

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR MEETING -- Tuesday, April 2, 2024 -- 7:00 PM

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

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

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Glen Traverse, Bob Richards, Chadd Viger, Michael Doran, Rich Greenough

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Tucker Babcock, Peg TV, Rose Anne VanLew, Roy Newton, Greg Parke, Kerry Fowler, Mary McNeil, Jashua Ferguson; (on phone), Mark, Dave Belden, Deborah, Linda, Nancy, Robert Murphy.

Call to Order: Chairman 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 The Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Parke said the Chamber received no formal notice that they would be charged \$5.00 for each vendor at events. Also, why were they not asked to participate in the discussion? Chairman Richards explained that the Board has been trying to find ways to increase revenue; that this is one of the suggestions. Mr. Traverse said, the Chamber is not the only event targeted and apologized if Chamber members feel they were blindsided. Mr. Fowler said that many of the vendors are Mom and Pop, and a \$5.00 fee is a lot for them. He also noted the Car Show -- is each car to be charged individually? Mr. Newton of the Lakeside News stated, these events are all good publicity for Fair Haven, and that making them more expensive is not the right route to take; that it feels like Fair Haven is not welcoming. Mr. Parke said he understands the goal to increase revenue, but Chamber events are manned by volunteers' long hours; the goal is not to make a lot of money but to contribute to the community; that \$5.00 fees would gain the Town only small amounts of money; that Fair Haven is not a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Viger said, better communication is needed; that this is only one of the suggestions raised to increase revenue. Mr. Greenough said, the Board is trying to figure ways to find revenue to cover expenses, noting the Park fence was painted (by volunteers); that contract bids to do the job were cost prohibitive -- it will need continued maintenance; there will be lights in the Park, also needing maintenance; that even small amounts at each event helps to defray those expenses. Vendors have to understand what the money is used for; that something needs to be done. Chairman Richards said the Board/Town wants the Park to be used and welcome any and all events. Ms. VanLew stated this is a reasonable request and suggests that the Town back off this year and hold a meeting with the Chamber for next year. Manager Gunter noted, \$150 per event seems short money, but the services provided by the Town: staff time, water, electricity, garbage collection, etc. far exceeds the fees proposed; that the fees would help defray the costs. Mr. Viger **made a motion to not charge vendor fees for events in the Park during the 2024 calendar year**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to add "*Scotch Hill Road Repair*" to New Business; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Manager Gunter introduced the new Mayor, MOOSE, to the Board. MOOSE was elected Mayor at Town Meeting. The Board congratulated MOOSE and his owner, Luke Hepburn for winning the election and photos were taken.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the minutes** of the March 19, 2024, meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Doran. CORRECTION. Pg. 2, last ¶, last line. . . *there is no "\$70,000 fine", the discussion was hypothetical.* The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. Mary McNeil, Cemetery Committee, inquired are there any plans for removing trees in the cemetery; there are several that need to be removed or they will fall. Chairman Richards noted a meeting will be held after appointments are made. Manager Gunter stated staff take down damaged trees as necessary.

Mr. Joshua Ferguson informed the Board and announced for the record that registration is open for Sailing Camp on Lake Bomoseen. Sailing Camp is open for 5th through 8th grade students and runs a 2-week mid-July schedule as an "Introduction to Sailing" and is prepared for its eighth season. The camp is offered by the Castleton Recreation Department. Registration and sign-up details are available on HeyGov for the Town of Castleton. The tuition fee is \$100.

Ms. Rose Anne VanLew inquired, is it possible, while South Park Place is dug up to include conduits for future light fixtures. This will be investigated.

Department Head Reports: Manager Gunter reported: Police Dept.

- * Sgt. Dale Kerber and Officer Cheri McDermott were awarded a Law Enforcement Certificate from the State.
- * There were 6 arrests; 68 citations; 19 written warnings; 5 car crashes; completed 6 civilian fingerprints

DPW

- * Nate Saxton added a baby boy to his family; congratulations were extended to the family
- * Finally removed the Christmas tree from the Park fountain
- * Storm drain repair started on West Street
- * Curb stop repair on Second Street

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

- * Working with Peter Schneider re: Skyline project; paperwork due April 30th.
- * First look at Water/Sewer budget on April 30th.
- * 3 real estate properties were sold
- * TDI Power line is still expected to come through Fair Haven.
- * The Scotch Hill project is moving along. Manager Gunter will investigate the swamp/water issue with a contact person recommended by Chairman Richards.
- * A person lost control of their vehicle and broke the marble post and rails at the Park entrance at the corner of West St. and West Park Place, then proceeded through the Park. The suspect is in custody. The Historical Society is looking into repair. Mr. Viger noted it is cheaper and saves lives to designate a driver.

- * West Park Place will be paved (and ground down); waiting for paving companies to start production.
- * Members thanked Ms. Carrie LaFond who stepped up doing an excellent job in responding to the oil spill at the High School. Mr. Doran noted he had recently taken a tour of the sewer facility and found Ms. LaFond knowledgeable and highly skilled in her position; she is an asset to the Town of Fair Haven.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Tank Ladder Purchase: Only one bid has been received; need two.

NEW BUSINESS

Highway Financial Plan: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign** the Highway Financial Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Parking on West Park Place: Manager Gunter and Mr. Greenough took measurements of other streets and determined curbing is 30.7 feet from the street center line. By repositioning the West Park Place curbing some 6' further east, approximately 20 new diagonal parking spaces could be realized. The consensus of the Board is to go ahead with the plan.

(VCDP) Application Authority (Skyline Building): Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign the** Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Authority resolution; and to authorize Manager Gunter as the Grant Representative; seconded by Mr. Viger. This is a pass-through grant to the VT. Energy Investment Corp. The motion carried unanimously.

Liquor Licenses: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** a first-class club license and a third-class club license as requested by American Legion Fair Haven, Post 49. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** a tobacco substitute endorsement as requested by Brockton Corporation (Shaw's); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** an outside consumption permit and a first-class restaurant/bar license as requested by Scotch Hill Brewing Co.; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Scotch Hill Road Repair: Mr. Greenough **made a motion to approve** \$118,445 for repair to the swamp area on Scotch Hill Road; seconded by Mr. Traverse. Fabian Earth Moving will do the work that includes 2 culverts, stone and fill, to be paid with a structures grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments: Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Mary McNeil, Danielle Roberts, Matthew McNeil, Lorraine Brown, Scott Folmsbee, Paul Laramie, each for one year, to the **Cemetery Committee**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Joe Gunter, Ceil Hunt, Jessica Stannard, Glen Traverse, Judi Sutherland, Chadd Viger, each for one year, to the **Economic Development Committee**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Jim Heller as **Emergency Management Coordinator** for one year; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Chris Stanton, Neil Robinson, Robert Richards, each for one year to the **Energy Committee**; seconded by Mr. Doran. This leaves two vacant positions. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Bob Richards and Claire Stanley, each for one year, as **Fence Viewers**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Jim Heller, Chief; Tom Fucile, 1st Asst. Chief; Don Proctor, 2nd Asst. Chief; Wayne Charlton Capitan, Mike Finnigan as **Fire Dept. Officers**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to eliminate** the **Inspector of Lumber** position (not required by the State); seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Bob Richards, Jason Coupal, each for 3 years, to the **Planning Commission**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Eric Ramey, 1 yr.; Josh Markie, 1 yr.; Luke Vadnais, 2 yrs.; Jesse Kyhill, 2 yrs.; Nicole Rice, 3 yrs.; Erica Notte, 3 yrs.; Chadd Viger, 3 yrs. to the **Recreation Committee**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Jason Coupal, 1 yr., as **Rutland Regional Planning Commissioner**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Rose Anne Vanlew, 1 yr., as **Rutland Regional Planning Commission Alternate**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Bonnie Rosati, 1 yr., as **Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)** representative; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Phil Stannard, 1 yr., as **Tree Warden** (State required); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Kevin Durkee, 3 yrs., Patrick Frazier, 3 yrs., Rose Anne Van Lew, (Alternate), 3 yrs. to the **Zoning Board of Adjustment**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to appoint** Chris Cole as **Weigher of Coal**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Parking Lot: Chairman Richards reported the **Town Plan** is out to surrounding Towns for comments.

Local Accomplishments: Manager Gunter praised Sewer Dept. Chief Carrie Lafond for her timely and expert response to the high school oil spill. Manager Gunter commented that not only during emergencies such as the recent snow storm, but at all times, he appreciates and is very proud of the staff for their skilled and dedicated work.

Board Round Table: Mr. Greenough reported that the DPW “old backhoe” needs updating. Need to look into having the agency decommission equipment. Waiting for estimates.

Mr. Doran reported he was asked, what are some proposed ideas to raise revenue? Parking meters, opening the Transfer Station to other Towns, local options tax, selling water; the public can be asked for ideas; any/all businesses are welcome -- a carwash would be an asset. * How can “junk cars” be enforced? Chairman Richards reported a brief history of trying to enforce this problem with great difficulty; get no help from the State. * Will crosswalks, street markings be painted for Memorial Day? Chairman Richards noted this is usually done closer to school opening. * There is a problem with the light on the Veterans’ Memorial Park flagpole.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is **\$602,189.48**.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$32,442.68**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$53,542.09**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$10,410.08**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to enter executive session**, including the Town Manager at 8:55 p.m. to discuss Personnel, 1 V.S.A. ¶ 313 (a)(3); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:30.

They approved the amendment to the union contract regarding section 305.

Meeting **adjourned** at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk