



# Town of Fairhaven

ELISABETH E. HORAN  
TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025  
WALTER SILVEIRA AUDITORIUM

ELIZABETH I. HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS PRESENT 163 – QUORUM REQUIRED 100**

The meeting was called to order by the Town Clerk at 7:02 pm.

The Town Clerk stated that the warrant had been properly served and that a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The National Anthem was played.

The Town Clerk announced that Town Moderator Mark Sylvia was unable to preside over this Town Meeting due to the convening of a formal session of the Massachusetts House of Representatives on this date, at which his attendance was required.

Pursuant to Chapter 285 of the Acts of 1930, as amended, a Moderator Pro Tempore may be elected by the Town Meeting Members.

The Town Clerk entertained nominations for Moderator Pro Tempore.

A motion was made to nominate Dr. Brian Bowcock for Moderator Pro Tempore.

The Town Clerk called for the vote for Moderator Pro Tempore.

By majority vote, Dr. Brian Bowcock was declared Moderator Pro Tempore.

The Moderator Pro Tempore introduced the Town Officials seated on the stage.

The Moderator Pro Tempore introduced the Officer on Duty.

Instructions were given to the Town Meeting Members.

Voted that the reading of the warrant and the return of service be omitted.

Voted that the Moderator Pro Tempore be allowed to refer to the articles by number and title only.

The Moderator Pro Tempore announced the tellers.

The tellers were sworn in by the Town Clerk.

**Town Meeting Members present:**

**Precinct 1 – 32**

**Precinct 2 – 31**

**Precinct 3 – 19**

**Precinct 4 – 33**

**Precinct 5 – 27**

**Precinct 6 – 21**

**TOTAL – 163**

**ARTICLE 1: BILL OF PRIOR YEAR**

To see if the Town will vote to pay the unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year and any others that may be brought forward, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Petitioned by:** Accounting/Finance Department

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funded From</u>
Polydyne Inc.	\$221.70	Sewer Retained Earnings

**Select Board:** Recommend Adoption (5-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Finance Committee:** Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Vote Required:** Nine-Tenths (9/10) Vote

**Motion:** Move to approve as listed in the warrant.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:12pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by the required nine-tenths (9/10) vote at 7:13pm.

**ARTICLE 2: FUND FY26 LABOR CONTRACTS AND NON-UNION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to fund the FY26 Labor Contracts for the following bargaining units: Fire Department, Highway Department, Clerical and the FY26 Non-Union Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), or take any other action relative thereto.

**Petitioned by:** Select Board

**Select Board:** Recommend at Town Meeting (5-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Finance Committee:** Recommend at Town Meeting (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Vote Required:** Majority Vote

**Motion:** Move to waive § 50-9 D of the Town Bylaw, Collective Bargaining Agreements Section in accordance with subsection F.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:13pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:14pm.

**Motion:** Move to fund the FY26 labor contract for the sewer bargaining unit in the amount of \$32,049, as follows, \$32,049 from Sewer Retained Earnings.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:14pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:14pm.

**Motion:** Move to fund the FY26 labor contract for the water bargaining unit in the amount of \$21,790, as follows, \$21,790 from Water Retained Earnings.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:14pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:15pm.

**Motion:** Move to fund the FY26 labor contract for the fire bargaining unit in the amount of \$35,000, as follows, \$15,000 from the wage reserve fund and \$20,000 from reserve fund, ambulance receipts reserved for appropriation.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:16pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:16pm.

**Motion:** Move to fund the FY26 labor contract for the highway bargaining unit in the amount of \$15,500, as follows, \$15,500 from the wage reserve fund.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:16pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:17pm.

**Motion:** Move to fund the FY26 labor contract for the park bargaining unit in the amount of \$1,185 as follows, \$1,185 from the wage reserve fund.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:17pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:17pm.

**Motion:** Move to fund the FY26 labor contract for the clerical bargaining unit in the amount of \$14,000 as follows, \$240 from Sewer Retained Earnings, \$460 from water retained earnings, \$3,300 from the wage reserve fund, and \$10,000 from Article 10-5 of the May 3, 2025 Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:18pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by show of hands by majority vote at 7:18pm.

**Motion:** Move to fund the FY26 Non-Union COLA in the amount of \$16,500 as follows, \$11,793 from the wage reserve fund, \$2,077 from Sewer Retained Earnings, \$1,697 Water Retained Earnings, and \$933 from the Town Cable Enterprise Fund.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:18pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:19pm.

### **ARTICLE 3: SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Retained Earnings the amount of \$297,803 which was generated from the Sewer Capital Fee from FY25 and transfer into the Sewer Nitrogen Plant Article 15A of the June 18, 2022 Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

**Petitioned by:** Board of Public Works

**Select Board:** Recommend Adoption (5-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Finance Committee:** Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Vote Required:** Majority Vote

**Motion:** Move to transfer from the Sewer Retained Earnings the amount of \$297,803 which was generated from the Sewer Capital Fee from FY25 and transfer into the Sewer Nitrogen Plant Article 15A of the June 18, 2022 Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:19pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:20pm.

**ARTICLE 4: REQUEST TRANSFER OF FUNDS: TOWN HALL EAST RETAINING WALL EMERGENCY REPAIR**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) the sum of \$40,000 back into General Fund Reserves and \$30,000 back into the Preventative Maintenance Article 10-5 of the May 3, 2025 Town Meeting for Town Hall East Retaining Wall emergency repairs, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Petitioned by:** Facilities

**Select Board:** Recommend Adoption (5-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Finance Committee:** Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Vote Required:** Majority Vote

**Motion:** Move to transfer as written in the warrant.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:20pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:20pm.

**ARTICLE 5: REQUEST TRANSFER OF FUNDS: PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Public Safety Complex Stabilization Fund the amount of \$50,000 to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator and the approval of the Select Board for the purpose of hiring a third-party consultant to conduct a site evaluation and/or feasibility study for the potential Police Station or Public Safety Complex including options for leasing or purchasing property, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Petitioned by:** Public Safety Complex Committee

**Select Board:** Recommend Adoption (5-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Finance Committee:** Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Vote Required:** Majority Vote

**Motion:** Move to transfer as written in the warrant.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:21pm.

**Amendment:** A motion made and seconded to amend Article 5 by adding the following language: *“and this provides that no funds shall be expended prior to the Select Board approving FY27 Capital Improvement Plan and corresponding the debt service plan”* at 7:24pm.

**Vote:** Amendment declared failed by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:31pm.

**Vote:** Main motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:31pm.

**ARTICLE 6: GLENHAVEN AVENUE WATER MAIN PHASE 2**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$500,000 to fund additional costs of Phase Two of the water main replacement on Glenhaven Avenue to supplement Article 8-1 of the May 3, 2025 Town Meeting and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by

borrowing or otherwise provided, or take any action relative thereto.

**Petitioned by:** Board of Public Works

**Select Board:** Recommend Adoption (5-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Finance Committee:** Recommend Adoption (10-0-0 Favorable Vote)

Vote Required: Two-Thirds (2/3) Vote

**Motion:** Move to appropriate \$500,000 to pay costs of water main replacement on Glenhaven Avenue, Phase 2 and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(4) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore While this borrowing shall constitute a pledge of the Town’s full faith and credit, it is expected that it will be repaid, in the first instance, from amounts in the Water Enterprise Fund.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:32pm.

**Vote:** Motion declared carried by a show of hands by the required two-thirds (2/3) vote at 7:34pm.

**ARTICLE 7 AMEND BYLAWS CHAPTER 206 ANIMALS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 206 Animals Section 1 Fee structure as outlined below by replacing existing language in strikethrough with language in bold or take any action relative thereto.

Chapter 206, Part 1 Animal Control Fees [Adopted 5-26-2015]

§ 206-1. Fee structure.

The animal control fee structure is as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Boarding fee	<del>\$25</del> <b>\$50</b> per day
Adoption fees	Cat <del>\$200</del> <b>\$300</b>
	Dog <del>\$300</del> <b>\$600</b>

**Petitioned by:** Police Department

**Select Board:** Recommend Adoption (5-0-0 Favorable Vote)

**Finance Committee:** Recommend Adoption (9-1-0 Favorable Vote)

**Vote Required:** Majority Vote

**Motion:** Move to adopt as written in the warrant

A motion was made and seconded at 7:35pm.

**Amendment One:** A motion was made and seconded to amend Article 7 changing the adoption fee of dogs from \$600 to \$400 at 7:36pm.

**Amendment Two:** A motion was made and seconded to amend Article7 changing the boarding fee to \$40 per day, adoption fees of cats \$250 and dogs \$450 at 7:38pm.

**Amendment Three:** A motion was made to amend Article 7, by changing the adoption fees of dogs from \$600 to \$500 at 7:47pm.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question at 7:52pm.

A motion to move the question carried by a show of hands by the required two-thirds (2/3) vote at 7:52pm.

**Vote:** Amendment One was declared failed by a show of hands majority vote at 7:53pm.

**Vote:** Amendment Two was declared failed by a show of hands majority vote at 7:53pm.

**Vote:** Amendment Three was declared failed by a show of hands majority vote at 7:54pm

**Vote:** Main motion declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:54pm.

A motion to adjourn *sine die* at 7:54pm on Tuesday, November 19, 2025 was made and seconded.

**Vote:** To adjourn sine die declared carried by a show of hands by majority vote at 7:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elisabeth E. Horan  
Town Clerk