

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR MEETING -- Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85646551688>

Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 8564 655 1688

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Glen Traverse, Bob Richards, Rich Greenough

Members Absent: Chadd Viger, Jason Coupal

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, PEG-TV, Police Chief William Humphries, Lucia Spallieri, Francesco Spallieri, Linda Parker (on Zoom), Deborah Laiacona (on Zoom)

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Richards called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Proclamation to Fair Haven Pizza House: Chairman Richards read a PROCLAMATION congratulating Lucia and Luigi Spallieri for 40 years doing business in Fair Haven. They are a highly respected family by the community, having started the Fair Haven Pizza House on May 13, 1983, at 33 Main Street. They hire local workers, many students, training them with skills for future successful careers. Ms. Spallieri commented that it started when they bought the building previously owned by her brother. She said she noticed kids in the park who seemed to her to be lost souls. The original idea was to offer pizza, some video games and a pool table for kids to give them something to do -- that is how the wall of photos exists. She further commented that there were suggestions to offer beer and wine, but they wanted the place to be for kids. She always made it a point to thank kids for waiting patiently when it was busy. Ms. Spallieri continued that at the 40th anniversary reception, there were many wonderful stories and compliments that noted how kids were positively influenced at the Fair Haven House of Pizza. She further noted that the restaurant stayed open for kids after school functions and also offered a New Years Eve party for kids. She said it was always their goal to make a difference in Fair Haven and feels they did. Congratulations and thank you applause followed.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to add** *Review of Park and Ride/Park Lighting Project* to New Business; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the May 2, 2023, meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: None

Department Head Reports: Police Chief Humphries reported:

- * Report in members' packets
- * 2 arrests (32 yr. to date)
- * A domestic assault
- * Violation of conditions of release
- * 2 car crashes (8 yr. to date)
- * 64 traffic/municipal violations (704 yr. to date)
- * 20 written warnings
- * Completed 20 sets of civilian fingerprints (204 yr. to date); received compliments that Fair Haven is the only place that is open to do fingerprints
- * 160 calls for service; (1640 yr. to date)
- * The dog complaint at Appletree seems to have moved away again
- * Processed a junk violation at the Trailer Park -- several junk cars on the property
- * Have put in for another movable speed sign paid with grant funds not needed for equipment
- * Request that DPW repair potholes in driveway both side and rear of building
- * Received a thank you for chalking tires from downtown businesses

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

- * DPW installed the Park fountain today
- * There was a tree down in the West Street Cemetery -- hired a company for removal
- * The DPW crew is mowing
- * Filling potholes as necessary
- * There were two sewer plugs last week
- * There was a water line to the park repair
- * There was a beaver in the new culvert on Scotch Hill
- * Eileen continues work to prepare permitting packets for new homeowners
- * Eli Charlton spoke at a Sewer Conference re: his work at the Fair Haven plant
- * For the PEGTV audience -- the Town Office is moving back to this building on Friday. The office will be closed Thursday
- * There will be Active Shooter Training on the 11th
- * At 3:30 on Thursday the 11th, there will be a Building Committee meeting
- * Hydro flushing started on Monday

OLD BUSINESS

Appointment to the Rescue Squad Board: Mr. Traverse made a motion to appoint Alexandra Foley-Bowen to the Rescue Squad Board; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Revolving Loan Fund Review and Approval: Mr. Greenough made a motion to grant a \$15,000 loan as requested by Deborah Laiacona and Art Laiacona from the Revolving Loan Fund and as recommended by the Economic Development Committee (EDC); seconded by Mr. Traverse. The loan is to be used for equipment, signage, building repairs, licensing and furniture

purchases to start Ruby Bistro in the old bank building on Main St. The loan is 0% interest; 5 year maturity. The motion carried unanimously.

Joe Laramie won the grant competition receiving \$10,000. Last year's winner, Places U Grow received \$12,000

Water Line Loan Review and Approval: Manager Gunter explained this is an interim loan to help pay for engineering and work necessary to prepare the project for construction. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to accept and approve** the \$17,000 Revolving Loan for interim financing; seconded by Mr. Greenough. It was noted that \$8,500 is forgiven the first year and payments of \$1,700/year start May of 2028 for 5 years. The project replaces major water lines from Liberty Street onto Prospect to Adams Street; and a section on Washington Street near McDonald's. The motion carried unanimously. Members signed the documents.

Review of Park and Ride/Park Lighting Project: Manager Gunter noted two bids were received; one did not provide all necessary information. Beldon Construction, LLC bid \$849,033, plus \$79,000 for antique upgrading for park lights. Lengthy discussion followed including: This bid is \$100,000 less than their last bid that was rejected by this Board; that Concerts in the Park had donated \$25,000 to the project; that the State requires an on-site engineer for the duration of the project construction; that the lights in the Park need to be done this year -- the Park and Ride can wait another year if necessary; the sidewalk project needs to be done before the State paving of Main Street in 2025; how best to proceed for financing.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to take \$100,000 from the Sidewalk Match and apply it to the Park and Ride/Park Lighting project; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to take \$180,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and apply it to the Park and Ride/Park Lighting project; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to take \$100,000 from the Grant Match Reserve and apply it to the Park and Ride/Park Lighting project; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to take \$25,000 from Streets and Sidewalks and apply it to the Park and Ride/Park Lighting project; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Water/Sewer Budget -- First Look: Chairman Richards stated he is not comfortable reviewing the Water/Sewer budget without Mr. Viger and Mr. Coupal present. He explained that the General Fund donates half to the Water/Sewer budget noting that the entire Town benefits from the Water/Sewer facility with use of school(s), fire protection, etc.

Parking Lot: Mr. Traverse suggested removing ARPA Spending since it is used for the Park and Ride/Park Lighting project. Chairman Richards noted that Downtown Designation and Town Plan will be on the next Planning Commission agenda.

Board Round Table: Mr. Greenough commented that DPW is doing a good job, they are everywhere; did a decent job on the Scotch Hill water problem; need to remove some of the brush in that swampy area that is causing water backup; DPW removed the beaver in the new culvert. Glad to see the fountain installed.

Chairman Richards noted the Transfer Station inspection coming up.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook status** is \$719,709.49.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$34,742.86;** seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$581,975.05** seconded by Mr. Greenough. This includes a School payment. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **moved the Board and Town Manager Gunter into executive session** at 7:54 pm to discuss Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3); seconded by Mr. Mr. Greenough and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:50 pm

Meeting **adjourned** at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk