

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – June 29, 2021 -- 6:00 P.M. -- REGULAR Meeting
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86272364020>
Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 862 7236 4020

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Glen Traverse, Rod Holzworth, II, Jeff Sheldon, Carol Egon

Members Absent: Chris Cole

Others Present: Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, William Chmielewski, Peg TV, Brian Bresland, and Ryan Roberts (Representing Dubois and King [D&K]), John Lulek, Bob Richards, Jeff Eaton, Thom Brusco, Sean Galvin, Mary Patten, Paul Patten, Joshua Ferguson, Kelly Donaldson, Bill Ferman, Joe Donaldson, Jeff Egan, Matt , Deborah Fallan, Linda Barker, Jay Brown Lorraine Brown, Ceil Hunt, Judy Sheldon, Judi Sutherland, Johnathan Billewicz, Kristen Mestyan, Don Howard

Call To Order: Acting Chairman Jeff Sheldon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Park and Ride for Site Visit: Town Manager Gunter gave an overview of the proposed project noting that this is a meeting to gather information and folk's opinions; that no decisions have been made; that the project is funded with grants. A committee has been working for some time toward making the space safe and appealing. The project includes "one way" traffic restriction, improvements for water runoff by adding a rain garden in the middle of the space for drainage improvement, and beautification. The project adds parking spaces, a crosswalk at the West end of the space and bulb outs at both ends of the rain garden, signage and lighting. Many of the folks present expressed opinions including: Mr. Paul Patten carried a sign "leave the monument alone"; is the rain garden necessary; need more than one crossway through it (noting loss of parking spaces); consideration for snow plowing and other community events. The overriding sentiment by most in attendance is that the canon not be moved. There is concern for its historical value where it is placed, that it is a monument to ancestors and that the canon might be damaged in moving. Both Ceil Hunt and Kristen Mestyan expressed concern about safety, noting the lack of signs that allow drivers to travel in any direction, across and through the space "willy-nilly" making it unsafe for pedestrians. Brian Breslend of Dubois and King (D&K) explained that the rain garden is necessary as part of the federal funding criteria sought by the Town. The grant addresses the need for handicapped parking spaces, the rain garden for water runoff improvement and making the space environmentally friendly. If all goes well, construction could start next year. Mr. Sheldon thanked folks for taking an interest and the time to attend and share their ideas and concerns. He stated concerns are heard, understood and will be taken into consideration when decisions are to be made. Members favor one way traffic with angle parking; the canon does not move; and feel there is no need to

make accommodations for "semi" trucks. There was discussion re: lighting in the Park (grant funded) and options for lighting in the Park and Ride not grant funded that is an extra cost to the Town. Antique lights are more expensive and will be used in the Park; regular parking lot lights (less expensive) to be used in the Park and Ride. D&K stated the next step is to submit the plans to V-Trans for approval. D&K stated the Board will review changes to this conceptual plan three more times before it is finalized. Mr. Sheldon thanked Mr. Breslend and Mr. Roberts for their time at this meeting.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to add** Liquor License to **NEW BUSINESS;** and Revolving Loan Application to **Executive Session;** seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2021: Ms. Egan **moved to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2021 meeting** as presented; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Appointment with Eureka Lodge -- Thom Bruso and Jeff Eaton: Mr. Bruso stated they have met with the Planning Commission that approved a 4' x 6' sign placed near the canon with 2" x4" plaques of names of those who contributed toward the Eureka Lodge Community Flag Project (flags installed on utility poles). The sign would be up from Memorial Day to Labor Day, flags and sign maintained by Lodge members. He noted the Lodge averages \$6,000/year in services returned to the community. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to allow** the Eureka Lodge to place a sign, as requested and approved by the Planning Commission, from May to September; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Lulek commented there are two storm drains in the Park and Ride west area that are depressed and a hazard to traffic. He observed that there is a bush at the Memorial Park that obstructs traffic view.

Mr. Brown noted the Park fountain is dirty and needs to be cleaned out.

Linda Parker noted the proposed site at the Air Park for a dog park is not suitable and alerts the Board that at the July 13th meeting she plans to present a request to use the original location.

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

- * The Police Dept. continues downtown patrols
- * No serious incidents
- * DPW finished the Prospect St project
- * Are preparing manholes/streets for paving
- * Monitoring electrical issues at the Water Treatment Plant
- * Upgrade work is on-going at the Sewer Plant
- * Waiting for equipment for the Adams St. pump project
- * Cleaned out the Park gazebo
- * Patching potholes

- * Sold 10,500 gallons of water to a person who paid for the labor and water. Mr. Holzworth inquired, is there a policy for such transactions. He has no problem that the water was sold, only that there be a policy for consistency in future such sales.
- * Fair Haven is second in line for street line striping; paid from DPW budget
- * Joshua Ferguson stated they will be painting a mural on the south wall of the building on the corner of Liberty and Main Streets. It is a design honoring Veterans
- * Cannot prohibit use of engine brakes, they are a safety devise; there is no ordinance; have ordered appropriate signage to be installed.
- * 22 Mechanic Street has been cleaned up -- attic to cellar according to Health Officer Lulek
- * Grand List numbers waiting for State information -- July 10th is the deadline

OLD BUSINESS -- None

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Support for the Adams Street Bridge Grant: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign** a letter to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg requesting support for the \$1.5 million grant application for the Adams Street Bridge project; seconded by Ms. Egan. Manager Gunter noted both Senators Leahy and Sanders have indicated support for the project. Mr. Holzworth noted the letter should be signed by Mr. Cole as well. The motion carried unanimously

Future Planning and Policy Review Scheduling: Manager Gunter informed the Board, he plans to present a policy at each future meeting for review and/or update. In members' packets for review, is a guide for Economic Development.

Liquor License: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to grant** a 2nd class liquor license, as requested, to Global Montello Group Corp., formerly Jiffy Mart #680. The motion was seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Water/Sewer Budget: Manager Gunter stated the Board had determined that Capitol Improvement has been short funded for years. He prepared budget sheets showing 10, 20, and 30 thousand dollars impact on the budget as requested. There followed lengthy discussion including: the impact of \$73,000 (half the bond payment) on tax payers -- an increase of \$79.40 on a \$200,000 home. Mr. Holzworth remarked that the Capitol Improvement fund(s) have been short funded for "generations" and need to be brought back up to take care of emergencies -- it is possible that some parts of the existing sewer plant could fail before the upgrade is on line. The Board opted to add \$30,000 to the sewer budget to bring the fund back to \$40,000. Mr. Holzworth stated he would like a line item showing the \$73,000 bond payment. Members opted to add to the Water budget to bring the Capitol Improvement to \$40,000 also. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the 2021-22 Water budget for \$441,222.00 as presented; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the 2021-22 Sewer budget for \$576,671.00 as presented; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** rates as follows; seconded by Ms. Egan.

Water BASE rate = \$38.50

Sewer BASE rate = \$25.00

Water USE rate = \$ 7.50/1,000 gal

Sewer USE rate = \$13.48

The motion carried unanimously.

Round Table: Mr. Holzworth said he heard that the Town Clerk was resigning and wonders how to proceed. It is the middle of her term; is an elected position. Manager Gunter stated she is leaving Thursday, will be gone a month and return. Discussion was how to proceed.

Mr. Sheldon stated he heard someone comment at the Site Walk that Benson Lane is in disrepair. Manager Gunter will investigate.

Mr. Rasmussen has called the office to complain that storm water is eroding his property. Manager Gunter and DPW Supt. Kerber inspected the property and found no erosion as claimed. Poultney Mettowie is doing a study of Town erosion and will present at a later Select Board meeting.

Review of Financial Reports: Checkbook Status: \$281,981.37

Mr. Holzworth **moved to approve payment of the June 26, 2021 Payroll warrant for \$31,081.33;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Holzworth **moved to approve payment of the June 30, 2021 Special Payroll warrant for \$9,316.27;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Holzworth **moved to approve payment of the Jul 1, 2021 Special Payroll warrant for \$7,123.01;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Holzworth **moved to approve payment of the June 30, 2021 General Fund Warrants of \$86,907.11;** seconded by Mr. Traverse. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holzworth **moved to approve payment of the July 1, 2021 Special General Fund Warrants of \$104,369.46;** seconded by Mr. Traverse. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **made a motion for the Board and Town Manager to enter into executive session** at 9:07 p.m. under 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussing an EV charging station contract; and a Revolving Loan Fund application; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

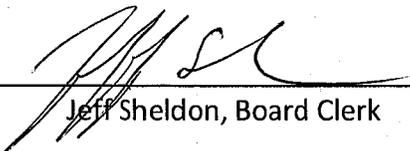
The Board came out of executive session at 9:24 p.m.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the electric vehicle (EV) charging station contract with Bing; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the Revolving Loan contract with David Nelson in the amount of \$30,000. The funds will go to improve the "Playhouse" building downtown Fair Haven. The motion was seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

Motion to **adjourn** at 9:26 pm seconded by Mr. Holzworth

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley



Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk