

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – March 9, 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: Glen Traverse Chris Cole, Jeff Sheldon, Rod Holzworth, II, Carol Egan

Others Present: Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, William Chmielewski, Peg TV, Police Chief Humphries (on phone), Roy Eckler, Linda Barker, Ray Barker, Mayor Murphee,

Call to Order: Town Manager Joe Gunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Manager Gunter congratulated Ms. Carol Egan recently re-elected to the Select Board; also congratulations to Chris Cole and Rod Holzworth, II for their election to the Select Board.

Select Board Reorganization: Mr. Holzworth nominated Chris Cole for **Chairman of the Board**; seconded by Mr. Traverse and carried. From there, Mr. Cole led the meeting.

Mr. Traverse nominated Jeff Sheldon for **Clerk of the Board**; seconded by Ms. Egan and carried.

Mayor Swearing In: Manager Gunter introduced and congratulated **Pet Mayor Murfee** who was elected to a second term. Asst. Town Clerk Dani Roberts performed the Swearing In ceremony and administered Mayor Murfee's Oath of Office

Set Date and Time for Meetings: Ms. Egan suggested changing the time of meetings to late afternoon. This would be inconvenient for some members' work schedules. Mr. Traverse made a **motion to schedule Select Board meetings every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.** and discuss change of time at a later date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed.

Readopt Board Rules and Procedures: A copy of the document is in members' packets. Mr. Sheldon made a **motion to adopt the Select Board Rules and Procedures** as presented; seconded by Mr. Traverse and carried unanimously. Members signed the document.

Designate the Newspaper of Record: Mr. Traverse made a **motion to designate the Free Press Newspaper of Record** as in the past; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Sheldon **moved to add** "Review and Approve Governor's Safety Grant" to New Business; and "Mediation of Litigation" to Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Egan moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Linda Barker discussed the dog park project and provided the board with an update. She stated that there was an online poll to choose the name of the proposed dog park. The park name with the most votes was Fur Haven Dog Park. Ms. Barker requested that the Dog Park be named Fur Haven Dog Park.

Glen Traverse motioned to name the proposed Dog Park Fur Haven Dog Park, Seconded by Jeff Sheldon. passed unanimously

Department Head Reports: Police Chief Humphries reported:

- * Chief Humphries welcomed new members to the Select Board
- * Issued numerous Junk violations to the Green Mountain Mobile Manor owner and tenants.
- * Renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Child First Advocacy Center, Rutland Unit for Special Investigations. This MOU is understanding that all Sex and Child cases will be run through the Center/Investigative Unit. The Unit has specialized investigators for these types of crimes.

Town Manager Joe Gunter reported:

- * Dept. of Public Works prepared a list of on-going projects (in members' packets)
- * Are switching from Winter into Spring projects; cutting brush and filling potholes
- * The big green truck is back from repair; is up and running
- * The Water Dept. is running really well; expect to paint the North tank
- * Will be installing the remaining meters; have about 80 left to do; had to shut down for Covid
- * There is a lot going on at the Sewer Dept.; had the pump station(s) pre-meeting; bid opening is scheduled for end of March; the Adams Street work is started right now
- * The Firehouse beam work is scheduled
- * The Park and Ride pre-meeting was held; a public hearing is scheduled for April 9th
- * Received a request for the old playground equipment; the insurance Co. states it is too much of a liability; to make sure it goes to the scrap yard
- * Baseball sign-up is going on
- * A Company has approached the Town stating that Fair Haven is a highly desirable location for an Electric Vehicle charging station; they would pay the Town for space; more info to come
- * Health Officer Lulek received a complaint about rats at the property, corner of Fourth and Mechanic Streets
- * Applying for a "no cash match" grant from AARP
- * The Airport Road Mobil Home Park is up for delinquent tax sale; their 30 day extension is up on April 12th
- * The Chamber of Commerce has inquired if the Town is planning to go ahead with Spring Fling. This will be on the next agenda for discussion including decision on the Memorial Day Parade
- * Have sent a letter to Mr. Beebe, longstanding Transfer Station customer, stating that he has 30 days to remit his \$1000+ outstanding bill. The 30 days are up March 23rd
- * Mr. Barker stated when \$5000 is raised for the Dog Park, a \$5000 matching donation has been promised

OLD BUSINESS

Water/Sewer Abatement Policy Review: A draft of edits was in members' packets. Manager Gunter stated the Board is not required to offer abatements; there is a cost to abatements. Discussion included that in the past, abatement was allowed in absence of proof. Mr. Holzworth feels there needs to be very clear requirement of proof; what is the homeowners responsibility for cost of adding an outside meter; are there consequences for abuse. Several minor edits were suggested and/or made to the verbiage. The process is for Board approval, publicize in newspaper; after 30 days without grievance, it is approved. Manager Gunter stated he will bring the entire ordinance, with these edits to the next meeting for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Select Board Appointments: Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint Jim Heller** as Emergency Management Coordinator; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint Claire Stanley and Robert Richards** as Fence Viewers (leaving one vacant seat); seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the Fire Dept. Slate of Officers** as follows: Jim Heller, Chief; Tom Fucile, Asst. Chief; Don Proctor, Asst. Chief. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to appoint Don Proctor as First Constable**; seconded by Mr. Holzworth. It was noted that Mr. Galvin was elected First Constable and declined the position; he will serve as Second Constable. The motion carried unanimously. A list of outstanding appointments will be at the next meeting and will be advertised.

Review and Approve the Governor's Highway Safety Grant: Chief Humphries reported there was temporary approval of the Grant that was sidelined because of COVID-19. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the Governor's Highway Safety Grant running through September 31st; seconded by Mr. Holzworth. The Police Dept. is required to supply a monthly payroll; have started to receive payment, received November payment. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Cole signed the document.

Parking Lot: There has been little movement to these items. The **Zoning Board** made a decision not to meet during the Covid-19 pandemic. Started work on the **Downtown Designation**; have reached out to Attorney Chris Howe. Chairman Cole said, if members have questions, he will meet with Manager Gunter.

Board Roundtable: * Ms. Egan received a Thank You letter from Judy Gevry thanking the Town for recognizing her mother (Toddy Worthen) in the Town Report. * Ms. Egan reviewed Town Reports from other Towns and feels Fair Haven's is stale and could be "spruced up".

Mr. Sheldon inquired re: adding a line to the Capital Budget sheet stating what is the amount required to meet the budgeted items.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is \$259,577.94

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$28,715.73**; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$188,379.57**; seconded by Mr. Holzworth. This amount includes a quarterly payments and truck purchase payment. The motion carried.

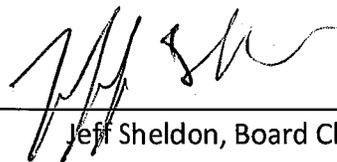
Mr. Traverse moved the Board into **executive session** at 7:55 p.m. to discuss Mediation of Litigation -- 1 VSA 313(a)(1) seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The board came out of executive session at 8:21

Mr. Holzworth motioned to **adjourn**; seconded by Mr. Traverse; adjourned at 8:22

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley



Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk