

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT**  
**SELECTBOARD; Water and Sewer Commissioners; Liquor Commissioners;**  
**Cemetery Commissioners**  
**REGULAR Select Board Meeting**  
**Municipal Building, Fair Haven, VT -- December 1, 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., Susanne DeChame, Phil Adams, Nicole Rice (on phone), John Seighman (on phone), Lyle Jepson (on phone)

**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 "Health Officer" to New Business; second by Ms. Egan and passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Brown **made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting;** seconded by Mr. Traverse. CORRECTION. Pg. 1, Judi Sutherland and Cindy Pritchard serve on the **Economic Development** committee. The motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment Rod Holzworth II:** The Board heard from Mr. Holzworth who reminded that two years ago, Green Mountain Power said there was capacity for two large solar arrays only North of Fair Haven, not in Town. Would need a mile of three phase conduit to the sub-station to support 2 – 500K arrays, paid by the solar company. Green Lantern cannot support that expense. Mr. Holzworth explained that there would still need to be three phase all the way to support 1 – 500K array and 1 – 150K array. He suggests the Board invite Green Mountain Power for discussion about: maybe sharing the cost; is Green Mountain interested in a project north of Town. Mr. Richards stated that Fair Haven has the sub-station and should pursue this project. Manager Gunter will reach out to Green Mountain Power.

**Appointment Fair Haven Rescue Squad:** Mr. John Seighman stated he was appointed by the Board to replace Sean Galvin who is retiring. He is a former EMT, Firefighter and started out at an early age as a volunteer. Now with extensive training requirements, it is necessary to pay folks for these services. He stated he is here to request the per capita appropriation for Town Meeting vote be \$123,000. A letter to the Board is on the way. He explained the per capita rate started at \$10; was raised twice for ambulance purchase and reduced back to \$10. This request is a per capita of \$48. He noted that Sean Galvin and Tom Newman, Board members have done and are doing a superb job. Have started a new billing system, have initiated a system of transfers, sold one ambulance (working with two), and hired two full time qualified people. They are preparing a budget and will have a copy to the Board within two weeks; see no way to continue without this increase. All participating Towns are being asked for an increase. There was lengthy discussion: Mr. Richards noted this is double last year's appropriation; Mr. Traverse asked what happens if any Town votes this down -- unknown at this time; they are preparing a flyer; need to do all possible advertising to get the word out and educate

citizens of the dire financial situation. Mr. Seighman said he understood the Board was seeking estimates from Rutland Regional who said they will send a quote when people vote if they want their service. Mr. Seighman noted response time would suffer using them as it is 32 minutes from Rutland to center of Town. Mr. Brown stated he disagrees with the 32 minutes from Rutland; that it is a bad year for this increase and feels the Town (citizens) cannot support it; he asks, how many miles are put on Squad vehicles "just driving around", errands and such -- this behavior is being addressed; he feels there was mismanagement in the past and citizens are now being asked to take care of the problem. Mr. Richards said Fair Haven people feel a sort of ownership of the Squad. Mr. Holzworth noted since Poultney has stated no interest in merging with Fair Haven, has there been any thought to explore merging with Rutland Regional? Mr. Sheldon advised sending flyers out early enough for folks to have the information if voting early and/or by mail. The Board thanked Mr. Seighman for his time and the information.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** None

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

- \* Chief Humphries reported it has been quiet
- \* They are focusing on traffic
- \* Have increased foot patrol -- checking stores re: product hoarding
- \* Have not heard from the Doty family on Adams Street; next step is going to court for lien on property to collect fine(s)
- \* DPW have removed most of leaves at catch basin localities
- \* Trucks are undercoated
- \* Are finishing fall road grading; at Inman Pond today
- \* Water Dept. are working on the technical issues; this with Covid-19 funds
- \* Doing upgrades to the two pump stations
- \* Are reading meters weekly; this is valuable information; have heard from several customers who have found leaks and are thankful for the information
- \* Zach Roberts is grieving his property assessment, scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>; Rod McFee will be representing the Town
- \* Consolidated Communication is working to have fiber optics to 1700 homes
- \* Wayne Elliott recommends to just monitor the tunnel at the water plant; will re-direct the water that is leaking
- \* The Sexual Harassment training went well; will do Safety training with DPW tomorrow; this provided at no cost by the Insurance Co.
- \* The Town Manager contract is in members' boxes
- \* Starting tomorrow, the Town Hall will be closed to the public as a pre-emptive measure against Covid-19; folks may call for appointments

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Solar Contract -- Approval:** Have received no numbers for the contract

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Server Replacement -- Payment Approval:** Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve \$3000 from the Municipal Reserve fund for installation of the new server; seconded by Ms. Egan and passed unanimously.

**Playground Grant -- Resolution:** Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve, and to appoint Bob Richards, Chairman of the Fair Haven Select Board as the Authorized Representative, to sign the "Project Sponsor Resolution" to apply for LWCF Funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.

**Health Officer Report:** Mr. Lulek received a complaint on October 12 that there is an accumulation of garbage and rats at 22 Mechanic Street. He requests hiring a professional exterminator to resolve the problem. Mr. Brown feels it makes no sense to use an exterminator without cleaning out the place. Mr. Lulek said he has condemned the property. Mr. Richards asked what can legally be done; have to protect the neighbors; have to do this right and legally. Mr. Traverse suggested to clean out and exterminate, and add the cost to delinquent taxes. Manager Gunter has been in touch with the owner and family who are in Probate Court process for sale of the property; expect resolution with new owner. Mr. Gunter will reach out to neighbors with this information.

**Budget Review:** Members continued their review of the draft budget line by line commencing with **Elections.** Ms. Deshame said she will have concrete numbers tomorrow. Reduced by \$3000. Will there be enough funds if the budget goes down for a revote? **Treasurer** salary increased by 2.24%. **Listers** are moving all functions to electronic systems; outstanding work. **Town Clerk.** Ms. Dechame said there is rumor that she is retiring March, 2022; will be part time; salary will be less; need to increase Asst. salary. Land records are done to 1980; survey is mostly done. **Municipal Planning Commission** is expecting extra cost for more work on Zoning regulations. Town Plan approval time has been extended by two years. **Municipal Zoning** has had to stop and go due to Covid-19 making it difficult to keep up. **Zoning Board of Adjustment** salary increased by 2.24%; have seen fewer hours due to Covid-19; folks find it difficult to do permitting, building contractors find a high cost of materials. **Baseball.** There was none this last year; expect same next year. Did conduct **Recreation** program. Nicole Rice did a really good job considering Covid-19 restrictions.

**Memberships.** The Board heard from Lyle Jepson of Rutland Economic Development Corp. (REDC) who stated they have merged with Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce. The mission remains the same, to provide incentives to attract people and businesses to Towns in Rutland County. He explained that merging the two organizations allows for more efficiency at a lower cost; there are 55 people working on the different committees. REDC provided 50,000 masks delivered to every Town in the County; have attracted 30 families to the County, 15 are remote workers; they work to provide Broadband; do regional marketing; and advocate in Montpelier. Towns pay \$500 annual dues. Mr. Jepson explained the financial aspects and requests a \$1.00 per person (\$2700) contribution from Towns. He stated that Fair Haven is on the Website and that help from the Town is needed to include what is available in Fair Haven for folks to know what is good in Fair Haven. Mr. Traverse said it is felt that REDC concentrates mostly on Rutland and Killington and seem to forget outlying Towns. Mr. Richards said the contribution is a tough sell because there is a feeling of not being appreciated; we need to be promoted; ex. the recent coupon project did not include Fair Haven. Mr. Jepson said he will send information and a movie. Mr. Richards said we may need help with the power grid on the West side of the county; will get someone to attend meetings. Mr. Traverse noted there may be someone on the Economic Development Committee with interest in

attending meetings; feels there has been a communications snafu; there are open spaces for new businesses in Town; need to be more active in promoting ourselves. Ms. Egan said she may be interested to attend meetings. Mr. Jepson stated he has heard positive things going on in Fair Haven and will address stated concerns and needs. The Board thanked Mr. Jepson for his time and efforts.

**Parking Lot:** Manager Gunter reported expecting permit for the salt shed in 30 days. \* The insurance Co. has allotted funds for the beam in the fire house; Mr. Ferguson needs engineering before starting work. \* The Historical Society is part of the design folks working on lighting in the park. They are working on decorating for Christmas; can use Recreation funds.

**Board Roundtable:** Ms. Egan expressed concern about dangerous icing on Scotch Hill at the end of Griffith Road; perhaps the culvert is broken. This will be addressed.

Mr. Brown expressed concern re: snow plowing in other Towns in compliance with the Emergency Mutual Aid agreement. Discussion re: FEMA does reimburse; do they pay for repairs and damaged equipment; it is meant to help neighbors

Mr. Brown inquired, is the Sharon Drive race track property available should RDEC need the space?

**Review of Financial Reports:** The checkbook status is \$78,471.29

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the Payroll warrant for \$30,695.30**; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve payment of the General Fund Warrants of \$720,255.29**; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed.

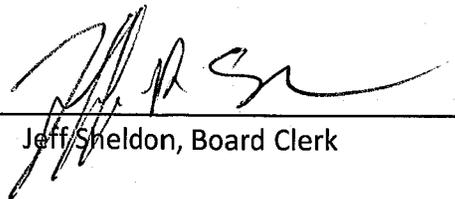
**Executive Session:** Mr. Traverse **moved the Board and Town Manager into executive session** at 9:15 p.m. under 1 VSA 313 (a)(1) to discuss contract negotiations and insurance; seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The board exited the executive session at 9:34pm

Mr. Brown motioned to **adjourn** at 9:35 seconded by Mr. Traverse

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire L. Stanley



Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk