

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT**

**SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioners  
Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT – November 30, 2021 -- 7:00 P.M. -- REGULAR Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81206428601>**

**Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 812 06428 601**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Glen Traverse, Chris Cole, Jeff Sheldon, Carol Egan

**Members Absent:** Rod Holzworth, II

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joseph Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Jim Britt, Peg TV, Health Officer John Lulek, Bob Richards, Chazz Collette, St. Lukes, Melanie Combs, St. Lukes, Phil Adams Zoning Administrator, Sharon Adams, Lister, Thom Brusco, Lister, Dani Roberts, Lister

**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

**Approval of Minutes of November 2<sup>nd</sup> (edits) and 16th:** Mr. Traverse **moved to approve the November 2, 2021 Minutes as edited;** seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

The **November 16, 2021 Minutes** were tabled as Mr. Traverse and Ms. Egan were absent.

**Appointment with Energy Committee -- Land Option Request:** The Board heard from Bob Richards, who stated the Energy Committee requests to secure the right of first refusal on the Depot Street (River Dam) property owned by Josh Markie to protect the ability to develop the proposed hydroelectric project. He stated the ideal option is for the Select Board to do it, but the Committee can. He feels the project is still viable given the clean energy incentives; support is still there; it makes no sense for the committee to move forward without securing first refusal on the property. Mr. Traverse reminded of a previous discussion where the Board was not comfortable to buy the property and taking a piece of land off the tax rolls without seeing positive results with the hydro project. He believes the Town is fighting both the State and Green Mountain Power; also there is the River Corridor issue. The committee should investigate if there are grants opportunities. Mr. Sheldon commented that the project has been going for so long, he hates to see it go down. Mr. Cole supports the project, however, Town ownership creates conflict for him since he is related; wants to see it back on the agenda for a full Board discussion.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** Mr. Richards inquired, has the Board given any thought to have a Marijuana dispensary in Town. There are empty storefronts; could be an opportunity.

**Department Head Reports: Town Manager Gunter reported:**

- \* Police processed seven (7) arrests since the last meeting
- \* Picked up two people stealing from the Boy Scouts bottle/can recycle bin at Shaws
- \* Have picked up the man who has been breaking into cars
- \* Participated in the Highway Safety program on Thanksgiving
- \* Sgt. Kerber was interviewed on WCAX TV re: Rte. 22A traffic issues.
- \* Worked a Rte. 4 detail that generated \$9300 in revenue, covering all costs. NOTE: This did not compromise in-Town coverage; the work was done by part-timers

**DPW --** The weekend snow was mostly uneventful

- \* The equipment is stored and ready for next summer use
- \* Are cleaning up fallen tree damage from heavy snow/ice event
- \* Cleaned the chemical storage tank at the Water Treatment Plant
- \* New meters installation are nearly done; will be looking to set fines for (less than 100) households who are not allowing the change
- \* The Adams Street Bridge electric repair started today
- \* The one and a half million dollar grant for replacing the Adams Street Bridge was denied. Wrote a letter to Senator Sanders stating it does not seem fair since we are competing against much larger entities such as Burlington
- \* There will be no winter shut down at the Waste Water upgrade project; there was a State site visit today; they offered suggestions; will write a report for the project
- \* Still using brine on the streets; have taken classes and are making better use

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

- \* St. Lukes Church representative Chazz Collette expressed concern re: no parking signs on Allen Avenue (sent letter to the Board). Manager Gunter explained that by ordinance, there has always been no parking on Allen Avenue 40' from North Main St. corner. The signs were put up after receiving a complaint; there was a near accident a year ago. Deacon Melanie Combs stated she agrees that parking too close to the intersection causes visibility concerns. She feels however that had the Church been notified before the signs went up, they could have alerted and asked their members and functions attendees not to park where it would cause a hazard. Deacon Combs feels like they are being pushed out of the neighborhood and offered safety options towards reaching a compromise. Chairman Cole said the Church would be notified when this subject would again be on an agenda.
- \* Received a letter (in members' packets) from the new owner at 12 South Main St. who requests abatement of the \$12,341 back taxes
- \* The Green Mountain Mobile Home Park water bill was paid by the State; are back to a one quarter \$9,000 billing.
- \* Town Hall Energy Audit is scheduled for December 2nd
- \* The 10/12 Adams Street Health Order expires today; is not complied with; is being sent to Court today. Have been trying/working with the owners for two years with no success
- \* Town staff took part in the Vermont Alert Training
- \* Working on the Town Meeting Warning; examples in members' packets

- \* The Dog Park wetland permit is posted
- \* Working on tax sales; arrangements to pay back taxes
- \* The final design for Park lighting project is expected in May
- \* All salt shed bids were rejected
- \* Will finish the playground equipment order this week
- \* It is recommended that the Town “hold on” to the \$200,000 Adams St. Bridge grant; if the Federal grant is ever received, this can be used as match
- \* At Mr. Traverse inquiry, a permit is in place for a mobile home on Grape St. where a fire destroyed a house a year ago. Zoning Administrator Phil Adams stated there is nothing in Zoning regulations saying a stick built building cannot be replaced by a mobile home. Mr. Traverse noted this hits the grand list and to please research the verbiage.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Appropriation Policy:** Mr. Traverse **made a motion to accept** the Appropriation Policy as written; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS** None

**FY 23 Budget Review Continues:** The Board heard from Listers Thom Brusco, Sharon Adams and Dani Roberts -- Mr. Brusco stating that though they are elected and paid by the Town, Listers technically work for the State; must prepare a Grand List. They make every effort to work/stay within their budget. At present, mostly due to Covid “shut down”, there are 75 active permits and 65 property transfers that need attention. They don’t see their work load decreasing and request that their budget be put back to \$25,000. After discussion, the Board agreed. The Board and Manager Gunter reviewed the budget items line by line noting slight changes. Manager Gunter suggests the \$50,000 lead paint removal and repainting on the outside of the Municipal Building be an ARTICLE in the Town Meeting Warning.

**Parking Lot:** Mr. Adams said the **Zoning Board** meets only when issues arise. He noted the Board had lost members; there were delays in securing new members; they are working well; are reviewing regulations and making updates.

**Board Roundtable:** None

**Review of Financial Reports:** Checkbook Status: \$382,918.02

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$33,472.42;** seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$1,158,920.98;** seconded by Mr. Traverse. Included are payments for School, Wastewater upgrade and quarterly appropriations. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Traverse **made a motion to enter into executive session** at 8:57 p.m. to discuss Town Manager review under 1 VSA ¶313 (a)(3) to include Manager Gunter; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:09 p.m.

Ms. Egan motioned to adjourn at 10:10; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire L. Stanley

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Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk