

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor Commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners  
REGULAR MEETING -- Tuesday, June 13, 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, Chadd Viger, Rich Greenough

**Members Absent:** Jason Coupa

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Steven Wilson, PEG-TV, Jason Coupa, John Lulek, Carrie LaFond, Wastewater, Eli Charlton, Garrett Traverse, Mike LaDuke, Water Dept.

**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.

**Recognition of FHUHS Students:** Chairman Richards congratulated High School Senior Eli Charlton for his apprenticeship at the Wastewater Treatment Plant working to receive his Pollution Abatement Certificate. Chairman Richards praised Eli for staying with it for the whole process; Eli is a shining example and should be proud of his license. Eli said this means he is now qualified to be an Assistant Wastewater Plant operator. Eli was presented with a Certificate of Achievement.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Mr. Traverse made a motion to add "Liam Laramie" to NEW BUSINESS; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2023, meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

**Five Minutes for Public Comment:** Mr. Lulek reported a red pickup hauling a party boat speeding on West Street among others. Manager Gunter will pass along the information to Chief Humphries.

Mr. LaDuke has volunteered to participate in a study taking monthly sample \*He is looking forward to a quiet summer. At Mr. Lulek's inquiry, there are loans available to individuals for work on lead pipes. Mr. LaDuke said locating lead pipes has to be done by next October or the State will step in. He reported that the Water Dept. has been taking random samples to send to the State; so far no problems have been detected.

**Department Head Reports:** Carrie LaFond, Wastewater Plant Chief Operator, reported she will be in New Hampshire for a few days in September taking part in the Green Mountain Water Association Operator Exchange program. The Association is trying to get people interested in this field and are paying for the program. She also reported they are interested in using the Fair Haven Plant for teaching as this plant set up is ideal for teaching.

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

- \* It has been a busy couple of weeks
- \* The **Police Dept.** reported there was a line of break-ins. A person was apprehended and confessed.
- \* Will ask that the speed cart be placed on West Street
- \* The **DPW** crew is working on a ditch to install a 6" waterline to the Municipal Building. They are waiting for materials for sprinkler connection to the building.
- \* They are "picking away" at smaller jobs including cleaning up the Academy Street sidewalk, grass seeding; patching holes
- \* The Office is busy with end of year work; working with VCDC monitoring the Town Hall project; expect to end with \$20,000 to \$40,000 in the green.
- \* Received a letter from Mary Phelps resigning as Trustee of Public Funds, she is moving away.
- \* Received an e-mail from Chaz Collette formally requesting parking consideration at the Episcopal Church located at the intersection of Caernarvon Street and Allen Ave. Chairman Richards suggests asking the on duty Police Officer to be present there on Sunday mornings for a couple of weeks.
- \* Mr. Traverse inquired the status of the Beaver/culvert on Scotch Hill. Manager Gunter stated he has no update on that matter; did not receive the paving grant again this year -- this is the 6<sup>th</sup> year the paving grant is not received. Chairman Richards said he wants the State Highway Dept. to come here and tell this Board in person the reason for refusing the paving grant. Mr. Viger said since Scotch Hill is a route to the State Park, might there be help / support from the Forests and Parks Department.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Lead Line Forgivable Loan Approval:** Mr. Traverse made a motion to accept the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Service Line Inventory Loan Application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

**Parking on North Main Street:** Becky and Chaz Collette have asked that this discussion be postponed so they can attend. Chairman Richards noted there is nothing to be done -- there is no place to park. Mr. Traverse asked, are we sure the no parking signs are at 70' and 90' as required by the ordinance. Manager Gunter reported they are. Chairman Richards noted it is not unreasonable to ask for police presence on Sunday mornings. Mr. Traverse noted since the Collettes have asked that the discussion be postponed, we should accommodate that request. Mr. Greenough asked can handicapped spaces be placed within the no parking area.

The matter was tabled.

**Liam Laramie**: Mr. Liam Laramie has expressed an interest in joining the Economic Development Committee (EDC, stating his interest in the Town and to improve his resume. Mr. Viger **made a motion to approve** Mr. Laramie joining the EDC; seconded by Mr. Traverse. This brings the EDC to five members. The motion carried unanimously.

**Water/Sewer Budgets -- Water Budget Review**

Mr. LaDuke reported that past practice at the Water Dept. was to order chemicals from the same company. He shops around and works with the Sewer Dept. when possible. Ms. LaFond noted they got a \$100 discount on shipping when ordering from the same company -- it was for two different chemicals, but delivery could be made using one truck, with dual compartments. She also noted that there were no cost increases for chemicals for two years, but this year saw large increases; price guarantees are only good for six (6) months. Chemicals are ordered only in amounts that can be accommodated in our finite containment/capacity areas; also, some of the chemicals have shelf life and cannot be ordered for future use. In one instance, the manufacturing plant is down, and those chemicals are coming from Canada; delivery prices have also increased. Members reviewed the budget line by line in an effort to find cost savings. There was discussion re: the Capital Improvement reserve fund increased by \$20,000 to be used for anticipated repairs such as new roof; filters that need to be replaced. Ms. LaFond reported there is a required Engineering study done every four years, also the sewer collection system will need to be improved. These expenses are paid from the Reserve account. Mr. Viger asked, what do you need? The water shed operating supplies include: tractor upkeep; chain saw and its maintenance for cutting up fallen trees; there is only one helmet with shield; chaps; are now mowing up to the dam due to an increase of rattle snakes; garbage removal and other work keeping the area clean; emergency supplies; would like to buy a waterline wand locator. At Mr. Greenough's inquiry, the new meters have a 20 yr. life expectancy -- need to plan for replacement; current cost is over \$200. Each. Mr. Traverse said he is not comfortable with doing anything with the Capital Improvement funding until the individual amounts are known. Will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. LaDuke invited members to visit the plant, he is glad to give anyone a tour. Ms. LaFond reported working to find different destination(s) for sludge removal because the Rutland plant is experiencing problems. Members thanked Mr. LaDuke and Ms. LaFond for their time and effort.

**Parking Lot**: No activity

**Board Round Table**: At Mr. Greenough's inquiry, Manager Gunter is working to ready plans for the Town Barn to send to Dubois & King. \* He reminded that there is an overgrown bush at the corner of Allen Ave. and Caernarvon Street obstructing the north view.

Mr. Viger said there has been vandalism at the playground, asks for increased police visibility. Manager Gunter reported they are working with the school to improve camera surveillance -- may need some serious lighting there.