

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners  
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – April 6, 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, Lorraine Brown, Judy Sheldon, Judi Sutherland, Cindy Pritchard, Deborah Fallon, Linda Barker, Melissa Knapp; Ceil Hunt and Brian Breslend (on phone)

**Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Cole called **Public Hearing** to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Manager Gunter stated that grants were awarded for **lights in the park** and improvement to the **South Park Place Park and Ride**. The Revitalization Committee did a study in 2018-19 to determine what kind of development was desired for South Park Place and to include the downtown area as well. A similar study was done in 1980 flagging the same problems with no results. There were slides showing basic proposals that include 16 strategically placed lights in the park and downtown, and improved traffic flow in South Park Place. Today's hearing is to gather input of ideas and concerns from the community. Judi Sutherland feels this project has taken a long time. She noted the Itty Bitty Committee has done a lot of research and made contacts re: commercial lighting for the Park -- cannot use solar except in the downtown; it would be LED lights. Ceil Hunt stated the Concert Committee is firmly in support of lights in the Park citing concern for safety of folks exiting concerts after dark; lights would increase security and dissuade vandalism. At Mr. Holzworth inquiry, it is expected that vintage lights would be used, different but matching in the downtown. Mr. Sheldon suggests ordering extras for replacement in the event of damage (vandalism); the consensus is to, "let's do it right". They also have identified concerns for the Park and Ride such as no direction signage or stop signs; safety issues; bumpout impact on snowplowing; aesthetics. Manager Gunter reported it is the very beginning of the grant process. Dubois & King has done their survey; are in the process of writing the report. The project is 2 – 3 years out. Mr. Traverse inquired, are there any plans for temporary lighting until the project is done? Ms. Hunt stated, at present, the Concert Committee uses vehicle lights for the cleanup.

The Public Hearing **adjourned** at 6:50 p.m.

Chairman Chris Cole called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Mr. Sheldon moved to add *Appointment: Bonnie Rosati, SWAT; and Attorney/Client to Executive Session;* seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

**Appointment: Thom Bruso – American Flags:** A letter was received from Mr. Bruso, representing Eureka Lodge Masons, requesting permission to put up an attractive board in the Park -- near the speakers, showing on small brass plates, the names of people donating flags to be placed on utility poles. It would be displayed from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day, then removed. Mr. Traverse suggests to consider placement in the Memorial Park or by the canon. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to move forward with plans for a display board at a site to be determined;** seconded by Mr. Holzworth. The plan will be submitted to the Planning Commission. The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Traverse moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting; seconded by Ms. Egan. CORRECTION. Pg. 3, ¶ 3, The **Red Shoes** event was sponsored by the Rescue Squad, not the Legion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** Melissa Knapp inquired if an official letter has been sent to the 28 South Main Street property. The garbage has not been removed and is blowing across the street to neighboring properties. Manager Gunter replied they have been working on cleanup and have removed some garbage. He will contact the Health Officer to check it out. The Select Board does not send letters in these cases; it is handled by Town Manager or Police.

**Department Head Reports: Manager Gunter reported:**

- \* Taking advantage of good weather, grading and sweeping; planning to finish sweeping during rain to minimize dust
- \* Preparing winter equipment to be put away
- \* Congratulations to Mike LaDuke who has been promoted to Water Dept. Chief Operating Officer
- \* Received bids for the very complex pump station project. Are reviewing the three bids to make sure they meet RFP specifications
- \* There have been site visits to the Wastewater Treatment Plant; will have a pre-construction meeting with engineers Aldrich & Elliott and Naylor & Breen contractors
- \* Working to determine exact location and status of sewer blockage at corner of West and Washington Streets
- \* Police Chief Humphries reports that the two juveniles that vandalized the playground trailer have been apprehended and parents contacted
- \* The same two were caught for smashing decorative bunnies in the Park gazebo
- \* There was a case of welfare fraud -- investigating
- \* Continue Main Street foot patrols
- \* Junk cars were removed from the Green Mountain Mobile Manor; also a junk trailer
- \* There is a lien on the 10 – 12 Adams Street property; that problem is getting worse
- \* Continue work on the Homeland Security grant; purchased a fingerprinting machine
- \* Manager Gunter received a letter from Lewis Lane residents inquiring what needs to be done to upgrade the road to code so the Town can do the maintenance

- \* Have awarded \$50,000 in grants to Town businesses so far; the Development Committed is working to get folks interested to apply -- looking to have home businesses in the program
- \* The Firehouse beam work is moving along -- the electric work to be done Thursday
- \* In the 30 day comment period for the proposed salt shed at the Air Park
- \* The Glen Brook Properties tax sale has been passed on to legal
- \* The junk issue(s) at corner of Mechanic and Fourth Street is going to tax sale in April
- \* Members discussed that the Lewis Lane residents need to get the road up to code before the Board can discuss a decision for maintenance
- \* Please keep the Board posted on the sewer pipe issue

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Dog Park Location -- Discussion:** Information in members' packets. There were visuals showing two sites to be considered. At the Air Park, if the dog park is turned east/west, it can be outside the wetland -- cannot be in wetland since there are other suitable locations for it. A Town garage can be located in the wetland as there is no other suitable site for it; Munger Road can be used as entrance to the dog park and to access the runway from the north. Ms. Egan heard from someone that expressed concern re: the condition of Airport Road and could it handle the extra traffic. The alternative site discussed is located on Academy Street at the former T-ball park, next to the Eagle's building. Ms. Fallon noted there is a lot of support for a dog park and locating it in Town is more convenient. Discussion included that neighbors need to be involved for input before going ahead; are on site bathroom and water facilities necessary; a \$10,000 AARP grant is pending; it needs to be located in the right place and to do it right. Ms. Egan stated she prefers the Academy Street location; Mr. Holzworth prefers the Academy Street location as it is more accessible. He said he does not want it at the Air Park as he visualizes future Town use for that location and not have to work around a dog park. Also, there is an expense to improve Munger Road; and not much cost to prepare the Academy St. location. There are not usually many dogs at once using the park; the noise impact to neighbors would not be worse than someone moving in owning dogs. It is suggested to warn a public hearing for 6:30 at the next Select Board meeting. Manager Gunter will communicate with Academy St. location neighbors.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Municipal Bid or April 12 Tax Sale -- 0 Airport Road:** Mr. Traverse **made a motion to authorize Manager Gunter** to submit a low bid of \$1698.47 for the tax sale of the 0 Airport Road property; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed unanimously.

**Highway Financial Plan Approval:** Mr. Traverse **moved to approve** the Highway Financial Plan; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

**Road and Bridge Standards:** Mr. Traverse **moved to sign** the 2021 Road and Bridge Standards; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously. Members signed the two documents.

**Liquor Licenses:** Mr. Travers moved to approve a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor License to Ieremias Family Enterprises, Ltd, DBA Fair Haven Inn; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

**SWAK Representative -- Bonnie Rosati:** Mr. Sheldon moved to appoint Bonnie Rosati to a one year term as Representative to SWAK; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

**RRPC Representative -- Bob Richards:** Mr. Traverse moved to appoint Bob Richards as Representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

**RRPC Alternate Representative -- Roseann Van Lew:** Mr. Traverse moved to appoint Roseann Van Lew as Alternate Representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

**Rutland Transportation Council:** Vacant

**Energy Committee:** Mr. Traverse moved to appoint Neil Robinson, Chris Stanton and Bob Richards, each to one year terms, to the Energy Committee; seconded by Mr. Sheldon. Mr. Robinson has requested from Mr. Cole some direction moving forward for this committee. The motion carried.

**Parking Lot:** Manager Gunter reported the Economic Development Committee has started work on Tax Stabilization and Downtown Designation. Grants are not yet released for Adams Street Bridge Replacement; He will apply when grant(s) are released and notes it will be quite arduous a grant to oversee, may need some help.

**Board Roundtable:** Mr. Holzworth inquired, is there any interest in discussing re-activating the airport? There is an existing plan; there may be available grants since the past interest. Mr. Traverse said he feels funds can be better spent.

Someone was upset with the Town that they were not notified that GMP was allowed to shut down power for a couple hours.

Mr. Sheldon wants to give a push for painting crosswalks.

Mr. Traverse reported a letter from the Board to Mr. Tom Donovan congratulating him on his retirement and thanking him for his many years of commitment to the Town. He will be missed.

Mr. Traverse noted the need to paint parking lines as well as crosswalks -- painting is scheduled for May. \*He reported a dead tree on West Street; the tree near the gazebo has been inspected and deemed OK. The Tree Warden will be contacted.

**Review of Financial Reports:** The checkbook status is \$204,841.62

Mr. Sheldon moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$29,945.14; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Sheldon moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$82,591.36; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Traverse moved the Board and Town Manager into **executive session** at 8:25 p.m. to discuss -- 1 VSA 313(a)(1) Contract Negotiations; 1 VSA 313(a)(1) Civil Litigation; 1 VSA 313(a)(1) Attorney/Client matter; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

Board came out of executive session at 9:26

Mr. Traverse made a motion to move forward with the proposed solar array land lease at the transfer station by reviewing a proposed option agreement between the town of Fair Haven and MHG solar; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

Mr. Traverse motioned to adjourn 9:27pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire L. Stanley

  
Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk