

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT**  
**SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners;**  
**Cemetery Commissioners**  
**REGULAR Select Board Meeting**  
**Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT -- September 8, 2020 -- 7:00 P.M.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Bob Richards Jeff Sheldon (on phone), Jay Brown, Glen Traverse, Carol Egan

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Nate Saxton (on phone), Supt. of Public Works (DPW) Aaron Kerber, Police Chief William Humphries, Peg TV

**Call to Order:** Chairman Bob Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Mr. Brown moved to add **Executive Session** at end of the meeting to discuss personnel; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Traverse made a **motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting** as written; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** Mr. Holzworth commented that Select Board agendas and meeting minutes were not posted on the Town Website after June 30. Manager Gunter explained and demonstrated they are posted -- under LINKS FOR RESIDENTS, 2020 – 2021

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

- \* All the pavement is down -- doing the finish work on shoulders and driveways
- \* Started grant work on Scotch Hill today
- \* Will paint crosswalks soon -- need to finish grant work so as not to lose the grant
- \* People seem to be happy with the highway and street paving -- have heard positive comments
- \* Checking for water issues on newly paved streets -- paid particular attention on Second Street
- \* Water Dept. is doing weekly meter readings
- \* Town Manager and I will meet with Water and Sewer Depts. re: the Academy and Adams Street pump stations
- \* Brush cutting is still on the schedule -- need to prioritize for grant work
- \* Mr. Brown noted there are manholes that need attention on South Main Street

**Police Chief Humphries** reported:

- \* Because of new paving, the Dept. has been focusing on speed
- \* August 30<sup>th</sup>, there was a motorcycle crash where Officer Kerber clocked the driver at 114 MPH. Using good judgement, the officer did not give chase. State Police are investigating the incident where the driver was critically injured.
- \* The person involved in the Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> home invasion is incarcerated, held without bail
- \* Issued a second citation at Adams Street where dogs are a bit more quiet and being sheltered
- \* Another dog owner was ticketed and that issue has been resolved

- \* School opening went well though slow. Cars were lined up on Cottage, Liberty, Mechanic and Pine Streets; everybody had temperature checks upon entering their buildings. Adjustments will be made for smoother procedure
- \* Shout out to DPW that has been and is always ready to help when asked
- \* Testified along with other Town Police Depts. to the House Operation Committee re: possible fees structure for dispatching Police, Fire and EMS as purposed by VSP. They propose charging \$53 per 911 call. The Chief expects to continue working in the Town's interest against this measure.

**Town Manager Report & Communications: Manager Gunter reported:**

- \* Engineer Wayne Elliott viewed water concerns on Furnace Street; there are no drains; he offered suggestions for ways to mitigate water flow to cellars; the street is highly crowned; Mr. Elliott will write a report; there are options to consider before paving next year.
- \* The five water meters sent for testing were found not defective
- \* Received one sewer rebate request
- \* Had a meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> re: local options tax; it is posted; will appear in the paper
- \* Mayor Murphy raised \$6225 at the Saturday Basket Party in the Park; the Playground Fund is now almost \$30,000 of the \$80,000 needed
- \* Manager Gunter took a moment to thank the many volunteers who worked on that project and all volunteers who have and are working on many on-going projects
- \* The budget season is starting; Dept. heads have their initial work sheets

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Water Bill Discussion:** Received a letter from Bob Workman, Acct. #435 stating his water usage billing went from 10 to 29 units. He explained he has a large garden and greenhouse and knows he used the water. He is requesting abatement of \$254.98 sewer charge (\$13.42 x 19,000 gallons). Lengthy discussion followed re: how to proceed with such requests; past practice, watering lawns and gardens, filling pools, the need to have verifiable meter readings. The ordinance will be reviewed to determine exactly what it says for procedure and this matter will be revisited at the next meeting.

**Bike Trails:** As follow-up to last meeting presentation, Mr. Calvi and Mr. Morris prepared a report of plans for Fair Haven area bike/hike trails. They include draft map of safe existing parking locations; planned trail areas; color coded "you are here" map boards showing distance and ability and contact information for help. In future there are plans to involve schools and Rec Dept. Mr. Calvi and Mr. Morris plan to mow and walk the Inman Pond Trail tomorrow and invite anyone to join them.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Sand Bids:** One bid was received. Mr. Brown **made a motion to award the sand bid to Pike Industries, Inc.** for \$14.05/ton delivered; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

**Equipment Capital Reserve Deposit and Tool Box Purchase:** Dept. of Public Works continues to clean up the yard and have sold \$1085.00 worth of scrap. They propose using some of that money to purchase a tool box to use in both the garage and the old water Dept. van to carry specific tools for water/sewer repairs. Members ask that cost be researched before box is purchased. Mr. Brown **moved to deposit the \$1085. into the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

**Picnic Table Placement:** A permanent picnic table is received (\$2500.), purchased from Rec fund; it will be placed on an 8x8 cement pad. After some discussion, the Board feels both the school and library should be involved in placement decision.

**Grant Submission:** Mr. Traverse reported seven grant applications were submitted. Five are recommended by the Economic Development Commission (EDC): \$18,768 for sprinkler system in the Municipal Building/Fire House; \$7,500 from Mike Davidson for electrical work; \$18,115 for upgrades to the Rescue Squad; \$8,361 from Kevin Durkee for upgrades at Wooden Soldier restaurant; \$25,000 from David Nelson for sprinkler system at the Playhouse/apartments. Mr. Sheldon **made a motion to support and submit to the State those five applications** as recommended by the EDC; seconded by Ms. Egan. This project is at no cost to the Town; Mr. Traverse volunteered to write letter(s) of recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

**Parking Lot:** Continue to gather information on **Lewis Lane**. A legal letter to residents is forthcoming; Mr. LaBate is being contacted.

**Board Roundtable:** Mr. Sheldon inquired re: fund balances. Manager Gunter reported those are looking good and cited some numbers.

Chairman Richards inquired re: monitoring noise at the Eagles Club. Manager Gunter noted no complaints; Mr. Brown said the recent motorcycle ride was "toned down"; the Club plans to install fences.

\*Tax collection is going well -- are 96% collected. No communication from the State about the school budget calculations.

**Review of Financial Reports:** The checkbook status is \$812,649.88

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$29,822.93**; seconded by Mr. Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$174,152.18**; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed.

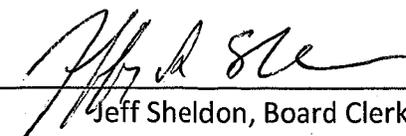
**Executive Session:** Mr. Traverse made a **motion to enter into executive session**, to include the Town Manager, at 8:39 p.m. under 1 V.S.A. 313 (a)(4) to discuss personnel; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The board came out of executive session at 8:54

Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn at 8:54; seconded by Ms. Egan; meeting adjourned at 8:55

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire L. Stanley

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk