

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT -- January 26, 2021 -- 7:00 P.M. -- REGULAR Meeting
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969578971>
Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 899 6957 8971

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Bob Richards, Jeff Sheldon (on phone), Jay Brown, Carol Egan, Glen Traverse

Others Present: Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent Aaron Kerber, William Chmielewski, Peg TV, Rod Holzworth, II. (on phone), Town Clerk Susanne Dechame

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

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed. It was noted that Mr. Brown and Mr. Sheldon did not attend that meeting.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Holzworth gave the phone number of a welder that might be able to repair the trailer to Manager Gunter.

Department Head Reports: (DPW) Superintendent Aaron Kerber reported:

- * His Dept. is out early tonight because of the unpredicted freezing rain
- * Have been able to stay ahead of the small storms that cost the same amount in sand and salt as the big storms
- * Have cut some intruding brush on Green Road
- * Managed to keep the equipment in good repair
- * Doing research on finding a trailer; earliest delivery for most is June; found one in Hoosick Falls -- 20,000 lb. capacity for \$12,000; welding the repair is an option that I do not recommend; the trailer needs other work; has six axles, 12 wheels; needs chains; there is \$70,000 in the equipment fund
- * The Water Treatment Plant is working well; have been doing small jobs there; the south tank monitoring can be read accurately
- * The Adams Street sewer pump station continues with control issues that require constant monitoring
- * Have done minor adjustment to the sewer plant upgrade request for proposal (RFP)
- * Flushed a malfunctioning catch basin on Furnace Street

- * The Sewer Plant is working well
- * Sewer lines are flushed annually

Town Manager Joe Gunter reports:

- * Police Dept. is now going door to door re: junk ordinance
- * The 30 day waiver at the Airport Road Mobil Home Park is up; will now be fined
- * The Adams Street resident did not respond, and is now in default for the junk tickets
- * Eli Charlton starts tomorrow as apprentice at the sewer plant
- * Because of wetland consideration, was in touch with the Army Corp of Engineers re: salt shed at Air Park.; they are not helpful; require a complete buildout spec including Town garage plan. The State has been cooperative. After discussion, it is the Board's consensus that since there is no plan for a garage at this time, to focus on permitting only the salt shed.
- * Voting for the Pet Mayor will not take place at the Legion; Rec Director will take ballots to individual classrooms for student voting
- * Linda Barker would like to take on a new project and suggests a **dog park**. There followed discussion re: who would do clean up; maintenance; the Air Park is a large convenient place to walk dogs, as well as folks walk in cemeteries. It is suggested to contact West Rutland, Woof Pack, and the hospital for ideas and information on managing a dog park before going ahead
- * The Town Attorney wants a written statement of conditions (insurance, taxes) with the person who donated the Maple Street property
- * Met with the Parade Committee that wants to have a Covid-19 acceptable small event; would like to have a Fair Haven Friday Wine Tasting when acceptable. Met with Fred Capron who suggests starting concerts later in the summer. Discussion was that concerts have been missed by all including Town businesses; maybe could stage concerts starting late August and continue as long as weather permits; may have lights in the park by then; would like to do at least six
- * Jim Heller is the Municipal Manager re: park lights and has negotiated the cost down below budget
- * The 12 South Main Street property is secured and will be put up for sale
- * Sewer abatement will be on the next agenda
- * Manager review is in members' packets
- * Draft of voter's guide in members' packets for review and approval at the next meeting

OLD BUSINESS

Pump Station Upgrade -- Financing Discussion: Manager Gunter reported, the Board previously approved using \$60,000 from reserve for upgrade to the failing Adams and Academy Streets sewer pump(s) project. However, to get both projects done is more like \$100,000. Community Bank will do a line of credit for \$45,000, five years, at 2.5% to cover the shortfall. There followed discussion on how to proceed; all agree the work needs to be done; it's again spending a large amount of money; is it possible to do part of the work (not recommended). Mr. Brown **made a motion to use the \$60,000 from the sewer sinking fund; and authorize Town Manager Gunter to sign a line of credit with Community Bank for \$45,000 at 2.5% for five years** to be used for

upgrade to the Adams and Academy Streets sewer pump stations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Final Water Allocation Permit -- Brewery: Mr. Brown made a motion to grant the water allocation as requested by Jon Meigs for the Main Street Brewery; seconded by Mr. Traverse. The final allocation is for 1504 gallons daily flow; the \$29.00 fee is paid. The motion carried unanimously.

Ballots for March Election: Towns are allowed to mail ballots to all registered voters; the State would reimburse postage; the check list is 1900; Town Clerk Susanne Dechame reports low vote counts in the past; surrounding Towns are not mailing to all registered voters. It is the consensus of the Board to vote as usual, at the Legion building, and mail ballots to anyone requesting one.

Interim Financing for Wastewater Plant Construction: The Town voted to upgrade the sewer treatment plant. USDA requires towns to receive interim finance (line of credit) before the USDA Bond note is approved. Mr. Traverse made a motion to authorize Manager Gunter to sign the preliminary term sheet for the interim financing of \$3.72 million from Community Bank at 2% interest. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.

Airport Land Lease -- Discussion: Manager Gunter inquired, does the Board have any interest in leasing five (5) acres for a solar project at the Airport. Discussion was: Mr. Traverse stated he is always interested in generating revenue -- the Air Park is a big area with room for such a project; suggest offering acreage at the Transfer Station. Manager Gunter will contact the company and send photos of that area for consideration.

Certificate of Highway Miles -- Review and Sign: Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve and sign the Certificate of Highway Miles as presented; seconded by Mr. Brown. This is done annually; there is no change; there are 36.405 miles. The motion carried unanimously.

Parking Lot: Mr. Brown commented that sand in the Alley is doing a good job, no buildup of ice. Manager Gunter reported Mr. Phil Adams and Mr. David Eighmey will meet with other Towns to share ideas for Zoning Regulations updates

Board Roundtable: Mr. Brown reminds Manager Gunter to contact the welder and get an estimate for repair of the trailer; if it's a reasonable estimate, can consider options. * The Itty Bitty Committee has decorated the gazebo in the park for Valentine's Day, and there are plans for doing St. Patrick's Day also

Mr. Traverse stated he was contacted by someone who reported the trash containers at the cemetery were over full.

Mr. Sheldon stated Mr. Kerber and the DPW crew are doing a good job.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is \$186,070.99

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$27,194.95**; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$78,586.58**; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Brown moved to **adjourn** at 8:08 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley



Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk