

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor Commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING -- Tuesday, January 10, 2023 -- 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83778291921>

Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 8377 829 1921

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Glen Traverse, Bob Richards, Chadd Viger, Jay Brown, Rich Greenough

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Peg TV, Patrick Frazier, Rod Holzworth, Town Treasurer Tracy Richards, Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District (PMNRCD) Hilary Solomon, Neil Robinson

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Brown **made a motion** to add "Labor Negotiations, 1 VSA ¶ 313 (a)(3)" to Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough. CORRECTION. Pg. 3. NEW BUSINESS, ¶ 3, line 3, remove the word "not". The motion carried as corrected.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the December 27, 2022 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough. CORRECTION. Pg. 2, 4th bullet, line 1, "\$250,000". Pg. 3, Board Roundtable, line 1, "\$260,000". The motion carried as corrected with Mr. Brown and Mr. Richards abstaining (they were absent at that meeting)

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the January 3, 2023 Special meeting; seconded by Mr. Viger. CORRECTION. Pg. 2, ¶ 7, line 2. "Reid Hampton owns". The motion carried as corrected.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Patrick Frazier requests care be taken to remove all snow/ice at the bus stop; accumulation causes hazard for those waiting for the bus.

Mr. Patrick Frazier requests the Board consider Mr. Richard Frazier for Town Report dedication. He noted his father's many years of service to the Town. He inquired what is the criteria for choosing the dedication; is there a list of criteria.

Mr. Robinson also inquired re: criteria in selecting Town Report dedication. Chairman Richards noted there is no set criteria; the Board accepts suggestions and decides from there.

Department Head Reports: Treasurer Tracy Richards reported she has been working to determine what are the Treasurers obligations. She reported reinvesting some accounts to take advantage of favorable

interest rates before the Feds make rate changes. Mr. Viger stated he appreciates the attention given to reap the best earnings.

Manager Joe Gunter Reported: * **Police** report is in members' packets that includes the revenues report

* There were 120 municipal violations

* 39 written warnings

* 16 fingerprints

* **Dept. of Public Works** replaced front hubs on the 17 year old 550 Ford truck

* The sewer line camera work is in progress

Town Manager Report and Communication:

* Working to finalize the budget

* Ryan Lawrence has been hired as Rec Director; he will be supervising baseball and summer program

* The Lights in the Park project is set to start mid April with end date, end of June

* The Park and Ride project end date is end of September

* Was in court today re: 10 - 12 Adams Street junk issues; the matter is put off for 3 months to see if any progress is made

OLD BUSINESS:

Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District (PMNRCD) Phosphorus Reduction Project:

Ms. Soloman reported she spoke with the original design consultant re: maintenance of the facility. There would need to be a vacuum truck cleanout periodically; the State is responsible for 15 years; that language can be changed; there may not be a decommissioning clause; it would be a good idea to discuss this with the State. At this time, the Board only needs to approve continuing to final design, not commit to the project; the District has the grant -- need Board consensus to use the funds. At Mr. Greenough's inquiry, it is a dry well; after solids are removed from stormwater, it filters into the ground and also in existing infrastructure to the river. Mr. Brown said he is against the project because -- cannot park cars over it; water will infiltrate into the Park; should be in another location, not the Park; if there were a huge storm, there would be water in basements; why Fair Haven. Ms. Solomon noted they have identified locations in almost every Town in the District, including Poultney. The goal is to maintain/improve the water quality in Lake Champlain that is an attraction for tourists and visitors to Vermont. Mr. Traverse said he appreciates the concern, but notes that what the Board would agree to is to continue to get engineers and consultants to determine answers to these questions. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve continuing with design studies for the phosphorous reduction project**; seconded by Mr. Viger. Chairman Richards noted that phosphorous removal will be done -- either passively like this project or mandated by the State. Mr. Greenough said there is need for more engineering to determine advantageous language and maintenance responsibility. The motion carried 4 – 1 with Mr. Brown dissenting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sidewalk Grant Update -- Draft Design: Dubois & King, Inc. sent the draft design for the downtown sidewalk upgrade. It is based on previous public hearings and Board suggestions. Members studied and discussed the handout of the draft design that replaces the sidewalk from Liberty Street almost to the grade school. Noted was the proposed green space "in the corner" in front of the brewery extending to

the crosswalk; parking spaces -- possible ways to gain some; lights replacing the trees (or plant different kind of trees) -- the memorials would remain but be reset; lights would be similar to the ones in the Park. Mr. Greenough asked what do business owners think of the project? Manager Gunter said, it depends on who you talk with -- some are very enthusiastic, others not.

Transfer Station Credit for the Rescue Squad: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** Transfer Station Credit as requested by the Rescue Squad; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed

Water/ Sewer Allocation Approval: Mr. Brown **made a motion to approve** water/sewer allocation of 1200 gallons per month as requested by David Camara; seconded by Mr. Traverse. Fees are paid; Mr. Camara is opening a cannabis dispensary on the corner, formerly Kinder Way. The motion carried. Chairman Richards signed the document.

Budget Review: Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget: It was noted that the Rescue Squad appropriation request this year is \$155,952, an increase of \$25,073; they will send a copy of their budget. The Town budget is increased 3.89% (\$92,000, half of which is salaries). Mr. Brown **made a motion to accept the fiscal year 2024 budget: Total Selectboard Budget General and Highway = \$2,471,081.11; Total: With Appropriations = \$2,827,495.11;** seconded by Mr. Viger. Mr. Greenough said he thinks we are shooting ourselves in the foot by staying so low. The motion carried unanimously.

Warning Language -- Recreation and Park Maintenance Reserve Fund: A special meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2023 to approve the Warning. Mr. Brown said he disagrees with the Rec and Park Maintenance Reserve Fund lump sum. It should be itemized. There are 4 Board positions up for election this year -- if there are new members, they might want different items. Mr. Brown wants to make sure the Park fence gets painted along with Park maintenance, a metal table in the Park, repair of playground fence, and dog park gate work. There was discussion re: the Library should be included in the Town budget and not be an article for vote. They do not report to the Select Board. Minor changes were made to some articles; Manager Gunter will make the changes for vote at the special meeting.

Around Town: Things Happening -- * On January 15th at 2:00 p.m. the Legion will host an Architectural Historian who will speak about the **Little Red House**. * The Castleton Legion will host an Elvis Tribute concert on January 28th. * The Itty Bitty Committee has said they will be decorating the gazebo for Valentine and St. Patrick days. * The Christmas decoration contest winner is unknown at this time.

Parking Lot: Mr. Greenough stated need to review the Capital Plan; need to get back on track with a 10 year equipment plan; can American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds be used to get back on track. It was noted that DPW Supt. Aaron Kerber is going to the High School. Mr. Greenough reminded that the Board agreed to buy a mower from Young's Farm Equipment; they are out of business and the mower was not ordered. Mr. Greenough noted that DPW struggles with maintenance; the Board has to keep working toward a plan for a new garage.

Board Roundtable: * Mr. Brown reported the red tables are still at the bus stop; should have been picked up. * Mr. Brown expressed frustration re: the elevator work is still not done. There is no reason why the inside work is not done. Manager Gunter explained, again, they are waiting for USDA funding to be released; that asking the same question repeatedly will not change the answer. He can get someone to address the Board on this matter. * Mr. Brown inquired, what is DPW doing these days,

there is no snow. Mr. Greenough said there is the sewer camera work going on, and they have been out cutting brush. * Mr. Brown requests the Board stipend be paid the first February pay period.

Mr. Viger said that Governor Scott reported of \$3,000,000 will be coming to Vermont for a Rural Assist Program. Grants will be available to find and help set up infrastructure improvement projects. Chairman Richards commented that Representative Canfield should be contacted to remain aware and on top of this program

Chairman Richards noted that Phil Adams should request Planning Commission stipends

* Cedar Grove Cemetery was hit hard with the ice/wind Christmas storm; trees down, etc.

* Mr. Richards was away during the Christmas storm and was disturbed that there is no Emergency Management plan for staffing Fair Haven Grade School, (the #1 emergency shelter location), in the event of prolonged loss of power for warmth, or orientation once people get there. The 2nd location is the high school. He understood that Fair Haven Fitness opened its doors if necessary. There is need to develop protocol, and cooperation with the school(s). Mr. Traverse commented that he understood that the Emergency Management Coordinator has a plan, can make calls and gain control of such emergency situation(s).

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook status** is, \$1,240,638.74.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$33,466,21;** seconded by Mr. Viger and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$90,403.59** seconded by Mr. Viger and passed

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Police Cruiser Warrant, \$25,000** seconded by Mr. Viger and passed

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **moved the Board and Town Manager Gunter, into executive session** at 9:18 pm to discuss Labor Negotiations 1 VSA ¶ 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:04 p.m.

Mr. Brown **moved to approve** the labor contract between the Town of Fair Haven and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 428; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously

Mr. Brown moved to **adjourn;** seconded by Mr. Viger. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk