



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA

September 14, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven

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

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK

RCUD 2026 SEP 10 PM2:11

A. PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00pm

This hearing is on the petition Job # WO# 27795573 from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. Request permission to install 1 (one) new FO pole to be labeled 108/9.5 in the Right of Way of Green Street. The proposed location is necessary to provide upgraded electrical service to 26 Green Street.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

C. APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. Appointment Request: Board of Assessors: Rui Pereira
2. Event Request: Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Walk-A-Thon, October 24, 2026
3. Traffic/Parking Control Requests:
 - No Parking Sign: Ash Street at the Intersection of Adams Street;
 - No Left Turn: Bridge Street exit of 240 Bridge Street;
 - Handicap (HP) Parking Only Sign: 41 Hedge Street
4. Consider Creation of a Fairhaven Tourism Committee
5. Use of Auditorium Request: Millicent Library, October 22, 2026 for an Author Talk event
6. Review of Open Volunteer Opportunities

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 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 (AFSCME-Highway; and Atlas Tack)

E. ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. Consider Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees: Highway (AFSCME)
2. Discussion on Draft Local Aid Letter
3. Discussion on Holding a Regional Meeting to Discuss Solutions to Wastewater Issues Impacting Fairhaven and Other South Coast Communities
4. Consider Proposal to transition Correspondence from the Select Board agenda to the Town's website

F. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

G. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

H. MINUTES

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of August 24, 2026
2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of August 24, 2026

I. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: More Towns pause, terminate Flock agreements
2. Office of the Attorney General: OML 2026-112

J. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Monday, September 28, 2026* at 6:00pm

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 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 (ABCC Decision, Fourth and Long Inc. d/b/a Rasputin's Tavern)

L. 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.



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA

September 14, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On March 28th, 2025, the bill to extend Open Meeting Law regulations governing remote participation has passed the MA legislature 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.

A. PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00pm

This hearing is on the petition Job # WO# 27795573 from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. Request permission to install 1 (one) new FO pole to be labeled 108/9.5 in the Right of Way of Green Street. The proposed location is necessary to provide upgraded electrical service to 26 Green Street.

Suggested Motion:

“Move (approve/not approve) petition for Job and Work Order# 27795573 from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. to install 1 (one) new FO pole to be labeled 108/9.5 in the Right of Way of Green Street to provide upgraded electrical service to 26 Green Street with any ”

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

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

C. APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. **Appointment Request: Board of Assessors: Rui Pereira** – As the Board is aware, there is currently an opening on the Board of Assessors due to a recent resignation. The position was advertised and Mr. Rui Pereira submitted his letter of interest. Included in your Board materials is completed volunteer form and resume. As you will see, Mr. Pereira has several years of experience in the assessing field.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (appoint/not appoint) Rui Pereira to the Board of Assessors for a three-year term.”

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

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.

2. **Event Request: Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Walk-A-Thon, October 24, 2026.** Representatives from SMEC contacted the office after speaking with LT. Swain of the Fairhaven Police to submit an event request for their walk-a-thon. Police and Fire are in support of the event and have worked with SMEC on details of the event. The Board's packet materials contain their letter and route details.

Suggested Motion:

"Move to (approve/not approve) the event request for the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative's Walk-A-Thon on October 24, 2026 with any conditions or requirements from Police, Fire and Public Works."

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

3. **Request from the Fairhaven Police Department to Consider Traffic/Parking Control Requests:**
- **No Parking Sign: Ash Street at the Intersection of Adams Street;**
 - **No Left Turn: Bridge Street exit of 240 Bridge Street;**
 - **Handicap (HP) Parking Only Sign: 41 Hedge Street**

The Fairhaven Police Department has completed three traffic/parking reviews and are seeking the Board's approval for the following: a no parking sign on Ash Street at the Intersection of Adams Street; a no left turn at the Bridge Street exit of 240 Bridge Street; and a handicap parking sign in front of 41 Hedge Street as listed on the agenda. The Board's packet materials contain FPD's reports and recommendations. The Public Works Department has reviewed and supports the three recommendations being brought forward this evening.

Suggested Motion:

"Move to (approve/not approve) the following traffic/parking control requests from the Fairhaven Police Department.

- No Parking Sign: Ash Street at the Intersection of Adams Street;
- No Left Turn: Bridge Street exit of 240 Bridge Street;
- Handicap (HP) Parking Only Sign: 41 Hedge Street"

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

- 4 **Consider Creation of a Fairhaven Tourism Committee.** Resident Jennifer Cardoza contacted the Select Board office requesting the Select Board consider establishing a Fairhaven Tourism Committee. Included in your Board materials is a detailed proposal provided by Mr. Cardoza.

Upon receiving Ms. Cardoza's email expressing her interest in a Tourism Committee, the Town Administrator shared that the Economic Development Committee has shared their interest in providing some of the activities formerly provided by the Tourism Department and suggested she reach out to a member of the Economic Development Committee to discuss collaborating their efforts. The Town Administrator is unsure if the two parties have spoken.

Suggested Motion (s):

Option 1

“Move the Select Board supports the establishment of a Tourism Committee and requests Ms. Cardoza and the Town Administrator work together to establish a charge for the Committee and return to the Select Board when the responsibilities of the Committee are ready for Board consideration.”

Option 2

“Move the Select Board request Ms. Cardoza communicate with the Economic Development Committee to work colligatively to provide services once provided by the Tourism Department.”

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

5. **Use of Auditorium Request: Millicent Library, October 22, 2026 for an Author Talk event.** The Millicent Library is seeking the Board’s approval for the use of the Town Hall Auditorium on October 22, 2026 for an author talk, details on the author are forthcoming as they confirm their availability.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) the use of the Town Hall Auditorium by the Millicent Library on October 22, 2026 contingent upon payment of the custodian fee and in accordance with the Town’s policy as outlined in the application.”

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

6. **Review of Open Volunteer Opportunities.** As part of the Board’s efforts to highlight volunteer opportunities, the Board’s packet contains a list of recent resignations and openings that appear on the Volunteer Opportunities page of the Town’s website as of the morning the agenda is posted. The list may change as openings are identified. Interested applicants should review the page and can contact the Town Administrator’s office with any questions.

Suggested Motion:

“No motion needed”

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 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 (AFSCME-Highway; and Atlas Tack)

E ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. **Consider Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees: Highway (AFSCME).** Public Works Director Vinnie Furtado will present amendments to the AFSCME collective bargaining agreement. Included in your Board materials is the supporting information for the proposed amendments.

Suggested Motion:

2. **Discussion on Draft Local Aid Letter.** Member Rick Trapilo will review a draft letter seeking the support from other South Coast communities to forward to their legislative delegation seeking additional funding from the Commonwealth.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) the local aid letter (as presented/as amended) and distribute to communities on the South Coast seeking their support of requesting additional funding from the Commonwealth.”

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

3. **Discussion on a Holding a Regional Meeting to Discuss Solutions to Wastewater Issues Impacting Fairhaven and Other South Coast Communities.** Member Rick Trapilo and Town Administrator Hickey met with two members of the New Bedford Public Works to discuss ongoing and future wastewater concerns. Member Trapilo is seeking Board support to contact Representative Sylvia and Senator Montigny’s offices to organize a meeting of elected and appointed officials on the South Coast do discuss seeking federal aid to address the expected increase in costs to treat and dispose of wastewater.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) Select Board member Trapilo to contact Senator Montigny and Representative Sylvia seeking their assistance to set a meeting of South Coast elected and appointed officials to discuss working together to address the cost to dispose of wastewater.”

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

4. **Consider Proposal to transition Correspondence from the Select Board agenda to the Town’s website.** In support of the Town Administrator’s goals, specifically Goal #5-Improve Public Communication and Transparency, Ms. Hart has proposed transitioning the Board’s correspondence from an agenda item to the Town’s website. This initiative would provide a central location and ongoing access versus searching through agenda’s, packets or attachments to the Board’s minutes. The Board’s packet contains a memo outlining additional details and benefits to this proposal.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) to transition Board correspondence from the Select Board agenda to the Town website, providing a central location for access to the public.”

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

F. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

G. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

H. MINUTES

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of August 24, 2026

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (accept/not accept) the open session minutes of August 24, 2026 (as presented/as amended).”

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

2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of August 24, 2026

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (accept/not accept) the executive session minutes of August 24, 2026 (as presented/as amended).”

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

I. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: More Towns pause, terminate Flock agreements
2. Office of the Attorney General: OML 2026-112

Suggested Motion:

“Move to accept the correspondence listed on the agenda.”

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

J. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next scheduled Select Board meeting will be on ***Monday, September 28, 2026*** at 6:00pm

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 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 (ABCC RE: Fourth and Long Inc. d/b/a Rasputin’s Tavern)

L. ADJOURN



September 14, 2026
PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00PM

This hearing is on the petition Job # WO# 27795573 from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. Request permission to install 1 (one) new FO pole to be labeled 108/9.5 in the Right of Way of Green Street. The proposed location is necessary to provide upgraded electrical service to 26 Green Street.

August 19, 2026
RE: 27795573

Select Board
Town of Fairhaven
Town Hall
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Dear Select Board Members:

Enclosed is a petition to install 1 (one) new FO pole in the Right of Way of Green Street in Fairhaven.

This proposed location is necessary to provide upgraded electric service to 26 Green Street.

This petition will require a notice to abutters and a hearing.

Will you please present this petition before the Select Board for customary action and approval?

If you have any questions, please email Jessica.elder@eversource.com.

Warm Regards,

Jessica Elder

Jessica Elder
Right of Way Agent
NSTAR Electric
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY

**PETITION FOR POLE LOCATIONS
WO# 27795573**

August 17, 2026

**Bristol County, Massachusetts
To the Select Board for the Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts.**

NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY

requests permission to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used by your petitioner, along and across the following public way or ways:

Green Street, Fairhaven

Install 1 (one) new FO pole to be labeled 108/9.5 in the Right of Way of Green Street.

Wherefore we pray that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, we be granted locations for permission to erect and maintain poles, wires, and cables, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as we may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked **Plan No. 27795573** Dated August 12, 2026.

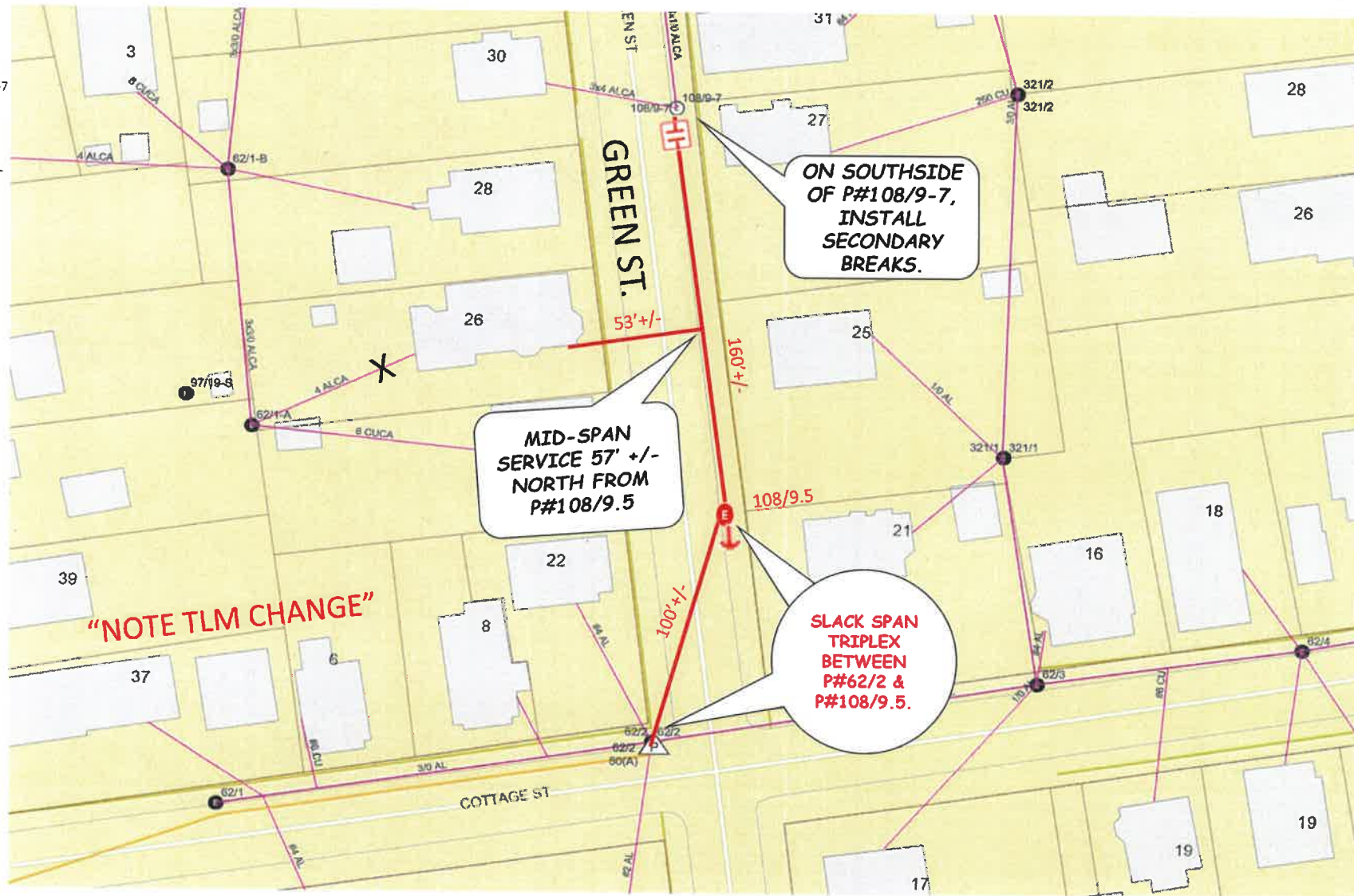
Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground cables, conduits, wires, and necessary equipment in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with the poles and buildings as each may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one crossarm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

**NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

By *Jessica Elder*
RIGHT OF WAY AGENT

1. P#108/9.5, 40' (1) POLE WITH SIDEWALK TYPE ANCHOR
50/50 BASIS TO VERIZON
2. INSTALL 1#4/0 AL TRIPLEX FROM P#108/9 TO P#108/9.5. SPAN IS 160'+/-, & FROM P#108/9.5 TO P#62/2. SPAN IS 100'+/-.
3. ON BACKYARD P#62/1-A, REMOVE 4AL SERVICE. SPAN IS 75'+/-.
4. INSTALL 53'+/- OF 4/0 SERVICE FROM MID SPAN TO HOUSE.
5. INSTALL SECONDARY BREAKS ON THE SOUTHSIDE OF P#108/9-7.



EVERSOURCE Distribution Engineering/ Customer	Customer Name: BRANDYN ARRUDA	Address: 26 GREEN ST.	Circuit/Voltage: 2-220-201/13.2 KV	TLM#	
	Elec/Phone: JOSEPH COSTA 5085252077	City/Town: FAIRHAVEN	Engineer/Date: N/A	Page: _1_ of _1_	
	Work Order/FWO: 27795573/80570540	ES Customer Care Rep: JANET COSTA	Work Center: NEW BEDFORD	Designer/Date: JOSEPHINE A. ALMEIDA JULY 24, 2026	



Plan to accompany petition of EVERSOURCE ENERGY
to install new FO pole 108/9.5 in the Right of Way of Green St.

03-038
25 GREEN ST
N/F
YOCHIM MICHAEL
& STEPHANIE

03-039
21 GREEN ST
N/F
BACH ROBERT &
BARBARA

03-057
17 GREEN ST
N/F
RIOUX TIMOTHY
& BETHANY

APPROV ROW — PROPOSED POLE
LOCATION
108/9.5
(FO-ES)

GREEN ST

100'±

COTTAGE ST

APPROV EOP

APPROV ROW

03-025
24 GREEN ST
N/F
HEAVEY JOHN &
ALEXANDRA

03-028
22 GREEN ST
N/F
HENEURY CATHERINE

62/2

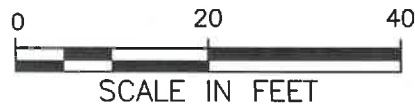
APPROV EOP

APPROV ROW

03-030
5 COTTAGE ST
N/F
FRYE DALTON

LEGEND

- Existing Pole
- Proposed Pole



MASS. LAW

REQUIRES 72 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE TO UTILITY COMPANIES
BEFORE DIGGING BY ANYONE. CALL DIG-SAFE 1-888-344-7233

Plan # 27795573

Ward #

Work Order # 27795573

Surveyed by: N/A

Research by: VT

Plotted by: VT

Proposed Structures: VT

Approved: K RICE

P#

NSTAR EVERSOURCE
ELECTRIC d/b/a

1165 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. DORCHESTER, MASS. 02125

Plan of GREEN STREET

FAIRHAVEN

Showing PROPOSED POLE LOCATION

Scale 1"=20'

Date AUGUST 12, 2026

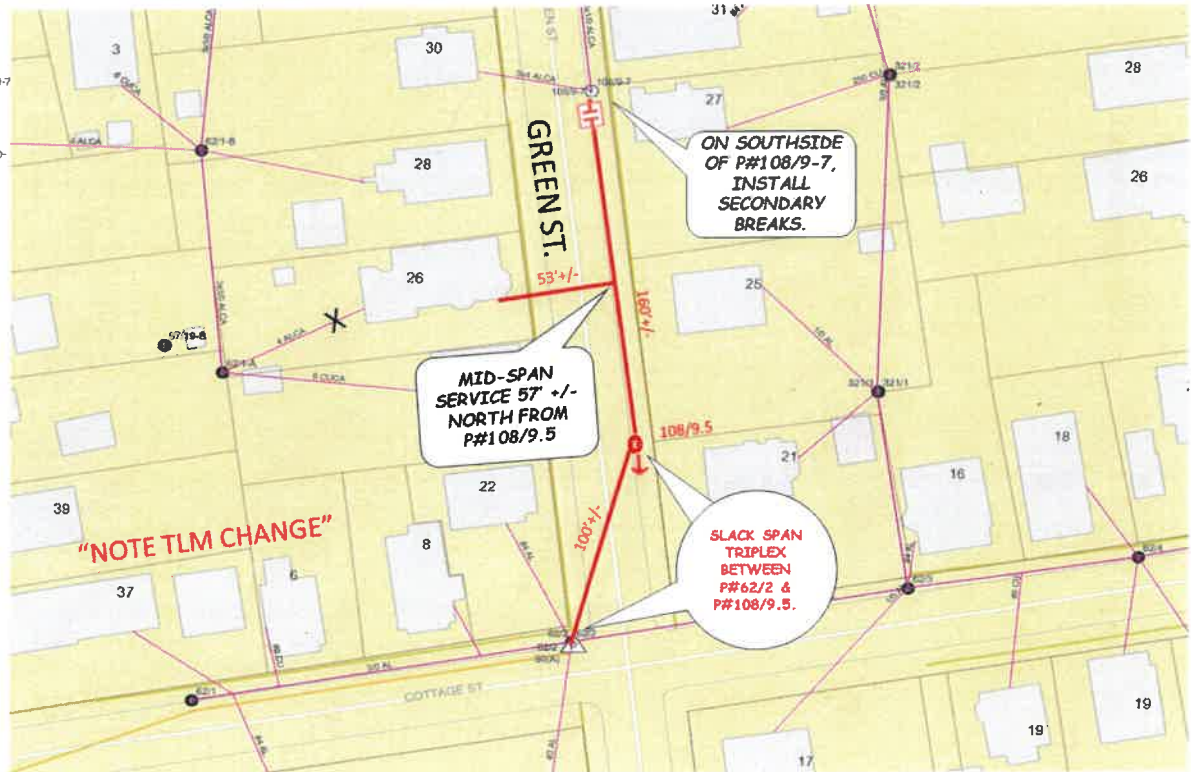
SHEET 1 of 1

Sketch / Instructions

*Hand drawing or Sketch is required if erecting a new pole or relocating an existing pole.
Please include nearby house # and cross street.

Sketch

EVERSOURCE TO INSTALL:
1. P#108/9.5, 40' (1) POLE WITH SIDEWALK
TYPE ANCHOR
50/50 BASIS TO VERIZON
2. INSTALL 1#4/0 AL TRIPLEX FROM P#108/9-7
TO P#108/9.5. SPAN IS 160' +/-, & FROM
P#108/9.5 TO P#62/2. SPAN IS 100' +/-.
3. ON BACKYARD P#62/2-A, REMOVE 4AL
SERVICE. SPAN IS 75' +/-.
4. INSTALL 53' +/- OF 4/O SERVICE FROM MID-
SPAN TO HOUSE.
5. INSTALL SECONDARY BREAKS ON THE
SOUTHSIDE OF P#108/9-7.

**EVERSOURCE**
Distribution Engineering / Customer

Work Order/FWO: 27795573/80570540

Customer Name: BRANDYN ARRUDA
Elec/Phone: JOSEPH COSTA 5085252077

ES Customer Care Rep: JANET COSTA

Address: 26 GREEN ST.

City/Town: FAIRHAVEN

Work Center: NEW BEDFORD

Circuit/Voltage: 2-220-201/13.2 KV

Engineer/Date: N/A

Designer/Date: JOSEPHINE A. ALMEIDA JULY 24, 2026

TLM#

Page: 1 of 1

SKETCH NOT TO SCALE



Comments:

INSTALLING NEW P#108/9.5, 40' (1) POLE WITH A SIDEWLAK TYPE ANCHOR 50/50 BASIS TO VERIZON

Joint Ownership – Exchange of Notice



(Return within 14 Days for Items 1 to 7 & 12)
(Return upon Completion Of work For Items 8 to 11 Inc.)

Initiating Company: ☒ EVERSOURCE ☐ VERIZON		Revision: ☐ YES ☒ NO	ELCO (FWO) EON #: 80570540
Initiator Name: JOSEPHINE A. ALMEIDA	Initiator Email address: JOSEPHINE.ALMEIDA@EVERSOURCE.COM		Initiator phone#: 339-987-7017
Town (Eversource): Fairhaven	Work Order # (Eversource): 27795573		Submittal Date: 7/27/2026
Received By Name: DARREN ANDRADE	Receiver Email address:		Receiver phone#:
Municipality / Exchange (Verizon): FAIRHAVEN/NEW BEDFORD	Work Order # (Verizon): E10492694		Town Code (Verizon):
Required service date: Click or tap to enter a date.	Date Received: Click or tap to enter a date.		Date Returned: Click or tap to enter a date.
Agreed By:	Contact Info:	Company: Choose an item.	Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
Refused By: T Montanaro (D Andrade)	Contact Info:	Company: Verizon	Date: 8/11/2026
Reason for Refusal: VZ Does not need interests in new P108/9.5 due to no VZ facilities to attach to (VZ Facilities stop at P108/9.5)			

Schedule

Item	Nature of Notice or Request	Item	Nature of Notice or Request
☐ 1	Initial Interest	☐ 7	Notice to Install / Replace JO Anchor
☐ 2	Remaining Interest	☐ 8	Notice of Non-Standard Conditions
☒ 3	Notice of Intent to Erect New Poles	☐ 9	Notice to Custodian of Pole in Need of Replacement
☐ 4	Notice of Intent to Replace JO Poles	☐ 10	Request to Transfer
☐ 5	Notice of Intent to Relocate JO Poles	☐ 11	Pole Reinforcement
☐ 6	Notice of Intent to Abandon Poles	☐ 12	Other as Detailed Below

Give Location and Description of Item(s) Checked

Street (s): 26 GREEN ST.		Number of Poles Requested: 1	Voltage: 13.2 kV
Purpose/Explanation of work: INSTALLING NEW P#108/9.5, 40' (1) POLE WITH A SIDEWLAK TYPE ANCHOR			
Select Type of Work:			
☐ Defective Pole / ☐ Priority Defect		☐ Third Party / Make Ready	☐ DG Solar (requires customer contact info)
☐ Capital Project	☐ Damage	☐ Customer / Routine	☐ DOT and Permit #
Reimbursable: ☒ YES ☐ NO		If Reimbursable YES, provide customer contact information below: BRANDYN ARRUDA 774-328-1324 BARRUDA125@GMAIL.COM	
Right of Way: ☒ PUBLIC or ☐ PRIVATE		THIRD PARTY APP# Verizon: Eversource:	

WO# 27795573
GREEN ST
FAIRHAVEN, MA

03-030
5 COTTAGE ST
N/F
FRYE DALTON
60 BAYVIEW AVE
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

03-057
17 GREEN ST
N/F
RIOUX TIMOTHY & BETHANY
17 GREEN ST
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

03-039
21 GREEN ST
N/F
BACH ROBERT & BARBARA
21 GREEN ST
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

03-028
22 GREEN ST
N/F
HENE BURY CATHERINE
22 GREEN ST
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

03-025
24 GREEN ST
N/F
HEAVEY JOHN & ALEXANDRA
24 GREEN ST
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

03-038
25 GREEN ST
N/F
YOCHIM MICHAEL & STEPHANIE
25 GREEN ST
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719



September 14, 2026

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. Appointment Request: Board of Assessors: Rui Pereira
2. Event Request: Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Walk-A-Thon, October 24, 2026
3. Traffic/Parking Control Requests:
 - a. No Parking Sign: Ash Street at the Intersection of Adams Street;
 - b. No Left Turn: Bridge Street exit of 240 Bridge Street;
 - c. Handicap (HP) Parking Only Sign: 41 Hedge Street
4. Consider Creation of a Fairhaven Tourism Committee
5. Use of Auditorium Request: Millicent Library, October 22, 2026 for an Author Talk event
6. Review of Open Volunteer Opportunities

New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

Rui Pereira Rui Pereira <no-reply@jgpr.net>

Thu, Aug 27, 2026 at 2:03 PM

Reply-To: ruipereira158@gmail.com

To: ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Full Name

Rui Pereira

Are you currently a Fairhaven resident; how long?

No

What Board, Committee or Commission are you interested in serving on? (please be specific)

Board of Assessors

Why are you interested in serving on this board, committee or commission?

I am interested in applying for the Board of Assessors position because I want to contribute to the Town of Fairhaven and help ensure that the assessment process is fair, accurate, and transparent. I believe my background provides an opportunity for me to use my judgment, attention to detail, and commitment to public service to help support responsible decision-making.

What relevant skills, experience, education, or knowledge would you bring to this position?

Please see attached resume .

Please describe any professional, volunteer, civic, or community experience that you believe would be beneficial to this public body, please include the name and number of years for any Fairhaven Town board, committee, commission or working group, etc.

I am currently a member of Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers. I have not served on any public boards, however, I'm well educated on open meetings laws.

Are you familiar with the charge and issues currently before this board, committee or commission and what do you hope to contribute through your service?

I am not familiar with the current charge and issues before this board. I would like to use my background as a full time assessor to contribute to this board.

Consent

 By submitting this form, I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that appointment to a Town board, committee, commission, or other municipal position is subject to approval by the appropriate appointing authority and that appointment does not guarantee a specific term or continued service. I understand that, if appointed, I will be expected to comply with applicable laws, regulations, Town policies, and requirements associated with the position and may be removed by the appointing authority as outlined in Town policies.

Rui Pereira

Professional Summary

Self motivated individual with an eye for detail and excellent organizational skills. Able to adapt to workflow changes seamlessly with minimal disruption to day to day procedures. Independent worker and leader who is able to maintain quality while remaining productive. Quick Learner. Fluent in Portuguese.

EXPERIENCE

Town of Bourne - Assessors Department, Bourne, MA- *Director of Assessing*

March 2020 -PRESENT

- Manage and direct staff on all data collection duties and administrative such as processing of motor vehicle and boat excise tax abatement applications, chapter land, statutory exemptions, and entering of deeds.
- Directed the Fiscal Year 2023 Recertification and Interim Year adjustments for Fiscal Years 2021,2022,2024,2025,and 2026 in a time sensitive manner.
- Perform statistical analysis with valuation consultant to determine valuation changes for all property class types on a yearly basis.
- Responsible for reviewing all Real Estate and Personal Property abatement applications.
- Review all charitable exemption applications to assist Board of Assessors in determining charitable exemption status.
- Present annual tax classification hearing to the Board of Selectmen and Water District Commissioners.
- Prepare annual department budget and assist financial team in estimating new growth.
- Represents the Town of Bourne before the Appellate Tax Board with regarding appeals.
- Oversee and maintain the Town's overlay account.

Town of Bourne - Assessors Department, Bourne, MA - *Assistant Assessor*

January 2019 - March 2020

- Supervised and planned work for all data collection and administrative duties.
- Performed statistical analysis to determine valuations for all property class types.
- Assisted in the reporting of property tax base growth to the Department of Revenue
- Assisted in the review of all Real Estate and Personal Property abatement applications
- Responsible for issuing Real Estate tax levy commitments and warrants
- Implemented goals for Fiscal Year 2023 recertification
- Assisted in annual tax classification hearing for the Board of Selectmen and Water District Commissioners

City of New Bedford - Assessor's Office, New Bedford, MA— Assessment Specialist & Data Entry Clerk

March 2013 - January 2019

- Measured and reported changes to each parcel.
- Processed subdivision plans.
- Assisted in the process of reporting new growth and sales analysis.
- Provided taxpayers with general information regarding the information of their property record card and personal property accounts.
- Trained data entry clerk to extract building permit reports from View Permit.
- Served as payroll backup.
- Coordinated workflow of cyclical and sales inspections for Data lists.

Board of Assessors, Milford, MA — Assistant to Assessor Administrator

July 2011 - March 2013

- Prepare payroll and department bills warrant.
- Supervise department clerk duties.
- Assisted the public regarding assessments, exemptions, personal property, motor vehicle excise tax, and real estate abatement process.
- Prepare agenda for Board meetings and post meetings with town clerk office.

Board of Assessors, Milford, MA — Clerk

June 2009 - July 2011

- Educate and assist the public regarding the motor vehicle abatement process, statutory exemptions, assessments, and the real estate abatement process.

Vision Appraisal Technology, Northborough, Ma.— Residential Data Collector

December 2008 - June 2009

- Conducted daily property inspections to review property record card information.
- Trained new employees on data collection procedures.
- Accurately recorded collection of new data into property record card.
- Organized review of building permit work and sales review.
- Entered changes into Assessing software.
- Assisted in the creation of Data Collection manual for the City of Pawtucket revaluation.

Interbay Funding, Mansfield, Ma.—Appraisal Job Manager

July 2007 - March 2008

- Promoted to a coverage area within 3 months of employment.
- Responsible for all aspects of real estate appraisal ordering such as, tracking and timely receipt of appraisals.
- Negotiated pricing and timelines with appraisers for the product (Commercial appraisal)
- Coordinated conference calls by establishing phone line connection and audio/ video equipment.
- Monitored the quality, quantity, and timelines of the appraisers.

High Point Real Property Appraisers, New Bedford, Ma.—Real Estate Appraiser Trainee

October 2001- July 2007

- Steadily progressed through the company, originally hired as an office assistant.
- Thoroughly inspected the interior and exterior of the property in the presence of the borrower / homeowner.
- Analyzed property data and evaluate neighborhood sales to form an opinion of value.

EDUCATION

Bristol Community College, Fall River, Ma. - 2003

Associate in Science in Business Administration

- Concentration: General Management
- Coursework included: Accounting, Business Law, Marketing, Real Estate, and Economics.

Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers

- Massachusetts Accredited Assessor No. 1284
- Completed 200 hours of assessing and mass appraisal related courses.

SKILLS Proficient in PK valuation program, Softright Municipal Management System , Patriot Properties, Microsoft office and Mass Gis



Dear Members of the Fairhaven Board of Selectmen,

On behalf of **Friends of SMEC**, I am writing to request approval for our annual **Friends of SMEC Walk-a-Thon**, which will be held on **October 24, 2026**

The Walk-a-Thon will begin and end at **56 Bridge Street in Fairhaven**. This community event has been held in Fairhaven for several years and has become an important fundraiser for Friends of SMEC.

The funds raised through the Walk-a-Thon directly support **health and wellness initiatives for the students and adults served by Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC)**. These funds help provide opportunities and resources that promote healthy lifestyles, physical activity, and overall well-being for the individuals in our programs.

The proposed route is as follows:

- **Start:** 56 Bridge Street, Fairhaven
- Proceed onto **Green Street**
- Continue to **Spring Street/Fairhaven Bike Path**
- Turn around just past **Elizabeth Street**
- Return via **Green Street**
- **Finish:** 56 Bridge Street

We have attached a map of the proposed route for your review. The walkers remain on the sidewalk or bike path, we do not need to close or barricade any streets.

We greatly appreciate the Town of Fairhaven's consideration and support of this event. Our goal is to continue providing a safe, enjoyable community walk while raising funds that make a meaningful difference in the lives of the students and adults SMEC supports.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with the Town of Fairhaven to make this year's Walk-a-Thon a successful event.

Sincerely,

Sherri Tetrault

Director of Communication & Professional Development

Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC)

On behalf of **Friends of SMEC**

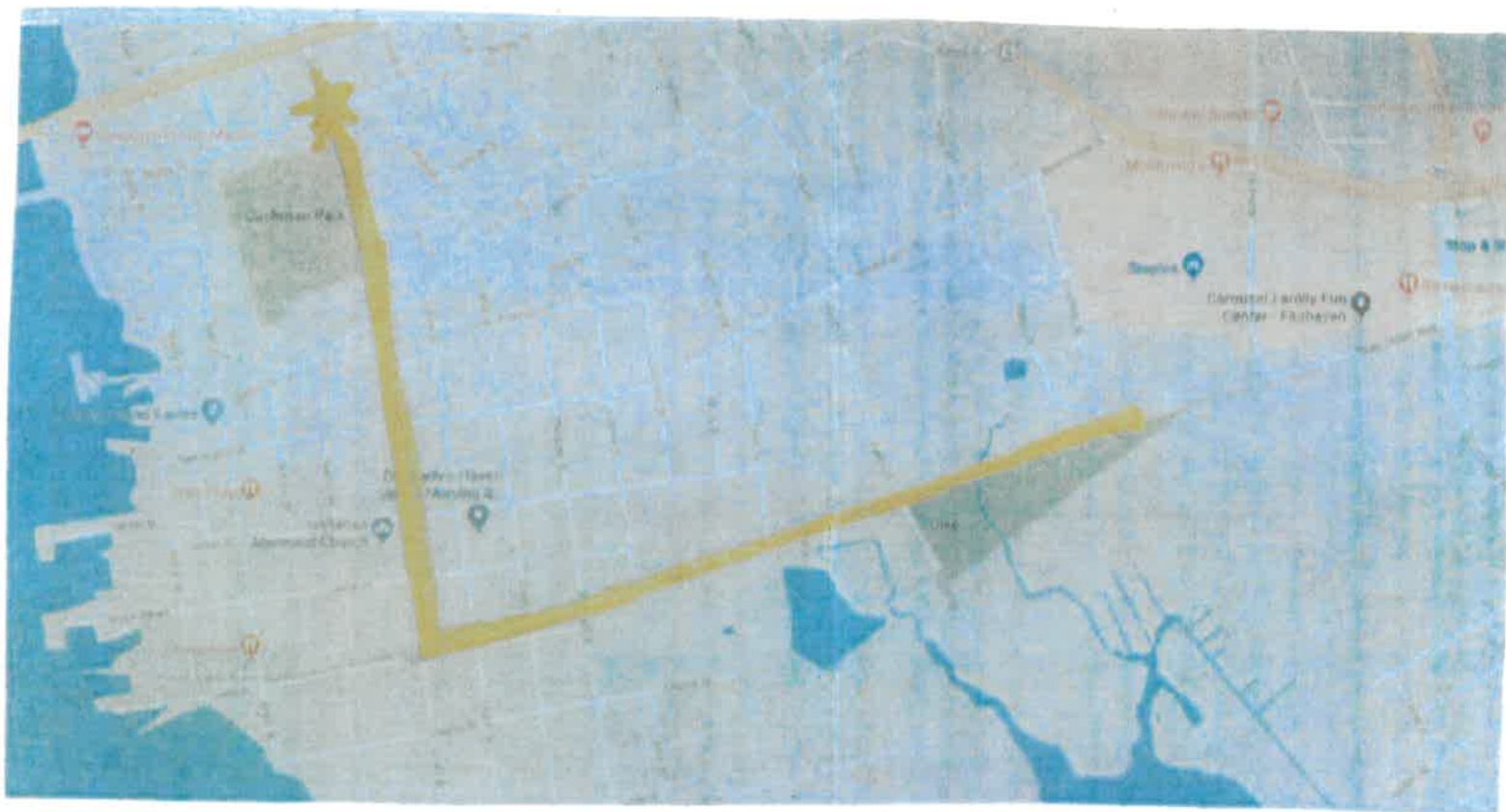


Friends of **SMEC**



Southeastern Massachusetts
Educational Collaborative

Walk-A-Thon Route



Start: 56 Bridge Street

Green Street to Spring Street (Fairhaven Bike Path)

Turn around just past Elizabeth Street

Right onto Green Street; return to start



FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC OR PARKING CONTROL

****OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

Location: Ash St Intersection Of: Adams St
Control: No Parking Approval Date: _____

****BELOW TO BE FILLED IN BY REQUESTING PARTY****

Requested by: Scott Coelho Location: Ash St
Address: 1 Bryant Ln Intersection Of: Adams St
Telephone: 5089972421 Date: 8/2/20
Type of Control Requested: No Parking

Reason for Request: Improve signage and traffic flow

****OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

Approved: ✓ Investigated By: Ofc Coelho
Denied: _____
Investigation: See Attached

Police Chief_____
Board of Selectmen_____
Approval Date_____
Compliance Date

No Parking Sign Updates Ash St.

I am requesting updating the no parking signs at the west end of Ash St near Adams St to improve traffic flow while not limiting the parking for the business on the corner. I have received several complaints from residents who live on Ash St about vehicles parked too close to the corner of Adams St.

Currently there is a "No Parking Here To Corner" sign approximately 110 feet from Adams St on the south side. Vehicles park in a space on the corner while going to the barber shop and we get resident complaints. On the north side there is a "No Parking" sign on the street sign pole on the corner at Adams St.

To improve the traffic flow and after speaking with Highway Superintendent Josh Crabb, we are requesting the following:

Remove the existing "No Parking Here To Corner" sign on the south side of the road and move it approximately 29 feet west. This does not change any of the allowed parking because there is a wide driveway cut between this new location and the old location of the sign. The reason to move the sign is to make it more obvious to motorist parking on Ash St. The current location is too far away to be seen.

Install a "No Parking Here To Corner" sign across from the south side sign on the north side. This would allow for room for the school busses and other large trucks to turn onto Ash St.

Also, we would like to add a sign at the top of Ash St with the hours of the One Way duplicating the sign on School St.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officer Scott Coelho/0106

Fairhaven Police Department





FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC OR PARKING CONTROL

****OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

Location: 240 Bridge St
Control: No Left Turn

Intersection of: _____
Approval Date: _____

**** TO BE FILLED IN BY REQUESTING PARTY ****

Requested by: <u>Scott Coelho</u>	Location: <u>240 Bridge St</u>
Address: <u>1 Bryant Ln</u> <u>Fairhaven MA</u>	Intersection of: _____
Telephone: <u>508 997 7421 x6106</u>	Date: <u>8/2/26</u>
Type of Control Requested: <u>No Left Turn</u>	
Reason for Request: <u>Numerous Accidents. See Attached reports</u>	

****OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

Approved: ☒
Denied: ☐

Investigated by: ofc Coelho

Investigation: See Attached

Police Chief

Board of Selectmen

Approval Date

Compliance Date

No Left Turn Sign Request

240 Bridge St. Fairhaven

I am requesting a NO LEFT TURN sign be installed at the Bridge St exit of 240 Bridge St. This entrance/exit has been the site of numerous accidents since it has been built. The owner of the property has installed a no left turn sign however due to it not being an official DOT approved sign, it is not enforceable. I have reached out to the Highway Department Superintendent Josh Crabb and he is in support of this effort.

The problem at this location is that when turning left onto Bridge St there are 3 lanes of traffic that need to be crossed. Several accidents have been from one lane stopping and allowing people out of the plaza and another car coming up and not stopping. Other accidents have been caused by sight line issues across the three lanes.

Below please find areal photographs of the area.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officer Scott Coelho/0106
Fairhaven Police Department





FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC OR PARKING CONTROL

****OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

Location: Front of 41 Hedge St Intersection of: 41 Hedge St
Control: HP Parking only Approval Date: 7/31/26

Requested by: <u>Wanna: Kera Burba</u>	Location: <u>Front of 41 Hedge</u>
Address: <u>41 Hedge St</u>	Intersection of: <u>✓</u>
Telephone: <u>508/270 (508) 971-2791</u>	Date: <u>3/16/26</u>
Type of Control Requested: <u>Handicap parking Spot</u>	
Reason for Request: <u>Kera has documented physical limitation. Orion Games (child) is in SIMEC program & needs the van to pick up in front of home.</u>	

****OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

Approved: ✓

Investigated by: Scatterer ok

Denied: _____

Investigation: See Attached Letter

Police Chief

Board of Selectmen

Approval Date

Compliance Date

Handicap Parking Sign Request

41 Hedge St. Fairhaven.

Site Survey: Hedge St is a public way in the Town of Fairhaven. The request for a handicap parking only sign is for number 41 which is located between Main St and Cherry St on the south side of the roadway. There is currently 2 side parking permitted on the street. In the block for this request the street is approximately 545 feet long, 24 feet wide. There is no centerline striping on the street. There are multiple single and multi-family houses on Hedge St. Many of these homes do not have off street parking available to them. There are fire hydrants on the north side of the street.

Request: The applicant is requesting a handicap parking space in front of her property for use by her and she has a handicap placard. She stated that although there is a driveway she shares the property with her elderly father who does not have a placard and he utilizes the driveway.

Recommendation: I would support the installation of a handicap sign at this location. It is my recommendation that the sign be placed on west side of the driveway for 41 Hedge St. There is approximately 27 feet of space between the driveway of 39 and 41 Hedge St. Allowing for the required 5-foot setback from these driveways there is approximately 17 feet for vehicle parking. I do not believe that this will impede snow ban parking during the winter months due to the placement on the south side of the roadway.

NOTE: The attached pictures are from Google Maps and are an accurate representation of the site.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officer Scott Coelho/0106
Safety Officer
Fairhaven Police Department







Important: Remove before driving vehicle

PL0221315

NON-TRANSFERABLE

07-06-31

WARNING

Wrongful use by any
other person carries
60 day loss of license,
placard revocation, \$500
fine for 1st offense. \$50
fine for covering placard
number/date.

Angela...



PAINE

KERA

MARIE

Mass.gov/RMV

A Citizen Proposal for a Fairhaven Tourism Committee

An idea based on Middleborough's Tourism Committee and its Discover Middleborough program

The idea: Create a volunteer Town committee focused on promoting Fairhaven, supporting community events, highlighting local businesses and attractions, and helping continue some of the tourism work that was previously done through Discover Fairhaven.

Why I am bringing this forward

Fairhaven has a lot to offer - our history, waterfront, Fort Phoenix, beautiful architecture, local businesses, restaurants, markets, festivals and community events. Until July 1, 2026, Discover Fairhaven helped bring those things together and promote them to residents and visitors. The Town has confirmed that the Office of Tourism, Community & Economic Development was eliminated effective July 1, 2026.

I think it is worth discussing whether a volunteer committee could help keep some of that work going. I am not proposing that we recreate the former department or add another paid position. This would be a group of residents willing to volunteer their time and ideas to help promote Fairhaven.

Why Middleborough?

Middleborough has an official Tourism Committee and uses **Discover Middleborough** as its public-facing tourism program. The committee promotes the town and local attractions and is involved with community events. Middleborough is still posting Tourism Committee meetings in 2026, so this is an active model that we can look at when deciding what could work here.

Fairhaven does not have to copy Middleborough exactly. I simply think it gives us a good example of how residents can be involved in promoting their town through an official volunteer committee.

What could a Fairhaven committee do?

- Help promote Fairhaven's history, waterfront, parks, attractions and local businesses.
- Keep residents and visitors aware of events happening around town.
- Work with existing groups on community events rather than competing with them.
- Help bring attention to local shops, restaurants and organizations.
- Look for ideas that encourage people to visit Fairhaven and spend time here.
- Work with the Historical Commission, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee and other community groups when it makes sense.
- Bring new event and tourism ideas to the Select Board for consideration.

What I am suggesting for discussion

I would suggest starting with a small committee - possibly seven members - made up of residents with different interests and experience. That could include people interested in local history, events, business, tourism, marketing, recreation or community organizations.

The exact name, number of members, appointment process and committee charge do not need to be decided in this proposal. Those are things I would like the Board to discuss and determine with the Town Administrator and Town Counsel, if necessary.

One possible name is **Fairhaven Tourism Committee**. If the Town is able and interested in continuing the Discover Fairhaven name, that could also remain the public-facing identity. I think keeping the actual committee name simple makes the most sense.

How this would be different from Economic Development

Fairhaven already has an Economic Development Committee, and I do not want this proposal to duplicate their work. Economic development is focused more on business growth and development. This committee would be focused on tourism, events, town promotion and helping people discover what Fairhaven already has.

What I am asking the Select Board to do

I am asking the Select Board to consider the idea and discuss whether a Fairhaven Tourism Committee would be beneficial. If the Board is interested, I would ask that the Town Administrator and Town Counsel review the proper way to establish it and help develop a final committee charge.

This is meant to be a starting point for discussion. I am open to changes in the name, size, structure and responsibilities if the Board believes there is a better way to accomplish the same goal.

Submitted by: _____

Date: _____

Sources used for this proposal

Town of Fairhaven - Discover Fairhaven page and 2025 Annual Report; Town of Middleborough - Tourism Committee Agenda Center; Discover Middleborough - official site of the Middleborough Tourism Committee.



**Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Select Board**

40 CENTER STREET
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719
TEL: (508) 979-4023
FAX: (508) 979-4079
Selectboard@Fairhaven-MA.gov

C 5
Today's Date
time stamped

SELECT BOARD

2026SEP89:039:03

APPLICATION FOR THE USE OF TOWN HALL

Name of Organization Millicent Library
Responsible Officer Kyle DeCicco-Carey Tel. No. 508-992-5342
Address 45 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA
Purpose of Use Author Talk
Space Requested Town Hall Auditorium
Date Requested 10/22/2026 Begin Time 6:00 End Time 9:00
Number of attendees ~100 (occupancy to be reviewed by Building Commissioner, not to exceed 299)

REQUEST FOR AUDIO / VISUAL TECHNICIAN: YES ☒ NO ☐

Fee will be \$100.00 (up to three hours). Each additional hour will be charged \$25.00.

Additional fee will be charged once additional hour begins. Cash or Check made out to The Town of Fairhaven.

Select Board / Town Administrator

Police Chief / Representative

Board of Health

Fire Department / Inspection

*Must have full review from applicable departments
prior to Select Board approval*

Building Department Inspection

FEES (To be completed by the Office of the Select Board)

Office Use only

Rental Fee x _____ hrs. at \$ 150.00 / hr.	=	\$ _____	(minimum 3 hours)
Plus refundable security deposit in the amount of the rental fee	=	\$ _____	
_____ Audio \$100.00 plus _____ hrs. at \$25.00 /hr.	=	\$ _____	
_____ Custodian x _____ hrs. at \$ 50.00 /hr.	=	\$ _____	
_____ Police x _____ hrs. at \$ _____ hr.	=	\$ _____	
TOTAL FEES	=	\$ _____	

I have received \$ _____ in fees and security deposit for the use of Town Hall Facilities on behalf of Town of Fairhaven from

Organization

Date: _____ Signed: _____
Select Board Office

(Security Deposit will be returned after inspection of the premises by the Select Board or its deignee, less any charge for clean up or repair.)

Rev: 11/20/2025

Board or Committee	Vacancy available	Deadline to apply
Accepting applications for all positions	Any with expired terms	Noon on Thursday, October 1, 2026
Special Bylaw Review Committee	One Member, term through completion of the project	open until filled
Belonging Committee	One Member	open until filled
Board of Assessors	One Member	to complete term through 2028
Cable Advisory Committee	Two Members	open until filled
Cultural Council	Two Members, 3-year term	open until filled
Historical Commission	Associate Members, not to exceed number of Full Members	open until filled
Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee	One Member	open until filled
Livable Streets Committee	Unlimited	open until filled



September 14, 2026

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

D 1. 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 (AFSCME-Highway; and Atlas Tack)

and to return to Open Session

K 1. 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 (ABCC RE: Fourth and Long Inc. d/b/a Rasputin's Tavern)

Not to return to Open Session



September 14, 2026

ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. Consider Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees: Highway (AFSCME)
2. Discussion on Draft Local Aid Letter
3. Discussion on a Regional Meeting Facilitated by Buzzards Bay Coalition Regarding a Regional Solution to Wastewater Discharge and Waste Issues Impacting Fairhaven and South Coast Communities
4. Consider Proposal to transition Correspondence from the Select Board agenda to the Town's website



MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board, *Kenn Hickey*

From: Amy Hart

Date: September 4, 2026

Re: Proposal to transition Correspondence from the Select Board agenda to the Town's website

Purpose

In support of **Goal #5 - Improve Public Communication and Transparency** of the recently adopted Town Administrator's Goals, which focuses on improving communication, transparency, and accessibility of Town information, I recommend establishing a dedicated **Select Board Correspondence** section on the Select Board's webpage.

Currently, correspondence received by the Board is listed as an agenda item, included in the posted public packet and then attached to the accepted minutes. While this provides notice that correspondence has been received, it is not necessarily the most effective way to provide residents with ongoing access to that information in a central location.

Proposed Approach

Rather than listing routine correspondence individually on each meeting agenda, correspondence would be maintained in a centralized, clearly identified section of the Select Board webpage. It would be organized by date and include the subject and sender, allowing residents to easily locate correspondence received by the Board without having to search through multiple meeting agendas.

This approach would enhance transparency by making correspondence easier for the public to find, review, and reference over time. Correspondence that requires Board discussion, direction, or action would continue to be considered for an agenda item as appropriate.

Why This Benefits the Select Board and the Public

This change would:

- Increase transparency through a consistent administrative process
- Improve accessibility
- Reduce agenda clutter and improve meeting efficiency
- Support Goal #5 – Improve Public Communication and Transparency

Most importantly, this proposal is not intended to limit public access to correspondence or diminish its importance. Rather, it is an opportunity to modernize how information is presented to the public and make the Board's communications more useful and accessible.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the Select Board support transitioning routine correspondence from an agenda item to a dedicated **Select Board Correspondence** section of the Town's website. Potentially actionable correspondence would continue to be reviewed with the Town Administrator and Chair for inclusion as an agenda item. This would pertain to correspondence sent to the collective Board either through their distribution email or sent individually to each Board member.



September 14, 2026
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT



Town of Fairhaven

Report of the Town Administrator

September 14, 2026

Financial Updates

- I attended the initial Budget Working Group meeting on September 8th. The members agreed to meet every other week on Tuesday evenings. The next meeting will be on September 22nd. Anne Carreiro and I will plan on attending each meeting.

Project Updates

- There are no project updates for this report.

Personnel Update

- Conservation Agent Kelly Camara tendered her resignation. Her last day of employment was September 10th. I am currently considering available options to fill the role.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The Building Commissioner, Health Agent, Public Works Director and I will be hosting a meeting of West Island residents on Tuesday evening, September 15th to discuss their concerns regarding current and possible future development and their possible impact on the environment on and around the island.
- I will be attending a Business Breakfast and Panel Discussion organized by State Representative Ark Sylvia and the Economic Development Committee on Thursday, September 17th. The Vice President of Business Development for Mass. Development and the Regional Director of the South Coast, Cap and Islands for the Massachusetts Office of Business Development will be guest speakers.



September 14, 2026

MINUTES

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of August 24, 2026
2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of August 24, 2026



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2026

H 1

Present: Andrew Romano, Pam Kuechler, Andrew Saunders, Richard F. Trapilo and Keith R. Hickey

Present via Zoom: Natalie A. Mello

Mr. Romano opened the Select Board meeting at 6:00pm and confirmed members present and on zoom and that all votes would be via roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Briam Messier addressed the Board and referred to the Board's meeting from August 10, 2026, Army values with examples, leadership and suggestions for members on self-reflection to improve conduct during meetings.

APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

Request from the Public Safety Complex Committee to Authorize the Town Administrator to Expend Funds for Legal Expenses Related to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Article 5 of the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting

Mr. Romano asked for a motion to table until the end of the meeting or until Chief Correia or Dogan arrive to address the Board.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to table this item until the end of the meeting or Chief Correia or Chief Dorgan arrive. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Review, Award and Execute General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes

Treasurer/Collector Carla Mourao addressed the Board about the general obligation bonds, bond anticipation notes, bid process and what she is seeking from the Board. Ms. Mourao answered clarifying questions from the Board. Mr. Hickey added that the Town has maintained its AA+ bond rating. Ms. Mourao said the Town also has the highest available short-term rating on S&P on BANS at SP1+ (BANS are Bond Anticipation Notes).

The Board was in consensus that the Town be disciplined in its capital expenditures to maintain the ratings.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned that the Board approve the sale of the Town's \$7,970,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2026 Bonds of the Town dated September 2, 2026, to the winning bidder, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. at the price of \$8,104,887.16 and (ii) \$3,200,000 4.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes dated September 2, 2026 to the winning bidder, Truist Securities, Inc., at the price of the par amount of the notes plus a premium of \$40,320.00, all as set forth in the vote drafted by bond counsel and before the Board in writing. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Hickey congratulated Ms. Mourao on passing the Massachusetts Treasurers certification and said she will begin the certification process for Massachusetts Collectors.

Town of Fairhaven Electric Vehicle Community Engagement Presentation

William Lefebvre from Weston and Sampson, the Town of Fairhaven's contracted Municipal Energy Manager through the Mass Save Municipal Energy Grant Program, addressed the Board via Zoom and reviewed a presentation regarding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and an upcoming community engagement event (*Attachment A*). Rebecca Roughly also introduced herself to the Board and explained her role as the Town's grant consultant.

The Board clarified the details of chargers listed on slide 3as far as the type, that the chargers at Public Works are inactive at this time and if activated the cost would be paid by the individual using it to charge. Mr. Hickey advised of other initiatives being reviewed like solar canopies to help generate other revenue opportunities.

Mr. Romano recused himself as a direct abutter of the next item and exited the Banquet Room

Event Request: Podkowa 5K Run/Walk: Sunday, October 4, 2026

The Board reviewed the request. Adriann Corazzini addressed the Board via Zoom about the event details.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Podkowa 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, October 4, 2026 as presented with conditions or requirements of Police, Fire and Public Works. Mr. Trapilo seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello in favor and Mr. Romano recused. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Romano recused.

Mr. Romano returned to the Banquet Room

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:30PM New Class II Auto Repair/Auto Body License

Mr. Romano opened the Public Hearing at 6:31pm and read the notice.

Mr. Trapilo recused himself due to his involvement with the sale of the property and left the Banquet Room

The applicants, Joseph Wilkerson and Antoine Boutros, addressed the Board and confirmed this is for a license for 2 used cars and for a used car repair shop.

Public Comment: none received

Mr. Romano closed the Public Hearing at 6:33pm

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the application for a new Class II Auto Repair/Auto Body License for Stealth Collision Inc. d/b/a Artistic Auto Body and Stealth Auto Center located at 98-99 Middle Street for 2 retail autos. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor, Mr. Trapilo recused. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Trapilo recused.

Mr. Trapilo returned to the Banquet Room

Request from the Public Safety Complex Committee to Authorize the Town Administrator to Expend Funds for Legal Expenses Related to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Article 5 of the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting

Chief Correia addressed the Board about the vote taken at the last Public Safety Complex Committee meeting seeking the Board's approval for the Town Administrator to expend from the \$50,000 appropriated at Special Town Meeting in November, 2025 for legal expenses related to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

The Board clarified that the request was for up to \$50,000 and for legal or related expenses for an RFQ.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Town Administrator to expend up to \$50,000 as approved under Article 5 of the November 19, 2025 Special Town Meeting for legal expenses related to a Request for Qualifications. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Use of Town Hall: Girl Scout Troop 63502 Award Ceremony, September 9, 2026 5:30-6:30pm

The Board reviewed the request.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the request for the use of the Town Hall auditorium on September 9, 2026 as presented with any conditions or requirements from the Facilities Manager. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Historical Commission, Associate Member: Hailey Hemingway

Ms. Hemingway's application was reviewed.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Hailey Hemingway as a. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler and Ms. Mello in favor; Mr. Trapilo and Mr. Romano opposed.
The motion passed (3-2-0) Mr. Trapilo and Mr. Romano opposed.

Appointment Request: Budget Working Group: Kevin Gallagher

Mr. Gallagher addressed the Board about his application, experience and clarified any questions from the Board.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Kevin Gallagher to the Budget Working Group under category four, retired police, fire, EMS, public safety professional. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Review Open Volunteer Opportunities

As part of the Board's efforts to highlight volunteer opportunities, the agenda and packet will have a list of openings that appear on the Volunteer Opportunities page of the Town's website as of the morning the agenda is posted. The list may change as openings are identified. The Board's process will be to announce vacancies, including resignations received since the last meeting. Interested applicants should review the page and can contact the Town Administrator's office with any questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to change the deadline under Special Bylaw Review Committee to "open until filled". Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Romano read the list from the Board's packet (*Attachment B*). Mr. Trapilo asked Mr. Hickey for assistance organizing the Budget Working Group's first meeting.

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Consider Creation of a Fairhaven Tourism Committee

Tabled per request of the applicant, will be on a future agenda

Authorize the Town Administrator to Issue a Request for Proposals for Municipal Legal Services

During discussion at the August 10, 2026 meeting Board members stated general and labor counsel should be competitively bid. A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) was prepared for services from November 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029 was reviewed. If the Board approves, the RFP will be advertised and then brought to the Board for review and next steps.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Request for Proposals (RFP): Legal Services, General and Labor and authorize the Town Administrator to advertise the approved RFP. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Request a Review of the Town's Financial Forecast by the State's Financial Management Resource Bureau

Mr. Hickey reviewed the suggestion made by Ms. Carreiro for the Board to formally request the State's Financial Management Resource Bureau (FMRB) to prepare an independent five-year financial forecast. The FMRB will perform this task free of charge with consent by the governing body.

The Board spoke in support of this independent review.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to have the Select Board authorize the Finance Director to send a letter signed by the Chair of the Select Board requesting the State's Financial Management Resource Bureau develop a five-year financial plan. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Establish Town Administrator Goals

The Board reviewed the draft goals for the upcoming fiscal year that will be used for the annual review (*Attachment C*). Mr. Hickey summarized the goals, process for reviewing progress with the Board in future meetings and continued collaboration with community partners to support the Board and community efforts.

Discussion ensued about the goal document and a suggestion was made to update “maintain financial stability” to “pursue and maintain financial stability.”

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the FY27 Town Administrator goals as amended. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Declare Surplus Items for Town Auction on September 19, 2026 at Public Works

The Board reviewed the list of items for surplus. Mr. Hickey asked the Board to hold on the 2017 Ford SUV from the Police Department so that the vehicle could be transferred to Town Hall for use by departments to conduct Town business; this would enable departments, such as Assessors or Board of Health, to be better identified while in the community and to minimize mileage reimbursement. The vehicle needs about two thousand dollars in repairs through public works.

Discussion ensued about low value items, the surplus policy, use between departments, miniscule items like general office folders and whether to find a different way to handle. The consensus was to review the policy against MGL to gauge whether the current process is efficient and effective. During discussion, Doug Brady asked to be recognized to ask a question about the legal process moving forward, Mr. Romano advised him to forward questions or comments to the Town Administrator.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to declare the items listed as surplus as presented, minus the Ford SUV, and to send to Public Works for the Town Auction on Sept. 19, 2026. Ms. seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hickey reviewed his report (*Attachment D*). He also thanked the Recreation Center staff for a great summer program that just wrapped up.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders and Ms. Kuechler had no reports

Mr. Trapilo:

- Attended the Atlas Tack Working Group meeting, Chief Correia presented a “what if” on fire, they discussed EPA testing and the Chair is drafting a letter to the Select Board about reaffirming the demolition order.
- SRPEDD finance met, transportation met and discussed that the SRTA membership rides on the South Coast was the highest this year. He expressed concern for those waiting out in the weather conditions and Mr. Romano said he would forward Mr. Trapilo’s name to the Fairhaven Housing Authority because the Director is working to address this.
- He offered to attend the meeting Mr. Hickey has with New Bedford about CSOs
- He will send Mr. Hickey information to disseminate to the BWG in preparation for the first meeting.

Ms. Mello:

- Attended the Commission on Disability meeting, next meeting is September 10, 2026
- Historical Commission meets on September 8, 2026
- Will be meeting with West Island residents and Mr. Hickey on September 3, 2026

Mr. Romano:

- The Library Trustees have a meeting scheduled.
- The FinCom At-large interview meeting was postponed and is being rescheduled.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of July 27, 2026 and August 10, 2026. Ms. seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Executive Session minutes of August 10, 2026. Ms. seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on **Monday, September 14, 2026** at 6:00pm

Mr. Romano announced his next open office hours will be on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 4:30pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. (Conservation Commission Chair) AND not to return to open session. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:45 pm, not to return to Open Session

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Electric Vehicle Community Engagement Presentation
- B. Open Volunteer Opportunities from the Town's website
- C. FY27 Town Administrator goals
- D. Town Administrator Report
- E. Correspondence: as listed on the agenda for August 24, 2026

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

Accepted on ____



September 14, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: More Towns pause, terminate Flock agreements
2. Office of the Attorney General: OML 2026-112

More Towns pause, terminate Flock agreements

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 12:49 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

To the Select Members,

I am sharing some highlights reported on WCVB today regarding Flock Safety camera systems.

Several more Massachusetts towns have recently terminated or paused their relationships with Flock due to the following concerns:

- Data practices, security, and community feedback
- Vandalism and theft of the devices
- Unlawful contracts that did not meet statutory procurement requirements under Massachusetts law

Elaine Lazarus, Town Manager of Hopkinton, stated that municipal contracts must comply with procurement law to protect residents and taxpayers, leading to the termination of their agreement once deficiencies were found.

Contract issues with Flock company

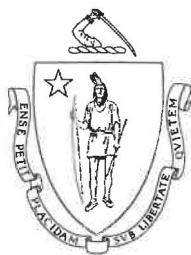
While public safety is vital, there are growing concerns about the potential overreach of a mass surveillance grid. The integration of Flock camera systems with drones and AI raises critical questions about data security and the risk of unauthorized access outside of law enforcement. Additionally, emerging technologies—such as bird-like drones capable of perching in trees, recent drone incidents internationally, and new data-carrying skin flocking methods—highlight the serious broader risks of advanced surveillance tech. Which could actually be used as weapons in the future, towards an entire population. Just yesterday A Russian drone crashes into a high-rise building.

We must carefully consider whether the technologies we develop for protection could ultimately pose a threat to not just our privacy, but our safety if placed in the wrong hands. Which has already happened.

I actually viewed a bird drone that was surveillance a house and could get very close to the Windows seeing inside the house and even listening in on conversations? Think about this?

Regards,

Michelle Costen



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
 ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
 ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200
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August 25, 2026

OML 2026 – 112

Jane Medeiros Friedman, Esq.
 Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC
 30 Green Street
 Newburyport, MA 01950

RE: Open Meeting Law Complaint

Dear Attorney Friedman:

This office received a complaint from Patrick Higgins on October 21, 2025, alleging that the Fairhaven Select Board (the “Board”) violated the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. The complaint was originally filed with the Board on October 3, 2025, and you responded, on behalf of the Board, by letter dated October 20, 2025. The complaint alleges that the Board held an improper emergency meeting and convened in executive session for an improper purpose on September 30, 2025.

We appreciate the patience of the parties while we reviewed this matter. Following our review, we find that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law by convening in executive session on September 30, 2025, but did not violate the law in the other way alleged. In reaching this determination, we reviewed the original complaint, the Board’s response to the complaint, and the complaint filed with our office requesting further review. We also reviewed the notice and open and executive session minutes of the Board meeting held on September 30, 2025, the notice and minutes of the Board meeting held on October 14, 2025, and a video recording of the open session portion of the September 30, 2025, meeting.¹

FACTS

We find the facts as follows. On the morning of September 29, 2025, which was his first day on the job, Town Administrator Keith Hickey discovered that, on July 24, 2025, former Interim Town Administrator George Samia had executed a written agreement with Interim

¹ A video recording of the Board meeting held on September 30, 2025, is available at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11515032?video=1122043744>.

Treasurer Kerri King and AFSCME Council 93.² The agreement appointed Ms. King as Interim Treasurer from July 1 to September 30, 2025, and compensated her with an additional \$475.00 per week. The agreement ended on September 30, 2025, unless an extension was signed by all parties. Ms. King had been absent from work due to a personal issue, could not be contacted, and had not provided the Town with a return-to-work date. Mr. Samia had not informed Mr. Hickey that Ms. King's term of employment was scheduled to end and that the Town of Fairhaven would be without a treasurer if it failed to either extend the agreement, appoint another interim treasurer, or appoint a permanent treasurer.

After discovering the agreement, Mr. Hickey notified the Board. On September 29, 2025, at 12:58 P.M., the Board posted notice of an emergency meeting to be held on September 30, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. The notice listed two topics – "Authorize Town Administrator as Signatory for the Town" and an executive session pursuant to Purpose 2 to "conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: (AFSCME)." Later that day, at 3:54 P.M., the Board amended the notice by clarifying the first topic as "Authorize Town Administrator as Temporary Treasurer for the Town."

The September 30, 2025, meeting was held as planned. During the meeting, Mr. Hickey explained the existing agreement between Ms. King, the Town and AFSCME and that the agreement expired that day. He recommended that the Board appoint him as the Temporary Treasurer until all parties to the original agreement were available to discuss extending the terms of that agreement. Board Member Andrew Saunders made a motion, which was seconded by Member Andrew Romano, to appoint "Town Administrator Keith Hickey to the position of Temporary Treasurer, to serve until a successor temporary or permanent Treasurer is appointed by the Select Board." The Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Hickey as Temporary Treasurer.

Board Chair Charles Murphy then announced that the Board would convene in executive session pursuant to Purpose 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: AFSCME and would not return to open session. The Board unanimously voted by roll call vote to convene in executive session.

During the executive session, which lasted for approximately five minutes, Mr. Hickey asked the Board to authorize him to meet with representatives from AFSCME to negotiate the extension of the agreement that expired that day to mid-November. Mr. Hickey explained that there are two interim positions, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector, and that a proposal would be brought to the Board once negotiations were complete. Mr. Saunders made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Romano, to authorize Labor Counsel and Mr. Hickey to negotiate with AFSCME an extension of the existing agreement until November 15, 2025. The Board approved the motion by a unanimous roll call vote.

On October 9, 2025, at 3:14 P.M., the Board posted notice of a meeting to be held on October 14, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. The notice listed 10 main topic headings and under each topic

² The Northern New England council of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

heading more specific topics were listed. One main topic was listed as “Action/Discussion” and included 16 specific item descriptions that further advised the public of the topics to be discussed, two of which were “Reauthorize Keith Hickey as Temporary Treasurer for the Town” and “Reauthorize Keith Hickey and Labor Counsel to negotiate Memorandum of Understanding extension with AFSCME for Interim Treasurer and Interim Assistant Treasurer/Collector.”

The October 14, 2025, meeting was held as planned. During the meeting, the Board reappointed Mr. Hickey to the position of Temporary Treasurer, to serve until a successor temporary or permanent treasurer was appointed by the Board. The Board also, in open session, reauthorized Mr. Hickey and Labor Counsel to negotiate with AFSCME an extension of the agreement with both the Interim Treasurer and Interim Assistant Treasurer/Collector.

DISCUSSION

The Open Meeting Law was enacted “to eliminate much of the secrecy surrounding deliberations and decisions on which public policy is based.” Ghiglione v. School Committee of Southbridge, 376 Mass. 70, 72 (1978). The Law requires that, except in an emergency, “a public body shall post notice of every meeting at least 48 hours prior to such meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.” G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b). The notice must be printed in a legible, easily understandable format and must contain the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed. Id. The list of topics shall have “sufficient specificity to reasonably advise the public of the issues to be discussed at the meeting.” 940 CMR 29.03(1)(b). In case of an emergency, the public body should post notice of the meeting as soon as reasonably possible. Id. An “emergency” is defined as “a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence or set of circumstances demanding immediate action.” G.L. c. 30A, § 18. The burden of justifying the need for an emergency meeting lies with the public body. See OML 2012-7; OML 2010-6.³

The complaint alleges that the Board held an improper emergency meeting on September 30, 2025. Emergency meetings are reserved for circumstances that are unanticipated and require an immediate response. See OML 2016-70; OML 2011-45. We find no evidence, nor have we been presented with any evidence, that the Board anticipated the expiration of the Interim Treasurer position at any time prior to September 29, 2025, and thus find that the topic was unexpected. Moreover, the Board believed that immediate action was required to ensure that payroll for town employees would process on October 1, 2025. See G.L. c. 41, § 35 (treasurer “shall receive and take charge of all money belonging to the town, and pay over and account for the same according to the order of the town or of its authorized officers. No other person shall pay any bill of any department . . .”). Although the Town Administrator manages and supervises all town departments under the jurisdiction of the Board, including the treasurer, the Board, upon the absence of a town treasurer, “appoints a temporary treasurer to hold such office and exercise the powers and perform the duties thereof until another is duly elected or appointed.” G.L. c. 41, § 40; see also Fairhaven Special Acts, c. A502-6, § 2(e). Therefore, we find that the Board provided a valid justification for its September 30, 2025, emergency meeting.

³ Open Meeting Law determinations may be found at the Attorney General’s website, <https://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law>.

See OML 2022-40 (finding that in light of the specific timing of the grant writer's resignation and the grant application deadline, an "emergency" existed which allowed the Select Board to hold a meeting to discuss a plan for finalizing and submitting the grant application without posting notice 48 hours in advance); OML 2017-131 (finding that the unexpected cancellation of two meetings due to inclement weather required the Board of Selectmen to take immediate action and justified an emergency meeting to sign financial documents even though the Board had been aware of the issue for some time); OML 2017-128 (finding that an emergency meeting was justified when the Board of Selectmen met to issue a one-day liquor license after a wedding reception had to be relocated from a private residence to a municipal property).

While we find that the nature of the Board's discussions justified holding an emergency meeting, we find that the Board should not have convened in executive session on September 30, 2025. A public body may enter executive session for any of ten enumerated purposes, provided that it has first convened in an open session, that a majority of members of the body have voted to go into executive session, and that the vote of each member is recorded by roll call and entered into the minutes. G.L. c. 30A, §§ 21 (a), (b). One executive session purpose allows a public body to enter executive session "[t]o conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel." G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) ("Purpose 2"). When convening in executive session pursuant to Purpose 2, a public body must identify the nonunion personnel or collective bargaining unit with whom it will be negotiating, if doing so will not compromise the lawful purpose for secrecy. See OML 2017-53; OML 2016-43; OML 2013-151.

During the September 30, 2025, executive session, the Board authorized Labor Counsel and Mr. Hickey to negotiate with AFSCME to extend the agreement with the Interim Treasurer to November 15, 2025. We find that such discussions did not fit within the parameters of executive session Purpose 2, as the discussions did not pertain to strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel nor did the Board conduct collective bargaining or contract negotiations. See OML 2021-21; OML 2013-195. We commend the Board for taking remedial action, in response to the complaint, during its October 14, 2025, open session meeting by reappointing Mr. Hickey as Temporary Treasurer and reauthorizing Mr. Hickey and Labor Counsel to negotiate with AFSCME for an extension of the agreement with the Interim Treasurer.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, we find that the Board held a valid emergency meeting on September 30, 2025, but violated the Open Meeting Law by separately convening in executive session. As a result of our finding that the Board violated the Open Meeting Law by meeting in executive session for an improper purpose, we order the Board, within 30 days of the date of this letter, to publicly release the September 30, 2025, executive session minutes. The Board may not redact or withhold the minutes in any way. See G.L. c. 30A, § 22(f) ("The minutes of any executive session ... may be withheld from disclosure to the public in their entirety ... as long as publication may defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session, but no longer; provided, however, that the executive session was held in compliance with section 21"); OML 2014-42. In

addition, we order immediate and future compliance with the law's requirements, and we caution that similar future violations could be considered evidence of intent to violate the law.

We now consider the complaint addressed by this determination to be resolved. This determination does not address any other complaints that may be pending with our office or the Board. Please feel free to contact our office at (617) 963-2540 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KerryAnne Kilcoyne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KerryAnne Kilcoyne
Assistant Attorney General
Division of Open Government

cc: Patrick Higgins – By email only: patrick@openmeetinglawenforcer.com
Fairhaven Select Board – By email only: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov
Fairhaven Town Clerk – By email only: clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov

This determination was issued pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 23(c). A public body or any member of a body aggrieved by a final order of the Attorney General may obtain judicial review through an action filed in Superior Court pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 23(d). The complaint must be filed in Superior Court within twenty-one days of receipt of a final order.