

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor Commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners
Tuesday, December 13, 2022 -- 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86992334210>
Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 8699 2334 210

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Glen Traverse, Bob Richards, Jay Brown, Rich Greenough

Members Absent: Chadd Viger

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Supt. of Public Works (DPW) Aaron Kerber, Steven Wilson, Peg TV, Health Officer John R. Seighman, Hilary Soloman, Poultney Mettawee Natural Resource Conservation District (PMNRCD), Keith Whitcomb, Rutland Herald (on phone)

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 Hilary Soloman from the Poultney Mettawee Natural Resource Conservation District (PMNRCD): The Board heard from Ms. Soloman who explained she is here to present a Project proposal re: Act 76 that establishes a water quality delivery to support Vermont's clean water goals. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission will be handling the funding, of which half is dedicated for forestry which is less expensive. She reminded that she was here about a year ago speaking about this proposal requesting permission to test soil across the street in the Park. The test revealed the soil is ideal for phosphorous removal that is very expensive, about \$9,000 per pound. She presented a handout of the proposed project design to members. The project would collect stormwater from the North section of Town and, deliver it to the collection facility for phosphorous removal using existing infrastructure and deliver the cleaned water to the river using existing pipes. The facility would not be visible, completely underground. Ms. Soloman said the District is looking for the Board's support; there is no cost to the Town. Mr. Brown stated he is totally against this; feels they have money and are looking for ways to spend it; was against their digging across the street last summer as well. Chairman Richards asked, what do you need tonight from this Board. Will the area be returned to its original condition; can it still be used for events, parking, etc. Mr. Brown asked, what is the purpose of this project. It is to maintain/improve the water quality in Lake Champlain that is an attraction for tourists and visitors to Vermont. Manager Gunter asked, if voluntary stormwater phosphorous removal is not done, will the EPA or State force Towns to remove phosphorous. Expect that would be the next step; so far it is voluntary. At Mr. Travers' inquiry, other projects took about three weeks to a month for completion. DPW Supt. Kerber noted this project would also remove debris from dirt roads runoff. Mr. Traverse stated he supported this when it was first proposed, and still does. This is not the same Board that was first contacted. Chairman Richards noted there will need to be a vote to go ahead with design/planning. This would be our contribution to the health of Lake Champlain. He told Ms. Soloman she is welcome to attend the next meeting and thanked her for her time and

information. Ms. Solomon said she will get answers to questions raised, and reported it is her experience that contactors put back projects to their original condition.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to add “Personnel” to Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **moved to approve the Minutes of the November 29, 2022,** meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough. CORRECTION. Pg. 3, ¶ 6, **Budget Review**, last line, “\$1000”; Pg.3, ¶ 8, **Parking Lot**, Mr. Greenough feels . . .”\$5,000 not too high a price to paint the park fence, but would be difficult to incorporate that amount in the budget”. The motion carried as corrected.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: None

Department Head Reports: Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Supt. Aaron Kerber Reported:

- * Got approximately 4” snow last weekend
- * For the 3 three events so far, we used approximately 30 tons of salt and 15 tons of sand.
- * One truck had minor issue
- * Cleaning/checking other equipment preparing for expected snow event on Thursday
- * Waiting for parts for the **water plant** bypass pipe replacement
- * Parts for the new chemical tanks are back ordered
- * Mike LaDuke is working with an engineer on electrical issues for the panel upgrade; paid from the capital budget
- * The **wastewater** garage electrical work was done; any jobs to be finished will be done in the Spring
- * The truck now has a cable winch mounted in the back; paid 80% by VLCT, 20% by the Town

Town Manager Report and Communication: Manager Joe Gunter Reported:

- * John Seighman reported the Rescue Squad has approved the purchase of a new ambulance

- * **Police Dept.** report in members’ packets
- * 44 traffic citations; 37 warnings
- * 47 civilian fingerprints

Mr. Brown inquired why are calls not answered by the Police Dept. causing potential emergency. Manager Gunter explained that the State Police no longer answer police calls; phone calls are not automatically transferred to on-duty cars; will investigate with the phone company to allow calls to transfer to on-duty car systems

- * A young man inquired, will the Town allow making highway 69 a private road. This is a class 4 road to the North woods; he has a camp up there. The consensus is to not make highway 69 into a private road.
- * The dog park fence is in the process of being fixed
- * The audit continues; they will report at the next Select Board meeting
- * The foul odor continues from the sewer vent; talking with the insurance company for replacement of the vent pipe
- * The cemetery has been surveyed for the lot purchase to occur

- * Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to send the letter to Town Representative Canfield re: why the Town is not able to receive a class 2 paving grant for Scotch Hill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried.
- * The election audit was completed last week; found no discrepancies; Fair Haven was chosen at random for the audit; all results were posted on Facebook
- * The Revenue Committee met last evening at 5:00; they will report to this Board in January
- * Training is on-going in performance review, 1st amendment audits, and tax collection
- * Have received some Appropriation reports for the Town Report
- * Will hold a **meet the Candidates** event on February 25th at 1:00 p.m. at the Park gazebo
- * The white house on Union Street has been cleaned; the brick house is mostly cleaned out. At Mr. Brown's inquiry, 7 loads were removed from the brick house. He remarked that understanding that the house had to be cleaned out, it is strange that funds can be found to pay for that, but not for purchase of two loads of material to finish Scotch Hill repair. Manager Gunter explained that money spent at the brick house can be recouped at the sale, but he does not have the authority to spend money that will not be recouped.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Reappointment of the Emergency Management Directors (EMD's): Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to reappoint Jim Heller as Emergency Management Director and Bill Humphries as Designee; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed

Transfer Station Credit -- Eureka Lodge: Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to approve Transfer Station credit as requested by Eureka Lodge; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed

Budget Review: Members reviewed sections of the budget line by line beginning by making no changes to **Auditing Dept.** The **Listers** salary line was cut \$4000 -- they are not using the time. Comments were that the Town is not nearing reappraisal; will be losing one of three Listers soon. **Delinquent Tax Collection** is reduced \$1500. Fuel, paper, phone and electric were increased in **Municipal Building**; the Technology Services is an upgrade to the NMRC computer program. Discussed repair and maintenance needs (paint, repairs, etc.) suggesting doing one side of the building each year avoiding a "big bill" at once. Manager Gunter will get some figures. **Cemetery** salary line is down; cemetery committee line is decreased -- they have not been using budgeted funds. **Air Park** utilities and repair are decreased. **Health Inspector** salary increased to \$2500; added travel, \$500; Assistant salary, \$1500. Manager Gunter noted this is the fourth budget review -- back on schedule; budget review is 67% complete; nice job.

Revenue Discussion Begins: Manager Gunter remarked that there is not enough conversation about revenue. Mr. Greenough noted there were a lot of good ideas from the public at last night's meeting; hoping to get those compiled for future discussions. The revenue committee will provide feedback to the Board in January. Chairman Richards asked, has anyone looked at CO2 sequestration (the sale of CO2 produced by trees). Seattle WA has a program that is generating a lot of income for the city; could reach out to them for information. The Town has trees in the North Woods, the Park. Mr.

Greenough noted it would be up to the Select Board to decide how such revenue would be spent. There was discussion re: increasing the West Haven Transfer Station contract; they are now paying \$16,000. Manager Gunter will investigate how best to proceed -- non-resident stickers, per capita rate, other.

Around Town: Things Happening. * Live Nativity in the Park on December 17th. * The **Christmas house decoration contest** judging will take place December 12 – 19 with the \$500 prize winner announced the 23rd. * On January 15th at 2:00 p.m. the Legion will host an Architectural Historian who will speak about the **Little Red House**. January 28, 7:00 p.m. the Castleton Legion will host an **Elvis Tribute Concert**.

Parking Lot: Chairman Richards reported the changes to **Zoning Regulation Updates** are done.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Greenough reported working on gathering information and making a list of Streets where sidewalks need repair and/or replacing. He has determined that Grape and Prospect Streets are a good place to start. Mr. Greenough is working gathering cost estimates for a Town Garage (location not determined). Is waiting for a price for a metal building; estimates needing 200 yards of concrete (\$650/\$700 per yard) for a six-inch slab -- cost approximately \$135,000. More to come.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook status** is, \$1,023,599.61.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$33,078.24**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$282,699.63**; seconded by Mr. Greenough. This includes quarterly payments to the Library, Rescue, Workers Compensation and Town Hall upgrade. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **moved the Board and Town Manager Gunter, into executive session** at 9:00 pm to discuss Personnel: Attorney/Client Communication 1 VSA ¶ 313 (a)(1); Personnel 1 VSA ¶ 313 (a)(3). The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:36 pm; no actions were taken

Mr. Traverse made a motion to **adjourn** at 9:36 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Brown

Meeting **adjourned** 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk