

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners  
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – July 13, 2021 -- 6:00 P.M. -- REGULAR Meeting  
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85119344735>  
Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 851 19344 735

### APPROVED MINUTES

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

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Jim Britt, Peg TV, John Lulek, Jay Brown, Ray Barker, Linda Barker, Pet Mayor Murfee, Linda Sienkiewicz, Deborah Fallon, Dierdre Miller, Sharon Kendall, Bran Kendall, Eileen Richards, RCF President Mike Murphy, Fred Capron, RCF Sec. Jim Rotondo, Roy Newton, Lori Kelton, Rick Kelton, Police Chief William Humphries

**Call To Order:** Chairman Chris Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes of July 29, 2021 and July 6th:** Mr. Traverse **moved to approve the Minutes of the June 29, 2021 meeting;** seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to approve the Minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting;** seconded by Ms. Egan. CORRECTION. Last ¶ . .“not just Town”. The motion carried as corrected.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** At Mr. Newton’s inquiry re: the River Street accident Police press release: Chief Humphries replied, with added charges the bail was set at \$10,000; the “large amount” of cash was approximately \$1,000; the “guy” was alone; cannot talk about this open investigation, but there is a drug problem in this area as in other areas.

Mr. Capron speaking for the RC Fliers reported this is their 38<sup>th</sup> year operating at the Fair Haven Air Park since 1984. He stated they are 100% in favor of siting the proposed Dog Park somewhere near the pavilion; they will do anything necessary to help (will move their shed); their only concern is safety. The RC Fliers’ 44+ members understand it is a privilege to use the space at the Town’s discretion; there have been zero safety incidents in their 38 years; they mow and clean the space; make ground repairs if there is vandalism; host an Air Show every July open to the public; make every effort to be good neighbors contributing approximately \$10,000 to Town service organizations over their 38 years.

Mr. Brown inquired why an outside company was hired to do the manhole project work at the intersection of West and Washington streets. He feels the work could have been done by the Town DPW crew using their own equipment. Manager Gunter reported, the Town’s excavator was too small for the job, unable to go deep enough; need for more personnel than the Town can

provide. He stated that connection is the heart of the sewer pumping operation with some pipes being 100 years old. Everything gathers at this junction from the Adams Street pump station and is transferred down West Street to the treatment plant. Over the years, the catch basin cement has eroded, has holes in bottom and sides, eroded surrounding soil causing sink holes. The work was done adhering to strict OSHA regulations. Manager Gunter has reached out to Green Mountain Pipeline to determine the need for future repairs. Mr. Brown said he wants to see the bill and where the money is coming from.

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

- \* Vandalism was caught by a Guard member at the Air Park Military building
- \* There was a burglary in an occupied dwelling
- \* Attended to a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) incident
- \* There was a one vehicle accident on River Street -- speeding, did not navigate the turn and took out a utility pole. The subject fled the scene with drugs, cash and a shot gun; was later apprehended; he was charged with drug and other charges; is held under \$10,000 bail.
- \* Discussed placement of the flashing speed sign on Capitol Hill for best results
- \* Have dealt with several Post Office calls
- \* Chief will attend a State wide Chiefs meeting addressing "Faith in Blue" that partners police with the faith community
- \* Discussed making changes to the intersection at Stewarts
- \* The patrols on South Main Street have diminished the speeding problem there

**Town Manager Gunter reported:**

- \* The roadside mower had starter problem; parts were received, repairs done and the roadside mowing will re-commence
- \* Patching potholes readying for paving early September
- \* Weather permitting, line striping will be done next week; paid from DPW budget
- \* Letters were sent to Furnace Street homeowners alerting them of the six dry wells planned to negate the water problem before paving starts
- \* The Water Plant is going good
- \* Continue to do weekly meter readings
- \* Entering the higher water use time of year -- watering gardens, lawns, etc. -- can expect higher water bills
- \* The Sewer Plant upgrade is chugging along -- the final dig will be done next week; expect to pour cement right after that
- \* Expect the Adams Street sewer pump station work to be done end of the month
- \* At Mr. Brown's inquiry, the crosswalk painting work is being paid from the DPW budget "outside labor" and "other purchases" lines.
- \* Water bill pink slips will go out for shut offs beginning August 10<sup>th</sup>
- \* A \$1.2 million grant application has been filed for the Adams Street Bridge replacement. Senators Leahy, Sanders and Welch added letters of support. Federal funds require no match
- \* All tax sales are paid except one that is in Attorney hands; the South Main Street property is in Probate Court with a hearing August 3<sup>rd</sup>

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Dog Park Discussion:** Chairman Cole reviewed earlier site discussions including Academy Street and behind the playground. Manager Gunter has been inquiring other locations including at the Welcome Station -- has many restrictions; between Shaws market and Mac Allen truck stop -- they are not interested; Prospect Street location is not desirable terrain. Discussion was of sites at the north and south ends of the Air Park runway and different configurations of a site near the pavilion that are not included in the wetlands designation. Had a professional walk the Air Park property with Mr. Traverse and Committee members. Soil and plant samples were taken for analysis to determine the wetlands designation (report received today). Can use only areas that are currently mowed; areas mowed in the past have reverted to wetland if not continually mowed. All wetland areas can be mowed only three times a year. Discussion included: A dog park would be an asset to the Town; there is need for careful planning; keep the area welcoming for RC Fliers; and especially for use of the pavilion -- not wanting to site the dog park where it would discourage picnics (eating) at the pavilion; to welcome any/all recreation activity for everybody; site the dog park where it makes the most sense to Fair Haven tax payers. Concern was expressed re: parking; maintenance and cleaning; use of facilities. Ms. Barker said there are many volunteers that will see to keeping it clean. Mike Murphy of RC Fliers stated their only concern is safety. Fair Haven Air Park is considered one of the best AMA fields in Vermont; some of the planes weigh 40/50 pounds and they want to make sure no accidents or injuries occur, and are able to move their area north a few hundred feet to that end; they are aware of what can and cannot be done in wetland area; this dog park needs to be thoughtfully sited to meet all needs. Ms. Egan stated though the pavilion is not used very much now, there is hope for more use in the future; we can't lose use of the pavilion. Mr. Holzworth said he supports the dog park north of the fence. He added that an exhaustive study was done in planning for a salt shed that started the wetlands conversation. Mr. Sheldon noted the Town can apply for a permit to use cement for the entry fence posts; does not want to have liability to the Town (dog fights, personal injuries, etc.). Manager Gunter stated the fence can be erected pre-permit -- he has permission. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to move forward with the dog park committee to site the proposed dog park north of the pavilion / north of the fence; Manager Gunter will commence the permit process; the committee will finalize detailed plans and schedule to build the fence; the RC Fliers will move their shed.** The motion was seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Authorized Representative for ARPA Funds:** American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds are paid directly to Towns. Fair Haven is expected to receive \$267,000 in two payments. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to authorize Town Manager Joe Gunter as ARPA Representative with Jenny Bertrum as Alternate;** seconded by Mr. Sheldon. The funds will be deposited into the General Fund; the Town has three years to spend it; the Feds caution not to rush, think carefully before spending. The motion carried unanimously.

**\$100. Fee for Hydro Permit:** Mr. Bob Richards reported he just now received a call from the contact who reported that Hydro projects are not subject to the permit fee criteria. No action was taken at this point.

**Police Car Replacement:** Chief Humphries reported the 2003 Dodge Durango with 202,000 miles on it, bought with drug forfeiture money was in an accident and totaled. He has been pricing replacements, both new and used (cited examples; some are fully equipped) and stated he is OK with a used one. Mr. Sheldon **made a motion to authorize Town Manager Gunter to purchase a police car not to exceed \$18,000;** seconded by Mr. Traverse. Chief Humphries said they will use equipment they have (radio, etc.) The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Humphries noted half the radio order is in.

**Policy Review -- Abuse Prevention Policy:** Copy in members' packets. Manager Gunter reported this policy, written in 2019 is currently working well. No changes were made.

**Round Table:** No comments

**Review of Financial Reports:** Checkbook Status: Not available until fiscal books are closed

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$33,743.91;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$67,048.51;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Traverse **made a motion for the Board to enter into executive session at 8:48 p.m. for a Town Manager contract review under 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(1);** seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:02 pm

Mr. Traverse **motioned to amend the Manager's contract** to correct a typo in section 7, Paragraph B, Subsection 1, changing the language from Employee's to Employer's. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse moved to **adjourn;** seconded by Ms. Egan and passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:04

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire L. Stanley

  
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Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk