a safe, well-served community. Continued collaboration and communication will help us build on what has worked and improve where we can.”

Pat Carr addressed the Board and said Mr. Silvia had emergency appendix surgery, left the hospital and wanted to be at this meeting and commended his action on the stipends.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to discuss results of complaints regarding the constructive approval of the Timothy/Hiller Subdivision under the Former Land Use & Planning Director. And not to return to Open Session. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

*Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:31pm*

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Town Charter Comments from state legislature
- B. Bike Path Abutting Atlas Tack Property, Proposed closure section map
- C. Correspondence: Email: Michelle Costen: Weekly-Town of Fairhaven Podcast

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

Accepted on \_\_



**Monday, March 23, 2026**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email: Cultural Council: Mass Cultural Council, the Creative Individual Grant awarded to three Fairhaven residents
2. Emails: Michelle Costen: A lovely home built on a Housing Trust in Falmouth; Falmouth Housing Trust; Fwd: SRPEDD-Housing Grants & Law Breaking; 16 Powers-MAHT petition on the warrant

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Fairhaven Cultural Council** <culturalcouncil@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Fri, Mar 13, 2026 at 1:26 PM

To: Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Hello Amy!

I wanted to pass on to your office and the Select Board some great news! Three Fairhaven residents won a highly competitive grant award from the Mass Cultural Council, the Creative Individual Grant. They will receive \$5k for the year to keep practicing their art. More details are here:

<https://fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/03-12-26-SnowEater.pdf>

Last year no resident won this grant! I have not checked the year before that yet.

*Regards,*



**Beth Ann Gallagher**

Chair, Fairhaven Cultural Council

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[www.fairhaven-ma.gov/cultural-council](http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/cultural-council)

[culturalcouncil@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@fairhaven-ma.gov)

40 Center St, Fairhaven, MA 02719



## FAIRHAVEN CULTURAL COUNCIL



*Supporting arts and culture in Fairhaven, Massachusetts  
and the South Coast community.*

The Fairhaven Cultural Council is a local agency supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency



## Three Fairhaven artists receive state grants

By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven Cultural Council has announced that three Fairhaven artists received grants from the Mass. Cultural Council. Brian Cass (Music), Heather Martin (Visual Arts), and Kylie Serpa (Multidisciplinary) won Creative Individual Grants.

"This is a highly competitive grant to win," wrote Beth Ann Gallagher, Chair, Fairhaven Cultural Council.

According to Dan Blask, Program Manager, on the Mass. Cultural Council website...

"Mass Cultural Council believes that when creativity thrives, so does the Commonwealth. We are honored to announce 464 grants of \$5,000 each — a total of \$2,320,000 — supporting artists, culture bearers, and creative practitioners as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Grants for Creative Individuals.

The program awards unrestricted grants to individuals in all creative fields: visual artists, literary artists, theater and dance artists, film/media artists, music artists, designers, traditional artists/culture bearers,

drag artists, cross-disciplinary artists, and more. We received 3,125 eligible applications to Grants for Creative Individuals. Grants were decided through a review process that includes geographic distribution, funding priorities, and scores from reviewers from the Massachusetts cultural sector.

Reviewers prioritized applications based on the program mission: to equitably advance creativity throughout the Commonwealth with unrestricted grants to individuals who demonstrate achievement of creative expression and commitment to their artistic/cultural practice. Approximately 96% of the grantees are receiving their first grant from Mass Cultural Council.

Brian Cass is a guitarist, producer, and music professor at Berklee College of Music. He performs locally with his rock and roll group, Brian & the Cassettes; and with The Overclock Orchestra.

Heather Martin is the owner of Rising Tide Pottery. They offer open studio memberships, workshops, classes, and more. Visit [\[risingtidepottery.com\]\(https://risingtidepottery.com\)](https://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Kylie Serpa is a multidisciplinary artist who works in film.

This announcement reflects Mass Cultural Council's third year of Grants for Creative Individuals funding. The program was launched in FY24 after a year-long evaluation of our support for creative individuals as part of the Agency's Racial Equity Plan. We plan to offer the Grants for Creative Individuals to Massachusetts creatives every year, subject to the Agency's state budget appropriation and governing Council-approved spending plan.

The Grants for Creative Individuals are part of Mass Cultural Council's sustained effort to advance creativity in the Commonwealth. Sign up for the monthly Artist News e-newsletter to receive all updates, details, and deadlines for Mass Cultural Council's funding and support for creative individuals.

Learn more at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>

See this year's list of recipients at <https://tinyurl.com/4k72ade6>

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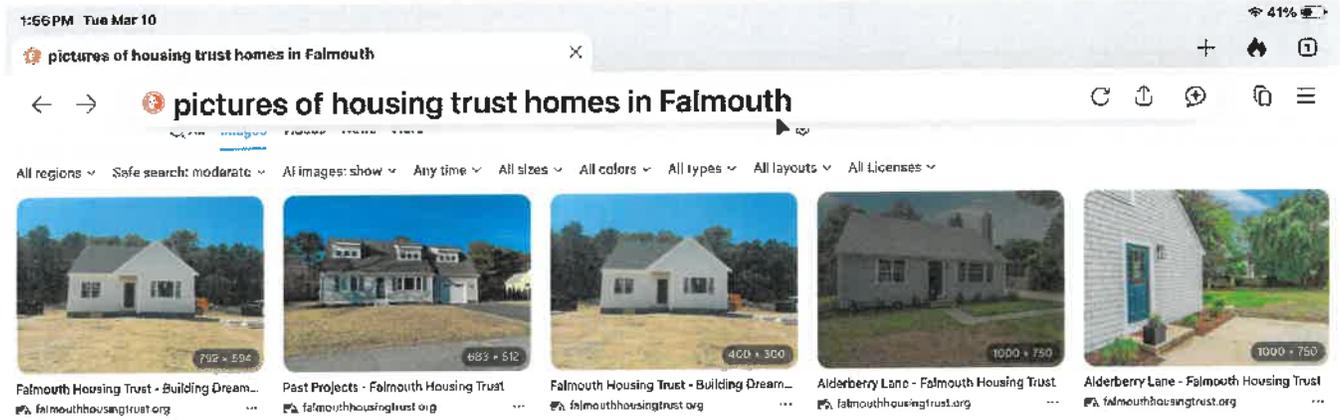
# A lovely home built on a Housing Trust in Falmouth

1 message

**michelle costen** <michcosten@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 10, 2026 at 1:59 PM

To: Planning Chair <planningchair@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "Patrick J. Carr" <pjcarr@a1crane.com>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>, buildingcommissioner@fairhaven-ma.gov



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## Falmouth Housing Trust

1 message

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**michelle costen** <michcosten@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 4:51 AM

To: Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Planning Chair <planningchair@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "Patrick J. Carr" <pj carr@a1crane.com>, buildingcommissioner@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, ksylvia2@yahoo.com, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>

Falmouth building homes that people can afford.

<https://www.falmouthhousingtrust.org/current-initiatives/>

Regards,

Michelle Costen

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## Fwd: SRPEDD-Housing Grants & Law Breaking

1 message

**michelle costen** <michcosten@gmail.com>  
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, buildingcommissioner@fairhaven-ma.gov  
Cc: stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>

Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 10:19 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **michelle costen** <michcosten@gmail.com>  
Date: Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 10:18 AM  
Subject: SRPEDD-Housing Grants & Law Breaking  
To: Planning Chair <planningchair@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Patrick J. Carr <pjcarra@1crane.com>, Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>

Hello,

Taking a look at some important considerations—

SRPEDD receiving grants and wants to “administer” housing grants for affordable housing, but it is in accordance with the current Real Estate Market Rate—

——Which is an inflated false market rate, because Real estate market value has been grossly over extenuated because of all the investors coming into our local towns and paying cash for houses for far over real market value price.

——This cash buying strategy, which is a monopoly (And Monopolies are illegal by the way) Grossly destabilized our housing market, and literally priced out hard-working people who are educated, and offer vital services to the community, from being able to purchase a house.

——We all know this is true. So we must also all know that the current median priced home in Fairhaven, is an inflated false median value

- as especially noted-over the last several years, beyond , what the real median Home price should be-

The fact is, median home values should coordinate with median income -

Because this housing monopoly has been recognized by the US Housing Administration, , there is a new Executive Order to no longer allow investors to come into small towns and buy our family homes for profit- Unfortunately, it's come a bit late. But better late than never-

——However, I have presented a way to the planning board, that can Right this Wrong- And help get us back to the real median home values, which will help make houses affordable again for the people who are in the median income. Which is most of our residents.

Did you know that it takes an income of at least \$219,000 a year to be able to afford a house that is selling for \$700,000? This is why we need to bring home prices back to normalcy, for the median income, that ranges between \$68,000 to \$130,000- This is a practical household income range for most of the residents in Fairhaven.

We have Community property that we own, and we have special financing that we can formulate into a community land trust

——I personally think that we can come up with an affordable housing plan that would be better than SERPEDD would offer at the going market rate, because the market rate, like I said before, is a false inflated market rate. And don't forget SERPEDD Pays their people to administer housing grants to local towns. Let's remove the middlemen-

Why don't we Administer our own Affordable Housing Initiatives? And receive Housing Grants directly, and not through SERPEDD-

——it's not difficult to follow municipal housing trust guidelines. And then once we follow them and formulate a plan, we have it reviewed by town council or another attorney who is an expert in community land trust.

—I truly recommend that the town of Fairhaven takes control of the housing affordable homeownership market through Community land trust, for the next 3 to 5 years in order to get houses to be forever affordable and back to the real median housing value.-

There should be far more concentration and focus on homeownership opportunities and options, then there should be on apartment complexes like they do in New Bedford. —Because, the rents are too expensive and they go up too often extravagantly, even when they are calling them affordable market rate rents—

The high percentage of Apartment living is transitional.—

— Living in homes brings more enduring Stability.

— Once upon a Time, Fairhaven was known for being a STABLE town With a healthy, cash flow,. Until our housing market was destabilized by Predator investor - ( and not all investors are predators. I know a few investors who are very good people and care about the community)

But How did we ever get so Lawless?

And what will we do to fix this mess?

"Streamlining with the lawful tools that we have, doesn't mean we break the laws. We streamline within the laws"

People are breaking short term, rental bylaws, and builders are building on property without following the law. This is what's happening in our town.

Cutting through all the red tape, somehow has sent a message to developers, builders and Investors that it's OK to break the law. But It II Not OK-

—And this is what I have been talking about and writing about for the last several years- I Tried to warn the town because I could see the problems that we were going to have, which we now have.

It is amazingly clever, how people will ignore listening to someone who's speaking the truth. In fact, some people are so clever at it, that they just completely shut out their own Voice Of Conscience of right and wrong.-

For those who might not know and I'm sorry if you don't want me to say this, but I'm going to say it, ———

"The Voice of Conscience is how God speaks to us. The same God we pledge allegiance under"

—The truth is, the Community of Fairhaven must take control back to the people. through Community Land Trust-and really begin to listen again to the voice of conscience.

Don't let anyone railroad us Anymore-

Regards,

Michelle Costen

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## 16 Powers -MAHT petition on the warrant-

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 10:18 AM

To: Planning Chair <planningchair@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: "Patrick J. Carr" <pj carr@a1crane.com>, Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>

## Powers of a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund in Massachusetts

Municipal affordable housing trust funds in Massachusetts have specific powers granted by state law. These powers enable the trusts to effectively manage and promote affordable housing initiatives. Below are the key powers:

### 1. Acquisition of Property

- Purchase or acquire real estate for affordable housing development.

### 2. Construction and Rehabilitation

- Fund the construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing units.

### 3. Financial Assistance

- Provide financial assistance for affordable housing projects, including loans and grants.

### 4. Leverage Funding

- Leverage state and federal funds to enhance local affordable housing efforts.

### 5. Partnerships

- Collaborate with non-profit organizations, developers, and other entities to promote affordable housing.

### 6. Policy Development

- Develop policies and strategies to address local housing needs.

### 7. Community Engagement

- Engage with the community to assess housing needs and gather input on housing initiatives.

### 8. Monitoring and Reporting

- Monitor the use of funds and report on the effectiveness of housing initiatives.

## **9. Advocacy**

- Advocate for affordable housing at local, state, and federal levels.

## **10. Zoning and Land Use**

- Influence zoning and land use policies to facilitate affordable housing development.

## **11. Rental Assistance**

- Provide rental assistance programs to support low-income households.

## **12. Homeownership Programs**

- Create programs to assist first-time homebuyers and promote homeownership.

## **13. Long-term Affordability**

- Ensure that affordable housing units remain affordable for the long term.

## **14. Emergency Housing Solutions**

- Address emergency housing needs, including homelessness prevention.

## **15. Education and Outreach**

- Educate the public about affordable housing issues and available resources.

## **16. Establishing Guidelines**

- Set guidelines for the operation and management of the trust fund.

These powers enable municipal affordable housing trust funds to play a crucial role in addressing housing challenges and promoting affordable living options in their communities.

Regards,

Michelle Costen