

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners;
Cemetery Commissioners
REGULAR Select Board Meeting
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT -- September 22, 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), William Chmielewski, Peg TV, John Lulek, Rod Holzworth, II, Michael Morris, David Calvi, Linda Sienkiewicz, Linda Barker, Dog Mayor Murphee.

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. Traverse moved to add "Personnel/Scotch Hill" to Executive Session at end of the meeting; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Lulek noted the gate on the North side of the West Street cemetery needs repair.

Department Head Reports: Manager Gunter reported:

- * DPW received a complaint re: the dip on Washington Street across from Peoples Bank. That section of street is State highway; will reach out to VTRANS to repair
- * Work on Scotch Hill continues
- * Expect winter sand delivery next week
- * Working to ready equipment for winter work
- * The Griffith Road sign is up
- * Continue installing new water meters; it is becoming very difficult to make appointments
- * Supt. Kerber is getting quotes re: Adams and Academy streets sewer pump stations
- * There was damage to the wood fence at the Air Park
- * Police took care of the debris on Scotch Hill
- * Purchased a speed measuring device and 4 boxes of flares with Governor's Safety funds
- * Officer Riehl is starting his 13th year with Fair Haven Police Dept.
- * There is no word re: dispatch issue(s); Chief Humphries continues to monitor

Town Manager Report & Communications: Manager Gunter reported:

- * American Legion Post 49 requests \$4,492 for help with their parking lot/driveway re-pavement

water use as an equitable solution noting if anyone is willing to make the investment to buy a meter, it would be monitored; the Town would need to oversee the installation. He also noted that the more usage is diluted the higher the rate would be. Further discussion is forthcoming.

Tool Box Purchase: DPW has requested to purchase a tool box with funds raised from the sale of scrap metal at the Town Barn. Nate Saxton reported getting 3 quotes and presented photos. Mr. Traverse made a motion to spend not to exceed \$900 from the DPW Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a Husky tool box; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed with Mr. Brown dissenting.

NEW BUSINESS

Apple Tree Priority Agreement: Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve the Apple Tree Priority Agreement; seconded by Ms. Egan. It is a formality because they added a new funding entity; grant money flows through the Town; it is no cost to the Town; nothing changes. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Richards signed the document.

Playground Grant Match Request: The total cost of the playground is \$100,000; the grant is due the end of October; \$30,000 has been earned by Mayor Murphee; the request is for \$20,000 from the grant match reserve fund to meet the \$50,000 grant match to allow purchase of the playground. Mr. Brown made a motion to allow the expenditure of \$20,000 from the Grant Match Reserve Fund as requested; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Cemetery Deed: Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve sale of cemetery lot 1, section 11 as requested by Susan Forkey; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed. Members signed the deed.

Select Board Letter of Support for a Downtown Sidewalk Grant and Matching Funds Request: The Pedestrian Study came back; it states the sidewalk(s) are unsafe; the lack of pedestrian walkways is slowing downtown development. Lengthy discussion followed. The total cost will not exceed \$807,912 that includes engineering, inspection and contingency; the Town match is \$162,000 which is budgeted in the Streets and Sidewalks fund; Sidewalk improvement studies go back to 1980 when the cost was \$33,000; this project will not get any cheaper; Manager Gunter stated, "it is a lot of money"; he feels he can make a strong case for it; the grant is due September 30th; it would not be done for 3 to 4 years. Mr. Traverse made a motion to expend not to exceed \$162,000 in grant match from the Streets and Sidewalks Reserve Fund; seconded by Ms. Egan. The motion carried with Mr. Brown abstaining. Members signed the letter of support.

Server Purchase: Mr. Traverse made a motion to expend \$7,000 from the Municipal Reserve Fund for the purchase of a server; seconded by Ms. Egan. The server cost is \$7,300; \$7,000 is allocated in the budget; the remaining \$300 will be paid from the regular budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Listers Error and Omissions Approval: Received State made Homestead Value changes to four properties -- the HS122 form was extended to mid-July. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the revised Listers Error and Omissions** as presented; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed. All parties were notified.

Parking Lot: Mr. Traverse reminded that there will be a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. Will move to the Fire Dept. if necessary to allow for social distancing.

Board Roundtable: Ms. Egan complimented the mural on the River Street building and suggests the "Itty Bitty" committee consider like work on the Green building; and discuss improvement to the "triangle area" at the flashing red light in front of Stewart's Shop.

Mr. Traverse reported receiving a phone call from a citizen with complaints that some crosswalks are not painted causing potential danger.

Mr. Sheldon noted Mr. Pentkowski reached out to him re: the defective manhole cover on North Main Street. DPW continues to work on that problem.

Chairman Richards suggests foot patrol to curtail vandalism to the Park "scarecrows" and also intermittently at the playground.

Mr. Brown inquired as to the policy that police patrol roads every night.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is \$577,768.78

Mr. Sheldon moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$30,536.75; seconded by Mr. Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Sheldon moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$230,987.61; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Traverse, that, based on advice of counsel, premature public disclosure of attorney client communications concerning continued maintenance of Lewis Lane and the negotiation of any agreements relating to continued maintenance, is likely to substantially disadvantage the Town given that it will entail a discussion concerning statutory duties and liabilities involving public highways and options pertaining to Lewis Lane. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Traverse, to go into executive session at 8:56 p.m. under 1 VSA 313 (a)(1) to confer with counsel remotely concerning maintenance of Lewis Lane and options going forward with Town Manager Joe Gunter to join the executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

Under 1 VSA 313 (a)(4) to discuss Personnel/Scotch Hill

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Mr. Traverse **motioned to authorize the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen** to inform the residents of **Lewis Lane** that the Town will not be performing any future road maintenance on **Lewis Lane**. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brown to **adjourn** seconded by Mr. Traverse

Board adjourned at 9:44pm

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley



Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk