

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

**Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85646551688>

**Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 8564 655 1688**

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

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

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Peg TV, John Steighman, Rod Holzworth, II, Police Chief William Humphries

**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:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Viger **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the January 24, 2023 meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** Mr. Holzworth reported talking with a customer who is a steel building contractor. The customer stated that he had recently built a 120' x 60' steel building locally for \$750,000, that includes cement work -- can not come near the \$5 million estimates the Town was told. Mr. Holzworth gave Town Manager Gunter a business card from the contractor noting any such building project would go through the bid process.

The Board heard from Mr. John Seighman who reported the Rescue Squad is in the process of pricing and securing loan approval for an ambulance -- finding costs are up. They have experienced an increase in calls; number of transfers is increased; receipt of reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid is very slow/outstanding; experiencing many repairs to the old ambulance; now have a second full time person; only 3 or 4 shifts have been missed, unusually low number; making a public presence by attending events with the ambulance. Making repairs to the roof a little at a time; there are major building repairs to be done. The new ambulance will need high cost equipment. Mr. Traverse commented that ambulance service is a great thing and that we need it, but there comes a point when the Town cannot afford this amount of increase. Is there a plan B in the event the \$155,000 requested appropriation is voted down. Chairman Richards noted that for many years, the requested appropriation stayed very low, and now with cost increases and necessary upgrades, there is need for large amounts. Mr. Holzworth inquired if they are eligible for unallotted ARPA funds; Mr. Viger asks how the Board can help to expedite receiving outstanding Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement. Mr. Seighman said they have applied for two grants, waiting for results. Chairman Richards asks that they have a representative at Town Meeting and be prepared to answer questions.

**Department Head Reports:** **Police Chief Humphries** reported:

\* It has been a light two weeks

- \* 3 arrests
- \* 3 car crashes
- \* The Chief reported a high increase of speeders
- \* Wrote 222 traffic tickets
- \* The Dept. does an average of 30 fingerprints per month
- \* The new vehicle is received, not ready to use

**Manager Gunter** reported:

- \* **DPW** also has experienced a calm two weeks
- \* Are making any necessary repairs to equipment
- \* Cleaning up sidewalk plowing
- \* Finishing cleanup work

- \* **Municipal Office** is on schedule for Town Meeting; budget and warning are done
- \* Two reports of frozen water meters
- \* The two storms caused no negative operation impacts
- \* Have talked with Lyle re: funding for replacing the Adams Street Bridge; the estimated cost is now \$2 million; will need two funding sources
- \* The elevator is going in; are re-routing traffic through the Police Dept. Expecting 4 weeks to completion

Chairman Richards reported receiving a couple complaints re: sidewalks being plowed and then the snow falls back into the walking area

**OLD BUSINESS** -- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Transfer Station Credit Application:** Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the Transfer Station credit as requested by Avalanche Truck Repair located in the Camara building; seconded by Mr. Viger. Manager Gunter reported owner Dan Reid provided references; taxes are paid. The motion carried.

**Highway Safety Grant:** Police Chief Humphries reported the Board voted a temporary approval last October; this is the actual grant; no changes were made since the October approval. He noted the grant includes an educational component. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the Highway Safety Grant; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously. Chairman Richards signed the document and asked that the Dept. stay as close to Town as possible.

**Policy Review -- Sidewalk Policy:** Manager Gunter noted the Board has been reviewing existing policies for approval as time permits. Members commented on the vague, confusing language in ¶ 2, addressing snow removal. Discussion included how to address downtown business district sidewalk snow removal; responsibility of businesses or building owners. Mr. Viger said he would like to research the Walk to School Program explained by then DPW Supt Kerber from Poultney and bring that program to Fair Haven -- it would tie into sidewalk repair. There was discussion re: traffic issues corner of Main and Liberty Streets; there is no curbing on Liberty Street and cars hug the North side of the Street impacting the Main Street sidewalk. Mrs. Stanley suggested making Liberty Street, one

way East, alleviating parking on the north side of the street. Most delivery trucks enter Liberty Street from Main going East, knowing that there is a problem driving out onto Main Street. It was noted business owners would have to be contacted for their input.

**Around Town:** On February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a **Meet the Candidates** event at the Library. **Taxes are due** February 10th

**Parking Lot:** Chairman Richards reported all changes are made to the Zoning regulations; will meet with Ed Bove of Rutland Regional on February 15th to review and finalize the document; the next step is to present to this Board. Town Plan to follow. Mr. Traverse inquired is there need to “tweak” the Zoning regulations to help working toward Downtown Designation. May instead need a Design Review Board to preserve our history.

Mr. Brown arrived at 8:00

**Board Roundtable:** Mr. Greenough inquired do we have funds to do sidewalk repairs where needed. Manager Gunter said there is no budget money, but have Streets and Sidewalks funds.

Mr. Viger inquired is there a 5 – 10 year sidewalk plan in place -- could review it soon and make updates. Manager Gunter will make copies for members. There was discussion re: use of slate as on Pelky Ave; Mr. Greenough commented it would not hold up to plowing; suggested using slate for sidewalk at the Veterans’ Memorial area.

**Review of Financial Reports:** The **checkbook status** is, \$1,247,099.72.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$34,340.77**; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$34,350.47** seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Traverse **moved the Board and Town Manager Gunter, into executive session** at 8:10 pm to discuss Personnel 1 VSA ¶ 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Viger and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:44

Mr. Brown moved to adjourn at 8:45 seconded by Mr. Viger. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

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Glen Traverse, Board Clerk