

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT**  
**SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners;**  
**Cemetery Commissioners**  
**REGULAR Select Board Meeting**  
**Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT -- October 20, 2020 -- 7:00 P.M.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, William Chmielewski, Peg TV, John Lulek, Rod Holzworth, II., Kevin Smith, Marble Valley Engineers (MVE), Sean Galvin, Supt. of Public Works Aaron Kerber, Jon Meigs, Rachel Meigs

**Call to Order:** Chairman Bob Richards called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING for Salt Shed Construction at Air Park:** The Board heard from Kevin Smith, MVE who presented a revised plan for the construction of a salt shed at the Air Park. The 75' x 80' building base will overlap the current community garden space; the overall height is 40' 1 ¼"; with a 6' high concrete block wall, double back wall can be added after construction. The building will have electric power and no other utilities; include a 22' wide door; roof is open space steel trusses with covering. Milling from previous road work will be used for the base. Mr. Smith stated he needs a sample of this milling for State approval. The \$152,000 cost is fully funded with a no match \$200,000 grant. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to accept the Salt Shed Construction Design** as presented; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

The PUBLIC HEARING was closed at 7:14 p.m.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2020 Special Meeting;** seconded by Mr. Brown. Mr. Scott's comments/opinion (previously questioned) were included in the amended Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Traverse made a **motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting** as written; seconded by Mr. Brown. CORECTION: pg.2, Town Manager Report; 1<sup>st</sup> bullet; Mr. Robinson's letter is in support of the Option Tax. The motion carried unanimously.

**Rescue Squad Update with Sean Galvin:** The Board heard from Mr. Galvin who came on board at the Rescue Squad in March. He stated the finances were rough; have since hired a professional billing service to handle very complicated medical billing. Transfers, when patients need to be transferred to or from the hospital to another location, were not being done; are now doing transfers because 9-1-1 calls alone cannot support the Squad. This poses the

problem that while doing a transfer, there may not be personnel to answer a 9-1-1 call. Have entered into a Mutual Aid agreement with Poultney and are trying to build up the staff -- need a couple more for a full staff. The per capita funding, difference between revenue and expenses, has seen no incremental increase in the past and is now approaching \$40. Rescue finds hiring difficult because of the low pay (can earn more in fast food service). The pandemic has caused hiring restrictions: College students and teachers are not available to work. Mr. Galvin proposed application for a SAFER grant that funds full time positions. However, those are available only to municipalities and asks if the Town could apply. There followed discussion re: control, liability, if grant criteria would allow. Mr. Galvin said he would prepare a report for Town Meeting. He noted he wants to retire, but will stay on until a qualified EMS Chief is found, and stated he is impressed with the current crew working for the Squad. The Board thanked Mr. Galvin for his efforts and a good job done, noting the Town's current budget allocation to the Squad is \$52,000. They feel the matter of a SAFER grant requires some research and more extensive conversation and thanked him for the update.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** None

**Department Head Reports:** DPW Superintendent Aaron Kerber reported:

- \* The Scotch Hill Grant work is done
- \* Working to get equipment ready for winter work -- grease, undercoating, etc.
- \* Started work to repair the South Main Street (1989) water line leak
- \* An electrician has been working at the water plant checking/repairing technical equipment to have more precise readings for chemical use
- \* Have met with sewer plant personnel to discuss minor things; are happy with progress toward upgrade
- \* Have done electrical upgrade work at Adams Street pump station for stand by generator
- \* Will repair the South Main Street manhole when doing the water line repair
- \* Mr. Traverse noted the cold patch on both the North Main and South Main Street manholes
- \* Have not heard from V-Trans re: the sink hole on Washington Street at Peoples United Bank

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

- \* Received a letter from Mr. Charlton of Benson who requests to attend the next Fair Haven Select Board meeting re: Police coverage
- \* Sent a letter to Mr. Searles advising him he has six months to demolish or otherwise take care of the Second Street house that recently experienced a fire
- \* Sent a letter to Ms. Reed who recently did some unpermitted home repairs
- \* There has been no movement re: the proposed Dispatch fees; one more hearing to be held
- \* There has been no movement on the Adams Street property cleanup
- \* Tax sales are and have been on hold -- the office is swamped with work -- there are 20 - 30 properties in arrears
- \* The fuel tank is done -- the old tank is sealed -- a geologist is working to determine if the ground contamination is from a slight leak or overflow

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Errors and Omissions:** The State Homestead work was backlogged due to the pandemic; received three late errors that require making changes to the Grand List. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the Certificate as presented with changes to the properties of John Adams, Bernard Genier and Jeffrey Jackson.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

**Fuel Bids:** Mr. Brown **made a motion to grant the fuel bid to Champlain Valley Fuels for \$1.45/gal;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

**Sewer Abatement Requests:** Have received four requests; two hot tub fills; two garden watering; none included meter readings. Discussion was: without meter reading numbers, the Board cannot act; the grievance process that includes attending a meeting with information; Mr. Traverse feels in the past, these matters have not been consistently handled; Manager Gunter feels there should be more precise wording in the ordinance/policy for easier resolution of issues and that many customer issues are resolved in the office without need of grievance to the Board. Manager Gunter will send letters informing of Board's response.

**Scotch Hill Brewery Water Connection:** The Meigs request a water connection for the brewery on Main Street; building includes two apartments using existing plumbing. Discussion was that every time this building changes hands, the systems fee is charged. This fee should be for new construction, not existing ones. It is felt that the ordinance needs to be updated. Mr. Brown **made a motion to waive the one-time system fee** as requested by the Meigs; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

**Grant in Aid Agreement:** Mr. Traverse **made a motion to accept the Grant in Aid Agreement;** seconded by Ms. Egan. This grant funds improvement for storm water runoff; is an 80-20 split; accepts in kind labor. The grant runs through Rutland Regional Economic Development and the amount will not be known until they finish their calculations. The motion carried unanimously.

**Department of Public Works (DPW) Budget Review:** Manager Gunter started with an overview noting there are small increases throughout. Members reviewed the document line by line. There was discussion re: purchase of a new Skag mower for \$16,500. Supt. Kerber noted the one they have has 2500 hours and gave reasons for the purchase including expensive repairs. This amount would need to go to the bid process. Members ask that every effort be made to get a couple more years from this one; put money into the equipment reserve fund for purchase later. There was discussion re: paving costs; the need for drainage on Furnace Street. Manager Gunter noted the 5-year paving plan that should be followed to avoid problems in the future. Manager Gunter and Supt. Kerber explained and made clarifications on items in question. Members will review again at a later time.

**Parking Lot:** Manager Gunter added "Sewer Abatement Policy"

**Board Roundtable:** Mr. Brown reported there is a basketball hoop that hangs over Mechanic Street; school buses have hit it.

Mr. Traverse reminded to have a heads up re: waterline freeze up such as occurred last year at the playground

Chairman Richards commented that the Adams Street property has made none or very little effort to remove junk/debris despite three \$500 citations

30 South Main Street property is sold

**Review of Financial Reports:** The checkbook status is - \$275,260.34 -- this is not an accurate number; will be corrected when Jenny returns.

Mr. Traverse **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$30,412.75**; seconded by Mr. Mr. Brown and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$353,505.80**; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed.

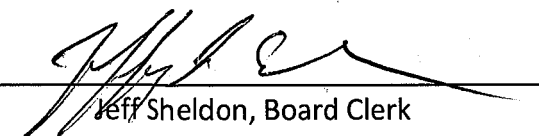
**Executive Session:** Mr. Traverse moved the Board and Town Manager into executive session at 9:12 p.m. under 1 VSA 313 (a)(1) to discuss civil litigation; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

Out of executive session at 9:35.

Mr. Brown made a motion to **Adjourned** at 9:35; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire L. Stanley

  
Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk