

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – February 08, 2022 -- 6:00 P.M. -- REGULAR Meeting
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81204296261>
Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 857 9588 9318

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Jeff Sheldon, Rod Holzworth, Glen Traverse, Chris Cole arrived at 8:30pm

Others Present: Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Jim Britt, PEG TV, Health Officer John Lulek, Rich Greenough, Judy Sheldon, Lorraine Brown, Ceil Hunt, Walter Spur

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Jeff Sheldon called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

Executive session for Personnel

Mr. Traverse **Motion to enter executive session under 1VSA 313(a)(3) with the Town Accountant.** Seconded by Mr Holzworth. The Board entered executive session at 7:03pm

Mr. Holzworth **motioned to exit executive session** at 7:15pm. Seconded by Mr. Traverse. Motion passed. The board directed the town manager to provide what was needed to allow Jenny Bertrum to retire.

Mr. Traverse **motioned to approve the February 8th minutes.** Seconded by Mr. Holzworth. Motion Passed

Five Minutes for Public Comment:

Mr. Walter Spur from the historical society discussed the importance of maintaining the park fence. He wanted some answers of why funds are not set aside to maintain the fence.

Ms. Lorraine Brown felt that children and adults sitting on the fence pose a liability problem for the town. She also remarked that the park is the town's greatest asset.

Ms. Judy Sheldon pointed out that a local painter had held space in his schedule for the job to paint the fence. However, after hearing the town was not funding the project, he is no longer holding that time for the project. She feels it will be hard to get a professional painter to do the job on short notice and it may need to be done next year.

Mr. Traverse did not want to shoot from the hip when talking about funding such project but proposed alternative funding streams to pay for such projects.

Department Head Reports:

The manager reported that:

- The Police Department arrested a 2 DUIs, 1 Wanted Person and 1 Driving license suspend/Wanted Person
- Sunday at 7:00am Police responded to a one car accident on Main Street. The car struck a brush, signage and curbing in front of the library. The driver fled the scene. A few hours later police located the vehicle and impounded it. The driver was located a short time later. Arrest pending for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident.
- Sgt. Dale Kerber received a 2021 Certificate of appreciation from the VT chapter of M.A.D.D for his outstanding work in DUI enforcement. Sgt. Kerber has a passion for making roadways safer and always goes above and beyond to reduce crashes, impaired driving and aggressive driving in our community.
- Ptl. Rod Breese (Part Time Officer) began his fourth year with the Police Dept.
- Traffic enforcement included 5 Parking tickets, 61 Traffic Tickets, and 13 Written warnings
- The town Received payment of \$30,000 for the Homeland security grant. This reimbursed the town for equipment like radios and the fingerprint machine.
- And the police chief wanted us to know that the carpet in the PD is in need of replacement. The current carpet was installed in 2002 and if really started to come apart.

For Public Works the manager reported out that:

- We continue to see smaller snow and freeze/thaw events that require attention. To date we have had 21 events, 46 total inches of snow and used 653 tons of salt. The crew has been out cold patching on some of the nicer days. Over the next week we will be removing the playground equipment in preparation for the new equipment. We will be assisting the wastewater dept. with setting the generator for Adams St. pump station.
- We have seen a few more water meters that have frozen over the last few weeks. Last week the chlorine analyzer failed early Monday morning, we were able to get the analyzer back running Tuesday afternoon, with consultation from two different technicians it was determined that the analyzer was on its last leg. We have received prices on a new analyzer we will need to make a purchase of a new analyzer if this one continues to fail.

And finally, the manager reported that

- We have received quotes for this year's paving. Unfortunately, the cost to do all of the scheduled paving is more than we have budgeted. Aaron is working with Pike to narrow the scope of work to fit our budget;
- We are demoing the playground this week;
- We have scheduled nemrc training with Jenny on the 10 of march;
- The manager attended the transportation committee meeting Thursday night. The state intends to do a \$4.2M project on 22a from Fair Haven to Orwell;
- We meet with Leahy's office Friday to talk about a congressional appropriation for the rail/warehouse project. Vtrans is sending a rep as is RRPC, VT Ag;

- Pet mayor has picked up steam. We have 10 candidates running. WCAX is covering the story and will be in town. The Rec Director is organizing a meet the Candidates Event for Saturday at 11am at the gazebo. We have invited the selectboard candidates too.

Trash Hauling contract discussion was moved up to accommodate the representative from Hubbard Brothers who was in the audience.

Mr. Sheldon asked the manager if there was a recommendation. Mr. Gunter introduced the topic and provided a summary of the Proposals. He noted that the Hubbard Brothers proposal lacked information and did not address disposal of 4 trash items. This made it difficult to compare the two proposals. He added that the transfer station manager Bud Bowen thought Casella was doing a good job and would like to stick with them.

The board thought it best to gather additional information and bring the contract discussion to the next meeting. Mr. Traverse **motioned to table the contract decision until the next meeting**, Mr. Holzworth seconded. Passed

OLD BUSINESS:

Policy Review Capital Improvement: The board discussed the previous edits. Mr. Traverse motioned to approve the capital Program and Budget Policy Mr. Holzworth seconded. Passed

Policy Review Fair Haven Funds Policy: Members reviewed the previous edits to the Policy. Mr. Holzworth said the requested edits to change the word *maximum* be changed to *target*. The manager admitted he missed the requested edits but will make the changes for the final document. Additional edits included adding 2 more columns labeled *current* and *earmarked* to show how much money is in each account and how much of that money is earmarked for projects. Mr. Traverse **motioned to approve the Fair Haven Funds Policy with the proposed edits**. Seconded by Mr. Holzworth. Passed

Salt Shed Grant: The tarp system the town has been researching for the salt shed is considerably less expensive than what the State requirements are for an engineered building, about \$50,000 purchased and installed. Quotes for the dirt work came back bringing the project closer to \$110,000 total. The manager will reach out to the State to discuss funding and bring more information to the board at the next meeting.

Munger Road Discussion: Mr. Traverse introduced the topic by relaying some history of the road. The board discussed whether the road was a trail or a class 4 road and the legality of gating the road/trail. Mr. Traverse motioned the continuance of Munger Rd. As a class 4 road and requested the manager to update the State maps to reflect Munger as a class 4 road. Seconded by Mr. Holzworth. Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Inclusion Statement:

Mr. traverse introduced a draft inclusion statement. He and the Economic Development Committee feel it is important to let everyone know the town of Fair Haven welcomes all people. Mr. Traverse motions to approve the Inclusion statement as written, Mr. Holzworth seconded for discussion. Mr. Holzworth requested that language should be included in the document referencing the American Constitution which is ultimately where all of our rights and freedoms originate.

After discussion of the language Mr. Sheldon called a vote, Motion passed 3-1, Mr. Holzworth dissenting.

Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement:

Mr. Gunter introduced the topic saying that this agreement is a tool that allows Fair Haven to aid, and receive aid from other towns during an emergency. It also makes it easier to receive funds from FEMA to reimburse the town should it provide aid to others and makes it easier to be reimbursed by other towns if Fair haven provides aid. This is the same document the board signed last year.

Mr. Sheldon noted that the last board went over this document meticulously. Mr. Cole **motions to approve the mutual aid agreement and allow the Chair to sign on behalf of the board**, seconded by Mr. Traverse. Passed

Parking Lot:

Mr. Traverse noted that the Reserve fund policy, Munger Rd, the Capital improvement policy and the inclusion policy have all been completed and will be removed from the parking lot

Board Roundtable:

Mr. Cole wished to recognize Mr. Sheldon's 14 years of service to the town of Fair Haven and Mr. holzworth's service as selectman and town manager to the town as well as Ms. Egan serving for two years on the board.

Mr. traverse said it has been a pleasure working with this board

Mr. Sheldon wished to thank the people of Fair Haven for giving him the opportunity to serve his community.

Review of Financial Reports:

Checkbook Status: \$5,399,979.89

Mr. Holzworth **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$31,715.17**; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Mr. Holzworth **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$3,974,477.39**; seconded by Mr. Traverse. Included are payments for the waste water treatment facility upgrade bridge loan and construction for that project. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Cole **made a motion to enter into executive session** at 9:14 p.m. with Town Manager Gunter to discuss town manager contract, 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

The board came out of executive session at 9:41p.m.

Mr. Traverse motioned to amend *section 4: Termination Without Cause* of the town manager's contract. Seconded by Mr. Holzworth passed

Mr. Holzworth said he wished the meeting would never end, but, with a tear in his eye, he reluctantly **motioned to adjourn**, this was seconded by Mr. Traverse and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Joseph Gunter

Board Clerk