

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR MEETING -- Tuesday, May 28, 2024 -- 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, Michael Doran, Rich Greenough

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Tucker Babcock, Peg TV, Rose Anne Vanlew, Johnathan J. Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz, Mike Pavelec (on phone), Keith Whitcomb (on phone).

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.

Public Hearing -- Town Plan Update: This is the second of two hearings. Chairman Richards stated that one change was made: on page 14, added the Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade to the sewer time line. No further changes were made. The final approval will be done at the June 11, 2024, Select Board meeting.

The **Public Hearing** adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to add** “*Liquor Licenses*” and “*Water Plant Roof Repair*” to New Business; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the minutes** of the May 14, 2024, regular meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed with Mr. Viger abstaining.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the minutes** of the May 21, 2024, special meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed with Mr. Viger and Mr. Doran abstaining.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. Vanlew recognized and appreciates the amazing amount of work being done by the Dept. of Public Works. She reported hearing on a news report that Becca Balent got a “boat load” of money that is to be used by water treatment plants. She commented about being confused after the meeting about the sidewalk upgrade, specifically re: a proposal she had discussed with Mr. Greenough. Chairman Richards noted there are no answers yet; engineers are working to determine if that suggestion can be done; that change orders have a cost; that doing nothing also has a cost. More discussion is happening. Mr. Billewicz suggests a stop sign at the Dollar Store.

Ms. Bilewicz inquired re: the Municipal Building upstairs. Have not seen a certificate of occupancy posted; Chairman Richards noted not sure that one is needed. She asked re: cleaning the upstairs space. Chairman Richards said that there are many outside summer projects for the Dept. of Public Works and no time for this work. Ms. Billewicz suggested community service done by apprehended vandals.

Department Head Reports: Manager Gunter reported:

*** Police**

- * 2 arrests (30 for 2024)
- * 91 traffic/municipal violations (683 in 2024)
- * 31 written warnings (251 in 2024)
- * 2 parking violations (26 in 2024)
- * 3 car crashes (31 in 2024)
- * Completed 2 sets of fingerprints (89 for 2024)
- * There were 186 calls for service (appx. 13/day)

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

- * Almost at the end of the fiscal year. Budgets are looking great
- * Roadside mowing started today. Doing road grading
- * Still looking for a representative for the Rescue Squad
- * Joe Dayton did flower planting. Some were smashed at the bus stop
- * Striping of the class 1 and 2 roads
- * Paving West Park Place is expected next week followed by Maple, Liberty and Marble Sts.
- * Green Mountain Safety will be here Friday for Project Safety inspection – they are overseen by OSHA
- * Expect Lights in the Park to be installed on June 21st
- * The State has given the Town \$200,000 to do a study of the entirety of Scotch Hill Road to determine priorities. It is still unknown if the Town will receive any class 2 paving grant funds this year; it has not yet been determined by the State. Mr. Greenough noted paving will not hold up unless ditching and tree/brush cutting is done. Upon being told by Manager Gunter that there is a \$50,000 match for the \$200,000 grant, the consensus of the Board is to refuse the grant.

OLD BUSINESS

Sale of 16 River Street: Manager Gunter reported receiving a petition for citizen vote to stop the sale of 16 River Street. Discussion was when this vote is to occur; no time to include this vote along with school budget vote; how long is necessary to post for vote. Members tabled the matter to the next meeting to gather more information. Manager Gunter will bring the earliest date possible at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake Bomoseen Herbicide Discussion: There will be a Court Hearing on this matter July 8th. Manager Gunter will attend; this Board has Party Status and is allowed to comment. If there are no objections from members, Chairman Richards stated the Board will stand by their letter of March 22, 2022. There is no change in this Board's position.

Homerun Fence Installation of the Ball Fields: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to expend \$6,500 from the Recreation and Park Maintenance fund to install the homerun fence on the softball field; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Liquor Licenses: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve an Outside Consumption Permit** as requested by **American Legion Post 49**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve an Outside Consumption Permit** as requested by **Fair Haven Inn, dba Ieremias Family Enterprises Ltd**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Water Plant Roof Repair: Manager Gunter reported the Water Plant roof repair is almost done; significant damage to the building facia has been found needing repair. Mr. Traverse **made a motion expend** \$22,595. from the Water Plant Capital Improvement Fund to replace the building facia; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Water/Sewer Budget Review Begins: Discussion started with how to proceed with the review. Mr. Traverse stated he is reluctant to go line by line without the Dept. Chiefs here; we are not currently over budget. Chairman Richards feels it is necessary to fund Capital Reserve; Mr. Greenough agreed. Mr. Doran inquired re: the status of water lines. Manager Gunter noted there is a replacement plan, and we are keeping up with it. There are 2 more meetings before decision has to be made; Dept. Chiefs both had previous engagements. Mr. Traverse stated before increasing this budget, need to find ways to increase revenue. Manager Gunter reported the State wants to tap our water system to wash bridges. He will prepare a list of companies interested in buying our water.

Property Tax Stabilization Efforts -- Discussion: Manager Gunter said he will be at the Transfer Station June 22 and 29 selling dump stickers (\$7.00 early bird special); after July 1, the price is \$10.00.

Parking Lot: No discussion

Board Round Table: Mr. Greenough stated that DPW is doing a great job with road maintenance, potholes, brush cutting; need to continue.

Mr. Doran commented on places that are cleaner -- triangle at Stewarts Shop. Is anyone mowing the Air Park. Manager Gunter said, mowing will start after nesting Bobolinks have fledged.

Mr. Viger noted the good job at Spring Fling. Mr. Traverse commented that there were many vendors; the parade was very nice.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is \$1,459,093.56.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$36,277.92**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$250.56**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$937,702.11**; seconded by Mr. Doran. This includes payment to schools and construction. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to enter executive session**, including the Town Manager at 8:12 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.

Board came out of executive session at 8:30 pm.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the Town Manager's contract**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger motioned to **adjourn** at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk