Education-Select Members

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michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com> Mon, Oct 26, 2026 at 10:14 PM
To: Andrew Romano <aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Select Board <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Select Board Members and Town Administrator,

After watching tonight's meeting, I am writing to express concerns regarding the Select Board's decision-making and overall leadership. Specifically, I would like to inquire about the professional and educational backgrounds of the board members. There is a growing impression among residents that the board's current conduct and management do not adequately reflect the standards expected of public leadership.

Many residents share significant concerns that current decisions—particularly regarding the budget, municipal governance, local housing-house crowding, and ongoing infrastructure challenges—could lead to serious financial deficits and problems for our community in the coming years. As taxpayers who fund municipal operations and stipends, we feel the Select Board must prioritize the long-term financial well-being of Fairhaven residents. Our voices need to matter, not just our votes. We placed our trust in you when electing you to office, and we want to ensure our concerns are addressed before significant financial and cultural harm is done to our town. Receiving a stipend for biweekly meetings and service carries a responsibility to set personal differences aside and effectively serve the community, including fully focusing on and listening respectfully to the public during comment periods. Even if members choose to forfeit their stipend, the responsibility of serving on the board remains a duty to the public. If members are unable or unwilling to fulfill these obligations, it may be best for them to step down.

We hope to see greater transparency, constructive collaboration, and accountability moving forward. Specifically, we believe an independent audit of the town's finances and operations is necessary, along with external guidance to help resolve persistent leadership challenges. While I appreciate Mr.Trapilo’s efforts to establish a budget group, the board as a whole must work together productively to solve our town's primary issues and avoid driving our community into deeper debt.

Additionally, I have concerns regarding the current town counsel, as recent errors resulted in an investigation that could have been avoided with sound legal guidance.

The primary role of the board is to serve the community, and many residents currently feel that our interests are not being adequately represented during these difficult economic times. It appeared during tonight's meeting that political divisions are taking precedence over addressing our town's real needs. Taxpayers deserve meaningful value and dedication from their local leadership.

What our town needs is a genuine commitment to serving the people of Fairhaven—not just through words, but through demonstrated care and action.

So far, None of who watched the meeting together tonight, are impressed with our select members.

Michelle Costen