



## FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

### Agenda

**Monday, August 30, 2021**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK

2021 AUG 26 A 11: 56

*Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be at the meeting location listed above, and it is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public.*

Log on to: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87618104625?pwd=Z0VPMzIuYkYktQdm1Ednd2RmFoUT09>

or call 1-929-205-6099

**Meeting ID: 876 1810 4625**

**Password: 815966**

The meeting can also be viewed on Channel 18 or on FairhavenTV.com

### **Joint meeting with the School Committee to interview candidates for the vacant seat (term expiring April 2022) on the School Committee**

#### **A. APPOINTMENTS**

1. 5:00 - 5:20 PM - Interview Erik Andersen
2. 5:20 - 5:40 PM - Interview Cathleen Marchessault
3. 5:40 - 6:00 PM - Interview Robert Pimental

#### **B. POSSIBLE ACTION/DISCUSSION**

1. Discussion on School Committee Vacancy Interviews.
2. Vote to appoint School Committee Member for the remainder of the term expiring in April 2022.
3. Update on Mask mandate
4. Town Administrator position statement

#### **C. NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The next **regularly** scheduled meeting of the Select Board is Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Banquet Room

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Subject matter listed in the agenda consists of those items that are reasonable anticipated (by the Chair) to be discussed. Not all items listed may be discussed and other items not listed (such as urgent business not available at the time of posting) may also be brought up for discussion in accordance with applicable law.*

*MGL, Ch. 30A, § 20(f) requires anyone that intends to record any portions of a public meeting, either by audio or video, or both, to notify the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.*

August 3, 2021

Dear Fairhaven Select Board and School Committee,

I'm writing to you to express my interest in the open seat for the School Committee. My name is Erik Andersen. I have lived in Fairhaven since August 2008. My wife Heather is a Special Education Teacher, working for 17 years in the Hingham Public School system. We have 2 children, Violet and Ella who are in the Fairhaven School system. Violet will be heading to Hasting Middle School this coming year and Ella will be heading into 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Violet is currently on 504 plan for heath and Ella is on IEP for Speech. We have navigated these services in the Fairhaven system, learning about the school-based systems that are in place and experiencing them firsthand. For me, I am a License Mental Health Clinician, currently working for Southcoast Hospital Group in the Emergency Departments for St. Luke's and Charlton Memorial Hospitals. I work as part of the Social Work Department. I started working at the hospital May 2020. Prior to that, I was working for Child & Family Services, in New Bedford, out of the Emergency Service Program, performing mental health and substance abuse evaluations for a range of populations including children. I began work there in November 2009. I have tremendous experience and first-hand knowledge of the strengths and challenges facing our community and surrounding communities, particularly in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and services needed to support families. I have worked with various school systems when evaluating children, which have included Fairhaven Public Schools. Prior to Nov 2009, I worked in various residential programs for different populations of children with challenges. During my time in the residential area, I ran budgetary responsibilities for various areas from food management to staffing/student needs. It gave me valuable insight and experience into financial areas of management. I also had two years of teaching at a residential agency as a Social Studies teacher. I have experienced being a teacher and the challenges and supports that are needed to make education effective and meaningful. This past year, both of my daughters stayed home until January, due to health concerns, and I guided and supported them with TECCA learning during that time.

I am a Fairhaven Town meeting member. I was elected and now serve as a Democratic delegate for Fairhaven. I have attended the Massachusetts State Democratic Convention. I have helped with local board elections. I have chaperoned field trips and greatly enjoy being a part of the school community. I believe my experiences, my unique perspective, and my role as a father, neighbor, crisis counselor, and community member would be an asset to the school committee. I hope this letter has given you some insight into what I can bring to Fairhaven School Committee. I look forward to answering any questions and meeting you all in this process.

Sincerely

Erik Andersen

Erik Andersen, LMHC

73 Laurel Street, Fairhaven



5:20 PM

A2

Subject: School Committee

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**Cathleen Marchessault** <[REDACTED]>  
to mbouchard

Fri, Jul 30, 1

You are viewing an attached message. Town of Fairhaven Mail can't verify the authenticity of attached messages.

Ms Bouchard,

I am writing to express my interest in the school committee vacancy. I am registered to vote in the town of Fairhaven. Please let me know if there is any information you need from me.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Marchessault  
33 Huttleston Ave  
Fairhaven MA 02719

Sent from my iPhone



Vicki Oliveira <vloliveira@fairhaven-ma.gov>

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## School Board vacancy

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**Leon Correy** <leoncorrey@leon4fairhaven.us>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 11:15 AM

To: bmonroe@fairhavenps.net

Cc: Bob Espindola <selectmanbobespindola@gmail.com>, Vicki Oliveira <vloliveira@fairhaven-ma.gov>

I am reaching out as a member of the town and parent of a student to make known my desire to see Cathleen Marchessault as the next member on the School Committee. Quite frankly as an educator and a parent I find her beyond qualified for the position. She would be an absolutely asset to the town and the board.



5:40 PM

A3

Subject: school committee position



**Pimental, Robert** <[robert.pimental@gnbvt.edu](mailto:robert.pimental@gnbvt.edu)>  
to mbouchard

Tue, Aug 10, 11:16 PM (10 days

You are viewing an attached message. Town of Fairhaven Mail can't verify the authenticity of attached messages.

Hi Melissa --

I am writing to submit my name for the open position for the Fairhaven School Committee. I am a proud graduate Fairhaven High School (Class of 1984) and I join my father (Class of 1954), my brother (Class of 1978), and my daughter (Class of 2019) as members of Fairhaven High School alumni. I also served as the Boys JV Basketball Coach at Fairhaven High School for 9 years as Dr. Baldwin's assistant coach. I have spent my professional career as an educator at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech in a number of roles over the past 30 years. I began as a teacher in physical education/health department for 14 years where I also served as the Boy's Varsity Basketball Coach for 9 years. Then I started my work in Administration. I worked as the Adult Education Director (6 years), the Athletic Director (4 years), and in my current role as Assistant Principal for grades 9 and 10 (6 years). Simply put, I am trying to be a positive contributor to the town that I have called home since birth. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert M. Pimental

51 Ocean Avenue

Fairhaven, MA 02719



**Robert M. Pimental**

Assistant Principal Grades 9 and 10

[Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School](#)

1121 Ashley Blvd, New Bedford, MA 02745

e: [robert.pimental@gnbvt.edu](mailto:robert.pimental@gnbvt.edu) t: 508.998.3321 ex.381

**Preparation • Passion • Perseverance**

This information contained in this email and any attachment(s) is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical School District.

Our mission is to provide a high quality education that is rigorous, relevant and meaningful to our students, is delivered in a safe, secure and supportive environment, and which results in academic, career and technical proficiency. This dynamic educational experience encourages students to seek excellence and to become lifelong learners who are equipped to compete successfully in an ever-changing global economy.

Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech High School is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, homelessness, immigration status, or veteran status in its education programs and activities, including admission to or employment in such programs or activities.



Vicki Oliveira <vloliveira@fairhaven-ma.gov>

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## Meeting Re: Vacant School Committee Seat

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Laura Gardner <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Aug 21, 2021 at 8:54 AM

To: Melissa Bouchard <mbouchard@fairhavenps.net>

Cc: Brian Monroe <bmonroe@fairhavenps.net>, Vicki Paquette <vloliveira@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Thank you for your email.

After talking it over with my family, we have decided now is not the right time for me to make this commitment.

I apologize for the inconvenience.

Best,

Laura Gardner  
[Quoted text hidden]

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Best,

Laura Gardner  
Chair  
[Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast](#)  
[REDACTED]



## Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

Town Hall • 40 Center Street • Fairhaven, MA 02719  
Telephone: (508) 979-4023 ext. 125 • Fax: (508) 979-4079

Michael Ristuccia, Chair  
Peter DeTerra, Vice-Chair  
Kevin Gallagher, Clerk  
David D. Flaherty Jr, RS, Health Agent

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### MEMO

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**DATE:** August 27, 2021  
**TO:** Fairhaven's Selectboard  
**FROM:** David D. Flaherty Jr., RS  
Fairhaven's Health Agent  
**RE:** Fairhaven's COVID Update

Dear Chairman Espindola,

The Town of Fairhaven's COVID-19 positivity rate has declined marginally to 4.97% as of last Friday. This means that out of the 1,508 COVID-19 tests administered to Fairhaven residents during the past two weeks, 60 were positive or just under 5%. This is probably due to a number of factors, the most likely one being mostly symptomatic, i.e. "sick" people, are the main recipients of the tests. Regardless, this is a trend of concern and should be addressed. Because of this I would continue to recommend:

Face coverings should continue to be mandated in municipal buildings if the positivity rate has not declined to less than 3%. I will know next Friday morning what the rate is when DPH releases the updated data. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We seem to be trending in a positive direction.

Sincerely,

  
David D. Flaherty Jr., RS  
Health Agent

Cc: BOH  
file

# Fairhaven, MA – Town



## Administrator

### Fairhaven

Fairhaven, MA (16,000 pop.), is a charming seaside community located on the shore of Massachusetts' Buzzards Bay, approximately one mile from New Bedford, 35 miles east of Providence, R.I., and 50 miles south of Boston. The Town is bordered by the Acushnet River and New Bedford to the west, Mattapoisett to the east, Buzzards Bay to the south, and Acushnet to the north. Fairhaven is a community of homes, commercial development, the marine trades, and industrial companies. The Town, settled in 1653, has a rich history dating back to the days of the Pilgrims. Fairhaven was incorporated in 1812 after separating from New Bedford and grew in prosperity during the whaling days in the 1800s. The Town's most remarkable features are the magnificent European-style public buildings built between 1885 and 1906 by Standard Oil Company executive and millionaire Henry Huttleston Rogers, a native of the Town.

### Government

Fairhaven has a three member elected Select Board that hires the Town Administrator. The Town has a representative Town Meeting. The Select Board serves as the Town's chief executive, acting through the Town Administrator, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of town government. Legislation is pending to change from a three member to a five member Select Board.

Fairhaven has a number of elected positions, boards, and committees including: Select Board, School Committee, Board of Public Works, Planning Board, Board of Health, Housing Authority, Commissioner of Trust Funds, Town Clerk, Tree Warden, and Town Moderator. Fairhaven has a fire station, a central police department, one library, and its own school department with two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. The Town has an agreement with the Town of Acushnet in which Acushnet high school students can choose to attend Fairhaven High School. Approximately one third of the students at Fairhaven High School are from Acushnet, which is a source of approximately \$2.5 million dollars in annual revenue.

### Finances

According to Moody's Fairhaven has a robust financial position, and a strong socioeconomic profile with a sizable tax base. It has a moderate pension liability with an affordable debt burden. The Town is typically conservative with its spending, but strongly supports investing in the upkeep of its historic buildings. Like most municipalities, Fairhaven is facing potential revenue constraints due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis as well as the overall pressure of increasing costs and infrastructure needs. The Town has made a very successful concerted effort in recent years to seek and apply for grants.



**FY22 Budget:**

Town	\$29,925,787
School	\$24,428,591
Capital	\$2,143,900

**Bond Rating:**

Standard and Poor's (July 2020) AA+  
Moody's AA+

<b>FY21 Residential Tax Rate:</b>	\$11.29
<b>FY21 Commercial Tax Rate</b>	\$22.53

**2021 Tax Classification:**

Residential	\$22,949,125	75.33%
Commercial	\$5,699,748	13.71%
Industrial	\$671,240	2.2%
Personal Prop.	\$1,145,460	3.76%

**2022 Revenue by Source:**

Tax Levy	\$31,490,171	57.9%
State Aid	\$11,500,000	21.3%
Local Receipts	\$8,333,000	15.3%
Other	\$2,981,207	5.5%

**Reserves:**

Free Cash	\$1,695,631
All Stabilization Funds	\$8,836,722

**Economic and Community Development**

Fairhaven is a seaside community with a working waterfront. While retail trade is now the leading segment of the economy, fishing and ship maintenance are still important segments. Acushnet Company, a leading manufacturer of golf equipment, is located in Fairhaven, and there is a burgeoning healthcare-driven job cluster along Route 240. The Town's economic development goals include preserving the financial viability of the working waterfront, maintaining healthy commercial occupancies along Route 6 and other commercial areas, supporting mixed-use projects, support of small business incubation and growth, and collaboration with New Bedford and other area towns on workforce training and regional economic development. The Northeast Maritime Institute, located in the Town Center, is a private college that offers training and education for careers in the maritime industry. Maritime-related business in Fairhaven represents a small but vital industry cluster and it is an important aspect of the Town's legacy and identity. As the Town is largely built-out, future development will need to consist of redevelopment. Nearly 90% of businesses in Town can be considered "small business." Apart from the commercial and industrial areas and three working farms, Fairhaven is a quiet residential community.

## Open Space and Recreation

Fairhaven strives to preserve and protect its agricultural resources and landscapes, cultural and historic places, open space, recreational, and forest and marine resources. The Town has a total area of 14.1 square miles and 29.4 miles of shore property as well as significant rural areas, including three working farms. Fairhaven is home to a public state beach overlooking Buzzards Bay, two large public parks, several recreational marinas, commercial wharves, a yacht club, historical Fort Phoenix and the Rogers buildings, and provides free walking tours of scenic and historic sites. The Fairhaven Recreation Department oversees a variety of youth sports programs, a fitness room, a summer youth program, and school vacation programs as well as adult exercise, wellness, and day trip programs each year.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fairhaven's current challenges include the implementation of necessary wastewater treatment plant upgrades which will be funded via the Sewer Enterprise Fund, implementing the recommendations of the Public Facilities Improvement Plan of which the first priority is a Public Safety Facility, enhancing collaboration and unifying Town staff as well as a desire for economic development that will allow the community to retain its rural charm and character.

The Town has benefited from federal stimulus funding programs. Managing that process, networking with other governmental officials at the state and federal level, and then overseeing the efforts of major projects through department heads will be a critical facet of the Town Administrator position.

### Current projects

- Approximately \$40+ million for wastewater treatment plant upgrades to be funded through the Sewer Enterprise Fund via sewer user fees. This project is scheduled to begin in 2026.
- A \$1.4 million high school turf field project to be funded with surplus revenue and \$200,000 from the high school's trust fund.
- Ongoing maintenance of infrastructure.

### Potential projects

- Implementation of the \$110 million Public Facilities Improvement Plan of which the first priority is a new public safety facility, expected cost of about \$50 million, which would require a Proposition 2 ½ override.
- Work with committee to determine best use of the former Rogers School building.

## The Ideal Candidate

To serve as the second Town Administrator since this form of local government was enacted in 2014, Fairhaven is seeking a seasoned, collaborative leader with strong financial acumen, who has the ability to unify and make difficult decisions, has strategic vision, excellent communication skills, and experience with economic development and personnel management. The ideal candidate will be:

- A demonstrated and dynamic leader who is forward-thinking, fair-minded and transparent;
- An effective and experienced manager from an environment of similar complexity who has proven strong organizational and professional skills;
- A manager with exceptional financial acumen with a proven record of building balanced budgets that reflect needs while adhering to the Town's financial policies and respecting its limited resources;
- Experienced in negotiating contracts and serving as a Procurement Officer;
- An individual who has, human resources, labor and employee relations, and collective bargaining;
- Experienced in planning, community development and economic development;
- Knowledgeable of municipal management best practices and ability to implement them;
- Experienced in guiding the development of a shared strategic vision for the community and whose words and actions provide clarity to those they supervise as well as all boards and commissions and the public;
- A leader who can work with state and federal officials closely to further the Town's goals and priorities;
- Understanding of the value of protecting open space and historic structures;
- Someone who understands coastal resiliency issues and the importance of the blue economy; and
- A person with unquestionable ethics and integrity and committed to the standards for municipal management professionals specified by the International City Management Association (ICMA)

## QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The Town seeks applicants who possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in public administration, government or a related field and five to seven years of municipal management experience. A Master's degree is preferred. Candidates with an equivalent combination of education, training, certification and related experience are encouraged to apply.

**Annual salary: \$155K+/- DOQ.** The successful candidate will receive an attractive compensation package including health and retirement plans, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Fairhaven values diversity and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from candidates from diverse backgrounds and from underrepresented groups.

## How to apply:

Please submit your cover letter and resume in PDF format to the Collins Center recruitment email [www.Recruitment.umb@gmail.com](mailto:www.Recruitment.umb@gmail.com). Please put your **LAST NAME and FAIRHAVEN** in the subject line. Review of resumes begins September 23, 2021.