

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

**SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT -- September 7, 2021 -- 7:00 P.M. -- REGULAR Meeting
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89867238438>**

Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 89867238438

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, Jim Britt, Peg TV, Health Officer John Lulek, School Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Linda Barker, Deborah Fallon, Supt. of Public Works (DPW) Aaron Kerber, Linda Sienkiewicz, several residents from the Green Mountain Mobil Home Park, Tyler Richardson (on phone)

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

Appointment with School Administration -- Playground Closure: Chairman Chris Cole recused himself -- he is employed by the School District. Mr. Sheldon led this part of the meeting. Manager Gunter reported the school contacted his office requesting to close the playground during school hours (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) for student(s) safety. He noted there are Town folks using the space during the day. Ms. Olsen-Farrell stated the staff finds themselves in awkward positions having to approach folks who are sometimes displaying bad behavior/ language, who and why they are at the playground -- citing examples of such behavior. Police Chief Humphries has agreed that it is a good idea to close the gate during school hours. At present if the school calls, police, acting as security respond. The school is interested only in student safety and willing to work closely with the Town and Police; most people are respectful. There is no ordinance governing the playground. Manager Gunter, working with school and police will draft language to change the existing "park" ordinance to include playground use. There followed discussion re: how to enforce; exceptions; behavior after hours. Mr. Holzworth reminded that changing an ordinance is a process requiring a public hearing and 60 days waiting period before taking effect.

Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2021: Mr. Traverse moved to approve the Minutes of the August 24, 2021 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Egan. CORRECTION. Pg.3. Water Abatement: delete "they plan to continue paying base rate". The motion passed unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: The Board heard from Linda Sienkiewicz who reported an incident at 1372 Green Road where she drove into a large hole off the edge of the road. The homeowner reported to her that two years ago when replacing a culvert, the cover stone over the hole was not replaced. She reported no damage to her car.

Department Head Reports: Supt. of Public Works Aaron Kerber reported:

- * Have started winter services -- working on readying plow(s)
- * Finishing Furnace Street -- hydrant should be done this week
- * Working on Bigelow Hill; ditching all the way; need to spend the grant funds by end of October; have been told we can spend the funds other than culvert repair/replace. Mr. Sheldon reminded to make sure to talk with the homeowner
- * Are doing Water Dept. drainage and electrical work
- * Continue weekly meter readings
- * Hydrant flushing next week
- * Wastewater Plant upgrade is going well; having to wait for delivery of one piece of equipment
- * Aeration tanks are 95% complete
- * Chemical feed pump issue last week; State was contacted; correction is that now each pump has a designated breaker/switch
- * Work continues on Academy and Adams Street pumps as materials are received
- * Mr. Holzworth reported a complaint re: pot holes on Swamp Road; eroding gravel on culvert repair; DPW is currently using cold patch

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

- * Police Dept. reported six (6) arrests in the last two weeks
- * Chief Humphries would like to have the Air Park gate stay closed to discourage vandalism. Mr. Traverse noted that keeping the gate closed isolates Munger Road -- a class 4 Road
- * Chief Humphries reports the Dept. is doing construction safety on Rte 22A, using part-time officers; this activity does not reduce coverage; charging \$75/hr. through Sept. 17th
- * The playground equipment grant was awarded; have done everything possible and still have not been able to get the funds released. Discussion was to put out a statement/press release that would answer questions of why the apparatus is not yet built.
- * Salt shed documents due from the state. If all goes correctly all bids for the project are expected to be received by the Town on October 15, 2021
- * The West and Washington Street intersection was done by Pike; \$2250 (alerted Mr. Sheldon of the cost); would have cost \$1300 for DPW to do it

OLD BUSINESS

Dog Park -- Air Park Gate: Ms. Barker presented a handout followed by discussion of how to best address the existing gate including: it is felt the gate is needed to discourage vehicular vandalism; replace it; paint it; how to pay for it; move/replace the post. Manager Gunter will work with Supt. Kerber and members of the committee to resolve the gate situation.

Trailer Park Water Shutoff: Water was shut off at the Green Mountain Mobil Home Park two weeks ago owing \$7,400+; by Health Officer order was turned back on. Residents were offered the option to pay their own water bills. Several Park residents in attendance reported there are 3 major water leaks including one in the hot box; there are several residents who do not pay their rent. Folks don't know what to do or how to go about getting help; what can the Town do. Manager Gunter stated during the height of the pandemic, the Town helped the

Park apply for and receive \$30,000 in aid to pay back water bill; have had past payment agreements that were not paid; owe \$22,377 in back taxes; the park is privately owned. Residents asked are there grants available to repair leaks; if leaks are repaired, can they work toward a payment plan; can they apply for sewer abatement since so much water is not going into the sewer system? What is the timeline for next shutoff? Manager Gunter stated if the ordinance is followed, shutoff happens "now". Chairman Cole stated since this is the first time residents have come before the Board, he feels the need to allow them time and opportunity to work toward a solution. Usually research 4 quarters to find a usage average; since this is a multi-year leak, there is need to research further back to find when leak(s) started. How to proceed. Must have Debbie call the Town Office if residents are planning repairs and want the main valve shut off. Board members suggest that residents get cost estimates before any work is done; Board wants to work with residents toward solution; ask for updates to the Board regularly, at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Build Back Better Grant -- Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC): The Board heard from Tyler Richardson who requests a letter of support to apply for a \$500,000, 100% grant to build a docking facility that includes cold storage. The Build Back Better grant is administered by the United States Economic Development Agency. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign a letter of support** joining in the application for a \$500,000 grant for continued investigative study to create a docking facility in Castleton, Fair Haven or Poultney; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Sand and Gravel Bids: Mr. Sheldon **moved to table**; seconded by Mr. Traverse. Supt. Kerber explained that some bids received were late or incomplete. The motion carried.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to grant** the sale of cemetery lot 102 in Section 11 in Cedar Grove Cemetery as requested by Ronald Jasmin; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to grant** the sale of cemetery lot 101 in Section 11 in Cedar Grove Cemetery as requested by Julie Jasmin; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to grant** the sale of cemetery lot 115 in Section 11 in Cedar Grove Cemetery as requested by Mary A. Liddy; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to grant** the sale of cemetery lots 99 and 100 in Section 11 in Cedar Grove Cemetery as requested by Annette Loso; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

Select Board Meeting Times: A resident asked why Select Board meetings are held so late and go on so long. Mr. Traverse noted though time and duration make no difference to him, he is sensitive to folk's schedules. After discussion, no changes were made.

Parking Lot: Mr. Traverse reported there is on-going work on **tax stabilization**

Round Table: Ms. Egan inquired about follow up to items discussed. ex. flashing light at the corner of South Main and Prospect Streets (foot of the hill). Manager Gunter explained such issues are usually not forgotten; there are many things happening at once; are dealt with considering man power/money/time. He will provide the Board with a list of pending items.

Chairman Cole reported he inspected the manhole in question at 142 North Main Street and found some pavement imperfections around it. Manager Gunter noted the Town had worked with Mr. Pentkowski in the past and rebuilt all three manholes in this area. Discussion included, is there a speed issue; is there a way to slow trucks in that area.

Review of Financial Reports: Checkbook Status: \$283,176.73

Mr. Sheldon moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$32,764.13; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sheldon moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$32,909.85; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse moved the Board, Manager Gunter and Health Officer John Lulek into Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. to discuss Civil Litigation under 1 V.S.A. ¶313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

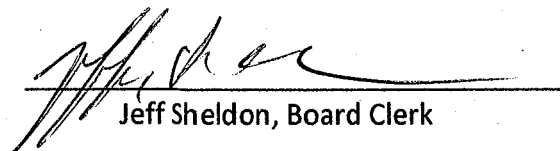
Mr. Traverse moved the Board and Manager Gunter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel under 1 V.S.A. ¶313 (a)(3) at 9:07 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:20

Motion made a seconded to adjourn at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley


Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk