
Re: Public Record

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com>
To: Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>
Cc: Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 10:06 AM

Dear Ms. Hart,

Thank you for the additional information.

The reason for my inquiry is that older public records and meeting coverage indicate that the Select Board previously met on a weekly, or near-weekly, basis. However, the current town meeting dates reflects a schedule of twice per month.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Michelle Costen

On Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 9:50 AM Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

Here is the additional context,

1. Does the vote taken on March 9, 2026, apply to the newly elected Select Board members who assumed office after that date? And does this affect the entire fiscal year 2027?
The Board's vote applies to the entire board for FY2027
2. Is the reduction in scheduled public Select Board meetings to once or twice a month connected to this decision?
The Board has not reduced its meeting schedule. The normally scheduled meetings are twice per month on Mondays (a meeting falling on a holiday Monday would be held on Tuesday). They shifted from meeting on the first and third Monday monthly to the second and fourth with a few exceptions like December where they kept the first and third.

Warmest regards,



Amy Hart
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator
(508) 979-4023, Ext. 8101

On Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 9:34 AM michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Hart,

Thank you for providing the clarification below.

Following up on your response, I would appreciate any additional context regarding the following:

1. Does the vote taken on March 9, 2026, apply to the newly elected Select Board members who assumed office after that date? And does this affect the entire fiscal year 2027?
2. Is the reduction in scheduled public Select Board meetings to once or twice a month connected to this decision?

Historically, meetings were held on a weekly basis. With fewer public meetings, it has become challenging for residents to follow the progress of ongoing town matters and initiatives.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Michelle Costen

On Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 9:20 AM Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

This message is being sent blind-carbon-copy to the Select Board to avoid potential Open Meeting Law (OML) violations.

Good morning,

Please see the details added in red to each question.

1. Will the public correspondence that has been removed from the Select Board's agenda remain part of the permanent public records?

any written or digital correspondence sent to the Board automatically becomes a public record

2. What is the current annual stipend amount received by Select Board members?

the Board voted at their March 9, 2026 meeting not to take a stipend in FY27 (link to the minutes is below)

<https://fairhaven-ma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-03-09-Select-Board-Meeting-Minutes-Part-1.pdf>

Warmest regards,



Amy Hart

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

(508) 979-4023, Ext. 8101

On Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 8:47 AM michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Amy and Members of the Select Board,

I am writing to formally inquire about the following matters regarding the Select Board:

1. Will the public correspondence that has been removed from the Select Board's agenda remain part of the permanent public records?

2. What is the current annual stipend amount received by Select Board members?

Please note that this email constitutes formal public correspondence intended for inclusion in Fairhaven's permanent public records.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Michelle Costen