

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor Commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 – 7:00 PM Agenda

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82374678623>

Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 8237 4678 623

### APPROVED MINUTES

**Members Present:** Bob Richards, Chadd Viger, Jay Brown, Rich Greenough

**Members Absent:** Glen Traverse

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Supt. of Public Works (DPW) Aaron Kerber, James Rotondo, Brian Reed, Mike Murphy, Jake Helm, Johnathan J. Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz, Town Clerk Dani Roberts, Peg TV

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

**Meeting with RC Flyers:** The Board heard from Mr. Rotondo who thanked the Board for their permitting the RC Flyers to use the Air Park for over 30 years. They appreciate the time, try to keep a small footprint and make every effort not to interfere with others use of the space. He noted the group has donated \$8,000 over the years to non-profit organizations in Fair Haven, including Fair Haven Concerned, Fire and Police Departments; have scooped free ice cream at Concerts in the Park, and supported Post 149 Legion by attending their breakfast every month. The RC Flyers request permission to use the Air Park again next year. They ask to install a port-o-pot at their location, would pay all costs and keep it unlocked for public use. They request also to be notified in a timely fashion of any plans that would require them to relocate. Discussion was; the request is early because new regulations require that all planes have a locator unless there is a designated flying area; a solar array is being developed north of the Air Park on private property not interfering with the Flyers; the wetland designation is being reassessed; the RC Flyers would use the Air Park on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays and one weekend in July. Mr. Greenough reported he had attended and found it impressive. Mr. Brown **made a motion to allow the RC Flyers to use the Air Park as in the past with the above stated stipulations;** seconded by Mr. Viger and passed. Chairman Richards noted his appreciation stating they have been good neighbors.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Viger moved to **approve the Minutes of the November 1, 2022,** meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough. Mr. Viger noted his name is misspelled -- it is spelled with an "r". The motion passed with Mr. Brown abstaining.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** Ms. Billewicz read a statement reminding that statements were made by Board members that back taxes are owed. She presented a \$10,500 escrow check in good faith to start a dialogue. Chairman Richards refused to accept the check noting that the matter is in

Court litigation and beyond good faith. Legal channels is the way to go through Court with attorneys. She presented a letter from Attorney Mazzuchi stating his office is holding the funds.

Mr. Jake Helm reported he is sponsoring a Christmas decorating contest this year with a \$500 first prize for the best decorated house; judging to take place the week before Christmas. More information on-line at [Betsy@VTroofsolutions.com](mailto:Betsy@VTroofsolutions.com)

**Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Supt. Aaron Kerber Reported:**

- \* The double yellow center stripe on Scotch Hill Road is done
- \* Did the catch basin connection repair on South Main Street
- \* The Green Road culvert repair is patched
- \* Plows are mounted where possible; salt is loaded; expect a snow event tomorrow for test run
- \* The winter prep is done; summer "stuff" put away
- \* Hoping to finish curbing cleanup when this snow event melts
- \* The **Water Dept.** is working to prepare for new tanks expected late this month
- \* Engineer has been inspecting electrical upgrade to the existing system
- \* Held the meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. review at the **Waste Water Plant**
- \* The plant is meeting all the permit requirements; is running very very well
- \* Were impressed with the way Carrie is running the plant, being involved with the process, not just monitoring results
- \* Efficiency Vermont is studying the reduction in power use since the upgrade

Mr. Brown expressed concern re: Swamp Road ditching not well done

Mr. Brown feels Mr. Brothers should have paid for, at least part of the manhole water hookup since the problem started with him. Manager Gunter is asked to check on billing him.

Mr. Brown feels the Scotch Hill paving/patching is still very rough; without cutting the brush, the problem(s) will only continue

Mr. Brown inquired why the Main Street Hill was not done along with other crack sealing

Mr. Brown inquired is DPW still working 10 hour days? No

Mr. Greenough inquired was there a lot of water at the S. Main Street manhole connection. Supt. Kerber reported, the site was not heavy wet, but a sink hole was forming

Mr. Brown reported that Mr. Rasmussen said there is still a water runoff problem in his back yard.

Manager Gunter reported he and Supt. Kerber have checked and there is no problem to be solved.

There is a State agency investigating all catch basins, public and private for runoff; Chairman Richards said they have a lot of funding; when they get their paperwork finalized, funds will be dispersed for further study. Mr. Brown asked, can you go back to Mr. Rasmussen to check again.

**Town Manager Report and Communication: Manager Joe Gunter Reported:**

- \* There is an update on Lake Bomoseen Association Procella ECR Application in members' packets
- \* The school named one of the DPW plows FALCON BLIZZARD
- \* Because of short staff, the audit will be finalized mid-December with meeting scheduled for December 27<sup>th</sup>
- \* Need a Rec Director for baseball and summer programs; Emily is now working for Boys & Girls Club
- \* Need a volunteer to manage and plan for the Memorial Day Parade; the Legion will still provide workers. Chairman Richards said this project should not leave the Legion
- \* Expecting bids for the Park and Ride and Lights in the Park in December so construction can commence in early Spring

- \* The new website developer was caught up in the Florida hurricane(s); will soon continue work
- \* The solar project at the Transfer Station will go on-line December 30<sup>th</sup>; payments to the Town will start in January; there will also be electric credits to the Town
- \* There have been complaints re: rats on Benson Lane. Folks are doing cleanup

Mr. Brown inquired re: engine brake signs. Manager Gunter will check this with Jim Heller

Mr. Greenough noted with cold coming need to mitigate heat loss at open elevator shaft; the installation holdup is, have not received two circuit breakers; the company will not install until all the components are here. The project manager will be here tomorrow; I will ask that the shaft be buttoned up to keep the heat in

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**GMP Easement:** This matter was done at the last meeting

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**Budget Review Begins:** Board members reviewed some sections line by line beginning with Elections where Town Clerk Dani Roberts noted she had budgeted for two elections in the event the budget failed. Also, there is now need for an extra person to stand by the tabulator. She noted the recent election was busy though with no serious complaints or incidents. There were 520 absentee ballots; 988 votes out of 1952 registered (a lot for us). It was not easier this year that the State had mailed out ballots -- even caused confusion. There was lengthy discussion re: Town Clerk salary. Ms. Roberts feels the raise budgeted does not reflect her experience and job performance. Mr. Viger noted a 2.5% increase is substantial; he appreciates that she is doing a good job but salary is not the only way to value the position. Mr. Brown noted that Ms. Roberts ran for the position knowing what the salary was and acknowledged it is a difficult job. Chairman Richards thanked her for attending and noted that she has been heard. There was lengthy discussion re: the Transfer Station salaries. Chairman Richards stated this is an opportunity to get creative about finding a solution to decrease salary amount; including management of allocation of employee time; more efficient use of time; is it necessary to decrease to two days per week. Mr. Viger asks how sustainable is the Transfer Station; he is seeing more and more private bins being used; will that be the trend. Manager Gunter reported that the Transfer Station State permit is due next year (\$5,000); he suggests considering opening the facility to all surrounding Towns. Mr. Richards noted the need to consider conflict with Solid Waste Districts. Mr. Viger noted he is a proponent of Rec programs and that we've got to offer more to the Town youth. He feels there is potential and is curious to see other Towns programs.

**Around Town:** Things Happening. \* The Police Dept. will conduct their annual **food drive** at Shaws November 19 and 20 in conjunction with Fair Haven Concerned

\* There will be a **Live Nativity** in the Park on December 17<sup>th</sup>

\* On January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Legion, an Architectural Historian will speak about the **Little Red House**

**Parking Lot:** Chairman Richards reported some proposed changes were made to **Zoning Regulation Updates** including: changes to some parking regulations; lowered commercial lot size and raised building coverage. The grant has been applied for. All this will come before this Board before it is adopted.

**Board Roundtable:** Mr. Greenough inquired where are we re: sale of Town owed properties; do we want to involve a realtor to promote. Mr. Gunter will make inquiries

Mr. Brown asked why is a parttime officer used so much in the Police Dept. Mr. Gunter will inquire.  
\* Is the water shut off in Cedar Grove Cemetery? Yes. When will it be closed? Supt. Kerber said Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, or first snow. \* Can you put out the ice rink in early January? Yes

Mr. Viger stated re: advertising land sale and marketing the Town, that we could offer amenities linking with The Hub in Rutland, a huge space in the old Opera House; they are an idea center mostly pushing tech.

\* Chairman Richards inquires anything we can do toward paving Scotch Hill. The State advertises it as a means/route to get to the State Park; they could/should pay for part of the paving. Supt. Kerber noted that Pike has done some research and find that paving grants were not well handled; not pleased with how the funds were allocated.

**Review of Financial Reports:** The **checkbook status** is, \$2,472,476.69.

Mr. Brown **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$33,569.09**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed.

Mr. Brown **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$78,524.56**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

At Mr. Richards inquiry, the checkbook balance will be in the millions from now on because the auditor wants the Board to see all the money in Town accounts

**Executive Session:** Mr. Viger **moved the Board and Town Manager into executive session** at 9:42 pm to discuss Attorney/Client Communication, 1 VSA ¶ 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Brown and passed

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

Board came out of Executive session at 9:59 pm

Mr. Viger moved to **adjourn** at 10:00 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

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Glen Traverse, Board Clerk