

## FAIRHAVEN BUDGET WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2026

Meeting Location: BPW Meeting Room, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA

### Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ken Blanchard at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was taken by roll call and noted below:

### Voting Members in Attendance:

Kenneth Blanchard, Gunnar Hexum, Jason Lanagan, Daniel Lopes, Mark Reese

Voting Members Absent: Robert Baldwin, Kevin Gallagher

### Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Keith Hickey, Richard Trapillo

Guest: Anne Carreiro, Town Accountant

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Media Notification: The established media notification was read by Mr. Blanchard.

### New Business:

**Meeting Decorum:** The Chair recommended that the Budget Working Group conduct all meetings following the guidelines established by Roberts Rules of Order. A motion was made by Mr. Hexum and seconded by Mr. Lanagan. Motion passed with Mr. Reese abstaining.

The Chair confirmed that all members had received the Boards and Committees Handbook from the office of the Town Clerk. All members indicated that they were in receipt of this documentation.

**Project Plan & Framework:** The Chair accepted a motion by Mr. Lopes, seconded by Mr. Hexum, to discuss the project plan and review framework. Passed unanimously. Mr. Reese recommended that, due to the absence of two voting members, discussion on this topic be limited to preliminary thoughts and that all votes on accepting a framework be postponed until the next meeting. Mr. Lopes gave a presentation on his efforts to craft a draft framework that shows how the group will conduct reviews of all appropriate topics, tier opportunities and finalize a list of recommendations for the Town Administrator to move forward. Mr. Reese recommended not only bringing in department heads but others with expertise and involvement with Fairhaven's budget including state legislators. Discussion was held on reaching out to department heads prior to their appointment with the Budget Working Group in order to facilitate discussions. Further discussion reviewed how the budgetary crisis involving Fairhaven is shared by many regional communities and that possible solutions might be regionally addressed.

Mr. Reeses and Mr. Lopes offered to share their thoughts and framework draft revisions, as well as review comments submitted to the Chair by Mr. Baldwin, and bring back to the group a revised draft of the project plan and framework at the next meeting.

**Ideas for Revenue Enhancement and Cost Savings:** The group held a general discussion on revenue enhancements and cost savings ideas that would be discussed at future meetings. Many ideas were offered including several pertaining to regionalizing services with area communities. The goal is to prioritize a list of actionable items. The Chair encouraged members to come to the next meeting with ideas for prioritizing. Mr. Hickey explained that townwide staff are currently working on a host of proposals. He will provide at a future meeting a briefing of what is currently being considered. Mr. Lanagan expressed interest in the Town Master Plan and it's possible role in future budgetary and economic development considerations. Ms. Carreiro added her perspective to the current efforts at economic development.

The Chair reminded all members that the FY28 budget development is the role of the Town Administrator, Select Board and Finance Committee and that the role of the Budget Working Group is a review of the structural elements of town finance and economic development.

**Public Comment:** No member of the public utilizing the on-line platform indicated an interest in offering comment. Mr. Robert Ginrod was in attendance and addressed the Budget Working Group. Discussion ensued over the current budgetary development and the stated goals of the Budget Working Group.

#### **Committee Member Items**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at the BPW Meeting Room beginning at 6:00PM

#### **Adjournment**

The Chair inquired as to any further business. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned.