

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – June 1, 2021 -- 7:00 P.M. -- REGULAR Meeting

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86314884126>

Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 863 1488 4126

UNAPPROVED 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, Dept. of Public Works Supt. Aaron Kerber, Ceil Hunt, Lorraine Brown, Judi Sutherland, Judy Sheldon, John Llulek, Jim Heller, Bob Richards, Christopher Stanton, Debbie Eddy, Brian Breslend and Sylvia Miller of Dubois and King (on phone).

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

Town Manager Gunter introduced Brian Breslend and Sylvia Miller of Dubois and King who prepared a presentation (copies for all present) (available at Town Office) of alternatives for proposed Park lighting and Park and Ride improvements. Mr. Breslend and Ms. Miller reported Park lighting conversations started in 2016; downtown plan was added in 2019 and a grant was awarded in 2020. The comprehensive proposal includes examples of light fixtures (decorative and contemporary), cost, proposed placement approximately 2 feet either side of walkways and 90 feet apart, pole height, cable layout, avoiding trees and meeting Vtrans recommendations. Two alternatives for the Park and Ride include angled or perpendicular parking spaces showing one way traffic flow, increased number of spaces and inclusion of drainage/raingarden/walkway in the center. Also included is a cost/funding breakdown. Discussion included the canon may need to be re-located 10 feet north; need for more than one crosswalk across the center raingarden; is existing Park and Ride lighting adequate; is the raingarden necessary for grant; fewer/different light placement; need to avoid tree foliage; decorative fixtures more expensive; modern pickup trucks do not fit in 9 foot parking spaces; is there need to accommodate tractor trailers. Action(s) necessary to proceed are to choose alternative for Park and Ride; choose alternative for Park lighting; confirm design/ decide traffic flow direction. Manager Gunter will schedule a walk through with Mr. Breslend as requested by Board members.

The Public Hearing **adjourned** at 7:55 p.m.

Chairman Chris Cole called the **Regular Meeting** to order at 8:00 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting;** seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Lulek reported he celebrated his 80th birthday recently. As he always expected to do, he is retiring from the maintenance of the Welcome signs.

Department Head Reports: **Superintendent of Public Works Aaron Kerber** reported:

- * Continue with Spring road “stuff”
- * Crosswalk striping is expected in July
- * Hydrant flushing is this week
- * Are working to ready streets for paving; adjust manhole height
- * Water plant is going good; fewer than 50 meters left to install; are monitoring electrical issues
- * Equipment and materials arriving at sewer plant; expect to start the observation ditch next week
- * Waiting for the manhole repair Co. to start
- * Ms. Egan requests to get the project timeline update
- * Working on Adams Street pump station controls “tweaking” to work together

Town Manager Joe Gunter reported:

- * There were two arrests; one traveling 91 mph in a 50 zone
- * Working a two week Click It or Ticket detail
- * Mark Gutel is working animal control; has attended to two incidences
- * 19 VSA 1106 prohibits camping on right of way -- a solution to the camper parked on the street.
- * The 5 Maple Street land donation issue has been “put to bed” and filed with the Town Clerk
- * The Rec Dept. is working with the high school to work with out of Town kids. Fair Haven kids do not pay for Rec services; this may be an avenue for income
- * There will be three tax sales on July 6th. Legal is handling two other large tax sales; plan to schedule both on the 6th as well
- * A health order has been filed for 22 Mechanic Street; have made contact with both the owner and prospective buyer with no results
- * Still do not know the ownership of the Cedar Grove Cemetery pond; have permit to remove the Koi; the pond outlet has been screened; it is reported that two heron are taking their meals from the pond reducing the Koi population.
- * There is no movement re: the dog park; the State person is expected on June 7th to review the wetland delineation

OLD BUSINESS

Invasive Fish Discussion: Chairman Cole noted he checked the map and the boundary lines on the map seem very deliberate; most likely the Cedar Grove Cemetery Pond is not Town property; the pond outlet is now screened to restrict Koi from escaping into river and on to Lake Champlain

Water Abatement for Trailer Park: Green Mountain Mobile Home Park has requested to abate \$31,666 of sewer charges citing there was no sewer pumped to the plant from August 2018 to May 2021. Manager Gunter recommends to fully deny the request for abatement noting that sewer is measured on water consumption and there is no way to verify amount of sewer flow. He cited several ordinance articles to support his recommendation. Ms. Eddy asked why do we pay sewer charge. She reported discovering the problem, working with plumbers and the State to address the issues. She stated tenants have individual septic tanks and the grey water from the tanks is pumped to the sewer plant. It was determined that septic tank flow is sewerage, not grey water. The pump was finally repaired last month. Mr. Traverse inquired why Ms. Eddy waited three years to make this request. She replied that she did not expect to make an abatement request until she read the newspaper article that stated the Town knew about the pump failure and her efforts to repair. Mr. Traverse said he read the ordinance and understands that it is the property owner's responsibility to make sure the sewer is problem free. Granting this abatement would set a precedent where others could abuse. Manager Cole said this should have been addressed much sooner. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to accept Town Manager Gunter's recommendation and deny the \$31,666 sewer abatement requested by the Green Mountain Mobile Home Park.** The motion was seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously. Mr. Holzworth requests that the water/sewer ordinance be reviewed to make sure there is clear language of responsibility.

NEW BUSINESS

Outdoor Seating Request: The brewery withdrew the request

Water/Sewer Budget -- Second Discussion: Chairman Cole reminded members that at the last discussion, there was concern that reserve accounts were short-funded; are there other items for discussion. Mr. Traverse requested clarification on the base rates. He was expecting that there would be an increase in base rates to reflect bond payments for the \$6 million sewer plant upgrade, but finds the budget shows no increase to the base rate(s). Lengthy discussion followed. Every \$10,000 added to the Capital Reserve fund increases the rate by approximately \$3.60. At members' request, Manager Gunter will prepare a chart showing 10, 20, and 30 thousand dollars impact on rates. Members scheduled a **special meeting** to discuss the water/sewer budget for June 21, 2021, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Parking Lot: Mr. Traverse stated the **Ally Closure** has been addressed and should be removed; the committee discussed **Resident of the Year** where no one is able to take the lead on this issue; it should be removed at this time.

Board Roundtable: Ms. Egan reminded to prepare the DPW project update list; * Chairman Cole stated he expects to be away for the next two meetings; * Mr. Traverse commented the Scotch Hill potholes are deepening; * Mr. Sheldon commented re: paving Airport Road from 4th Street to the bridge and suggests paving the other end of that street since it has more problems. Supt. Kerber stated he would like to address water problems on the north end of that street before paving it.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is \$553,420.07

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$31,129.12;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$78,909.52;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed

Mr. Traverse moved the Board and Town Manager into **executive session** at 9:08 p.m. to discuss Attorney - Client communication -- 1 VSA 313(a)(1); seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley

Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk