

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – April 20, 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, Paul Laramie, Paul Corbiey, Robert Sterling, Lorraine Brown, Deborah Fallon, Linda Barker, Frank Faryniarz, Steve & Heidi Elias, Ron Adams, Chris Adams, Chief Humphries; (on phone) Aaron Kerber, Keith Alexander, Jennie Kendall

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.

Chairman Chris Cole stated this meeting is to hear comments, ideas, feedback from folks re: location of a proposed dog park. Because of a wetland designation at the Air Park, sites at Academy Street and behind the Jr. Babe Ruth field are considered. He noted there is a lot of support for a dog park; public opinion is important; the goal is to take the time to do it right with as much public information as possible. Robert Sterling lives across Academy Street from the proposed site and voiced an opinion that a dog park should not be placed in any residential neighborhood citing a decrease in property value, increased noise and traffic, and concern about upkeep and maintenance. He noted the Town Plan is to seek development of the site. He supports a dog park, "don't know where". Paul Corbiey stated he is in favor of a dog park but also has concerns about traffic increase, and parking for the dog park; expects more activity at the Eagle's Club; there is much overweight truck traffic on Academy Street, and inquired about the property lines. Chris Adams noted it is the only place where kids can play. Ron Adams said the perfect place is at the Air Park -- not worried about the wetland designation -- it is already used as a dog park and has been for generations; should not be in any residential neighborhood. Frank Faryniarz said he agrees with Ron; don't believe it is wetland; it's the perfect location; has the pavilion with shade and parking. He commended the committee for their fundraising efforts. Lorraine Brown stated she is opposed to the Academy Street location. Keith Alexander stated both he and his wife are opposed to the playground location; the Air Park location is a no-brainer; mixing kids and dogs is a recipe for disaster. There was lengthy discussion including: Munger Road is deteriorated and costly to repair; Ron Adams did Archery program for many years without complaints or (water) problems; the Town use is with an Ag waiver; could fence in an area, not allowed to mow or add anything to it; State reps have done a walk through of the property to confirm the wetland designation; Mr. Faryniarz stated he feels, if asked and materials provided, there are folks that would do the Munger Road repair for free; it is a good idea to repair Munger Road anyway, as the main water line runs under it. Mr. Traverse received letters from Sally Moore and Norm Vadnais, both

opposed to the playground location. Ron Adams suggests the Board consider advertising for a landowner willing to lease an acre of property (\$1./yr.). Manager Gunter feels this is a good idea; concerns about liability. Chairman Cole again stated the goal is to "do it right", taking the time necessary. Linda Barker stated Sharon Kendall expressed concern re: increased traffic with a dog park, but not for increased truck traffic when Town garage is moved. Manager Gunter received a letter from Deborah Waggett opposed to Academy Street location; from Olsen Farrell stating not a good idea to mix kids and dogs. Mr. Sterling thanked the Board for this meeting stating a lot of times folks feel their voices are not heard; this is not the case -- everyone was heard. Chairman Cole stated no action will be taken tonight; Ms. Egan assured nothing will be done in secret.

The Public Hearing **adjourned** at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman Chris Cole called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **moved to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting;** seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Deborah Fallon reported the Dog Park Committee is thinking about/working on starting a Fair Haven Street Market in the area by the canon, from July 9th to October 15th to draw folks to the downtown. She expounded on proposed plans noting it would be on Fridays; the VT Farmers Market supports the idea; would be Town sponsored; would determine clear rules; VLCT reported insurance would cover events; have several vendors already interested; alcohol requires special permits. The Board supports.

Jennie Kendall reported that at some time, Koi fish were let go in the Cedar Grove Cemetery pond. Now there are hundreds that could find their way into Lake Champlain. Mr. Sheldon suggested to screen the pond outlet. Manager Gunter will reach out to the State Biologist and work closely with the State and will update the Board.

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

- * There were nine arrests in the last two weeks; mostly traffic; one was for drug sales
- * Continue to maintain a heavy downtown presence
- * School is back in session after Spring vacation

Superintendent of Public Works Aaron Kerber reported:

- * Continue with grading, sweeping and pot hole filling;
- * Repaired the 100 year old Union Street manhole
- * Mike LaDuke is doing well as the Water Dept. Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Kerber helps out there as needed
- * There was one turn on water request
- * Repaired the sewer main blockage at the corner of West and Washington Streets

* The Sewer Plant pre-construction meeting was held; plan to start construction in June

Town Manager Joe Gunter reported:

- * Restaurant Revitalization Funding Program packet(s) are available
- * Transfer Station stickers are on sale with the Early Bird Special of \$7.00
- * Devon of the Rutland Regional Transportation Council will write a new sidewalk grant
- * A letter of lien was sent to the Adams Street property; they replied that they are working to clean up the yard
- * There is a grant amount agreement for the playground equipment
- * There is another round of grants available for delinquent water bills; if grant was received the first time, those homes are not eligible this time
- * There are no other costs (grant match) for the police finger print machine
- * The Board will have the water/sewer budget at the next meeting
- * Have received requests to purchase replaced 6" x 6" pressure treated wood park fence-posts. They are valuable and some should be kept (in good shape) in case they are needed
- * Ferguson Corp has started work on the Firehouse beam repair
- * Summer help started work yesterday

NEW BUSINESS

Pump Station Proposals: Three were received; information in members' packets. Mr. Kerber reviewed them for compliance with RFP. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to award the Adams Street Pump Station upgrade contract to Pump Services, Inc. for \$55,580**; seconded by Mr. Holzworth. The low bid was incomplete; the total project cost is under budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Not Accepting Land Donation -- 5 Maple Street: Mr. Traverse **made a motion** that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Fair Haven decline to accept the proffered gift of property located at 5 Maple Street on the part of Gary S. Rogers, Alizona Rogers and Philicity K. Dugan as it appears that the potential costs of ownership of the property could outweigh the expected benefit to the Town that would occur when, actuarially, the property would revert to the Town. The motion was seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Liquor Licenses: Mr. Travers **moved to approve a 1st Class Liquor License** the Scotch Hill Brewing Co; seconded by Mr. Holzworth. They expect to open in May. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Travers **moved to approve a 1st Class Liquor License** American Legion Post 49; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Travers **moved to approve a 3rd Class Liquor License** American Legion Post 49; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Coin Drop Approval: Each year the Board approve up to four coin drops; six were received. Four were picked randomly by numbers in a container. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve coin**

drops for #3, Knights of Columbus; #1, Dog Park Committee; #2, Hometown Heroes; #5, Catholic Daughters. The motion was seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **amended the motion to allow the coin drops from July 1 to October** because of COVID restrictions; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Emergency Management Plan Renewal: Mr. Traverse **moved to approve the plan as presented;** seconded by Mr. Sheldon. The changes of personnel and contact information is approved each year. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement Renewal: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve and sign the Rutland Regional Mutual Aid Agreement;** seconded by Mr. Holzworth. This is for help in case of disaster; not obligated to help. The motion carried unanimously and Chairman Cole signed the document.

Solar Project – Preferred Site Designation: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the agreement with MHG Solar** for the preferred site designation; seconded by Ms. Egan. It is the property in the back section at the Transfer Station. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Cole signed the document.

APPOINTMENTS

Economic Development Committee: Mr. Sheldon **moved to appoint Glen Traverse, Cindy Pritchard, Deborah Fallon, and Judi Sutherland** to the Economic Development Committee; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed unanimously.

EDC Ex-Officio: Mr. Sheldon **moved to appoint Town Manager Gunter** as ex-officio member to the Economic Development Committee; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed unanimously.

Rutland Transportation Council: Mr. Sheldon **moved to appoint Cindy Adams** to the Rutland Transportation Council; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: Mr. Sheldon **moved to appoint Kevin Durkee** to a three (3) year term on the Zoning Board of Adjustment; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to appoint Patrick Frazier** as alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed unanimously.

Parking Lot: Mr. Traverse stated the Economic Development Committee is almost ready with a draft for **Tax Stabilization**.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Holzworth inquired that the payment plan for the Adams Street Pump Station is in order. Manager Gunter reported the contract was reviewed carefully by Mr. Kerber.

Manager Gunter reported the budgets are looking solid.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is \$226,714.73

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$27,563.98;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$74,668.47;** seconded by Mr. Traverse. This includes the last fire truck payment. The motion carried.

Mr. Traverse moved the Board and Town Manager into **executive session** at 8:23 p.m. to discuss -- 1 VSA 313(a)(1) Contract Negotiations; 1 VSA 313(a)(3) Personnel; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

Board came out of executive session at 9:28

Ms. Egan **motioned** to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Holzworth

Meeting adjourned at 9:29

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley



Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk