

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor Commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING -- Tuesday, September 3, 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, Michael Doran, Rich Greenough

Members Absent: Chadd Viger

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Sean Galvin, Steven Wilson, Peg TV, Carl Scott, Joe Bartlett, Hilary Solomon

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 Poultney Mettowie Concerning Storm Water: The Board heard from Hilary Solomon, Poultney Mettowie Natural Resources Conservation District Manager, who introduced Consultant Joe Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett said Fair Haven has existing stormwater collection infrastructure, and earlier testing showed ideal sandy soil conditions for a storm water filtering system on the northwest corner of the Park. He distributed handouts of the proposed underground infiltration chamber to members; explained the makeup/components of the system and the process of filtering the stormwater run-off. General discussion followed. At Mr. Traverse' inquiry, construction timeline is dependent on the contractor -- it is a straightforward installation. Yes, cars can drive over the underground filtering chamber; it will be covered with soil planted with grass; the only visible evidence is a cast iron manhole cover; does not create a wet, boggy area; cars can drive over it. At present there is no stormwater run-off treatment in Fair Haven. In the future, stormwater run-off treatment may be mandated -- this project is at no cost to the Town. No ground water will be allowed to spill under North Park Place and mitigating steps can be taken to ensure the Park trees are not at risk. The State enters into maintenance contracts with Regional Planning Commission taking responsibility. Cleaning is recommended yearly done like catch basin cleanout using same equipment. Again, this project is at no cost to the Town. The District has a grant, good to the end of October, to do the final design; The Town is asked to allow the District to enter into final design phase. Mr. Doran said, there is need for public input. Manager Gunter's asked, can it be built to support the weight of a backhoe or fire truck, noting that future Town Managers, Boards and Public Works may not know the underground filtration chamber exists. It can be built to support heavy weights at higher cost. Mr. Greenough said eventually, water would seep into the aquifer; how long before it might cause damage such as landslides. Mr. Bartlett said that is unknown, noting these systems have been installed for 25 years. Chairman Richards said there is need for you to attend a public hearing with detailed information and to answer questions.

Ms. Solomon said the District would like to do the final design first that would allow better information for the public hearing. Finishing the final design does not commit the Town to construction. Chairman Richards asked that before/after photos be available for the public hearing. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District developing a final design for an underground stormwater infiltration system followed by a public hearing at a later date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doran and passed. Members thanked Ms. Solomon and Mr. Bartlett for their time and effort.

Meeting About Potential New Class 4 Road: No information

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the minutes** of the August 20, 2024, regular meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the minutes** of the August 23, 2024, special meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Galvin inquired re: an apparent feud with the Billewicz family noting that at a previous meeting, Manager Gunter said the family owed the Town. His question is, are they right? Has the Town ever been required to pay any court judgements? Chairman Richards said the Town has not been found at fault by any Court up to the VT Supreme Court that told the Billewicz family not to come back. Town costs have been to defend its position, unpaid taxes, staff time. Insurance has paid a portion of costs. This has been going on since 2014 and total cost is impossible to calculate. Manager Gunter noted that a counter suit is not off the table.

Mr. Carl Scott reported that the “One Way” sign on the Washington Street end of Pelkey Ave was knocked down, has been missing for five months; now there is some traffic going the wrong way; has spoken to Manager Gunter several times with no action taken. Also, other Pelkey Ave. signs are fading. The “no parking this side” sign was installed to preserve the slate sidewalk that is not suitable for plowing. Manager Gunter said he has not forgotten, has not received necessary signposts.

Ms. VanLew thanked Manager Gunter and the Board for pushing to have the Railroad pave the new rail crossings on Cedar and Pleasant Streets; also, for the cones provided during the dangerous time before paving. Chairman Richards said the Railroad is making repairs in several Towns in the State with the same results.

Department Head Reports: **Police Chief Humphries reported:**

- * 4 arrests (51 yr. to date)
- * 91 Traffic/Municipal violations (1148 yr. to date)
- * 28 written warnings (439 yr. to date)
- * 18 sets of civilian fingerprints (169 yr. to date)

- * 192 calls for service (2573 yr. to date)

Bonnie Rosati is starting her 22nd year with the Fair Haven Police Dept.

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * The large trees and stumps in Cedar Grove cemetery are removed; seeding and mulching the ground this week
- * The soccer program is going well and expanded; have added 3 games
- * Sold a property on Munger Road to the Kendall family
- * The RR crossings on Pleasant and Cedar Streets are paved
- * Manager Gunter will meet with downtown landlords on the 17th re: tenant parking
- * Handed out bicycle helmets last week, donated to the Police Dept.
- * Disposed of two old snow shovels
- * Working with Regional Planning re: a Municipal Energy Resiliency Program (MERP) grant. Requesting \$500,000 (the maximum) no match. The focus is on converting to electric heat
- * As in years past, I am requesting guidance for the budget; what percentage is the Board expecting
- * Ms. VanLew reported that there is rumor that downtown business workers will be required to purchase parking permits. Mr. Doran said that during preliminary discussion, apartment tenants might be asked to buy permits -- discussion is more to direct tenants where to park

OLD BUSINESS

MOU With the School District: Has not been received from legal

Carpet in the Police Dept: Manager Gunter reported there is \$9,000 left in the Municipal Building USDA grant. With MURP funds coming available that can be used to finish the Town Hall project, the USDA funds can be used for new carpet in the Police Dept. Chief Humphries said the current flooring was installed in 2002 and has worn well; has an estimate of \$8,000 to replace the carpeting with carpet tiles noting high traffic areas can be replaced more easily. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve the purchase of new carpeting for the Police Dept**, not to exceed \$9,000 to be paid with the remaining USDA grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Contract Award: Manager Gunter said these plans are what FEMA likes to see when deciding/calculating re-imbursement for damages -- this year focusing on health matters. FEMA is paying for the update work to the plan. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to accept Rutland Regional Planning Commission's \$11,366.81 bid** to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to pay \$2,487 grant match from the Grant Match fund**; seconded by Mr. Doran. There is \$103,666.97 in the Grant Match fund. The motion carried

Sewer Permit Review and Approval: Mr. Greenough **made a motion to approve a sewer permit** as requested by the Kendalls, Munger road; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Better Roads Grant -- Authorized Representative Approval: Mr. Greenough **made a motion to appoint** Darcy Van Noordt as Authorized Representative for the Better Roads Grant; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Deposit into the Public Works Equipment Fund: Manager Gunter explained that the backhoe grant required the decommissioning of the old backhoe; this money was received for scrap from that work. Mr. Greenough **made a motion to deposit \$3,000 into the Public Works Equipment Fund**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Cemetery Deeds: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the sale of 2 graves in lot 57B, section 8 for \$945, as requested by Timothy Herchenroder; seconded by Mr. Doran. Manager Gunter explained that Mr. Herchenroder was charged too much, and this is a corrected amount. The motion carried.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the sale of 1 grave in lot 5N, section 11 as requested by Susan and Gary Wright; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Revenue Efforts -- Discussion: Manager Gunter reported people using the Gleeson Road Transfer Station will be monitored to determine where they are from that may be better served using the Fair Haven facility.

Parking Lot: No discussion

Board Round Table: Mr. Greenough commented that the Dept. of Public Works is doing a good job despite being shorthanded. * We must make it a point of doing work on Scotch Hill.
* DPW should be directed to concentrate on keeping catch basins free of debris. * A good job was done on Pleasant and Cedar Streets paving the RR crossings.

Chairman Richards said Rutland Regional will start the sub-division regulations and noted the Poultney and/or Castleton rules can be used as guide; will learn more tomorrow. The Planning Commission is looking for someone to serve on the Board. * He noted the Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative booklet has lots of ideas, is worth reading.

Manager Gunter reported people have spoken to him saying Fair Haven is moving along in a positive way; sidewalks are clean, folks are taking care of property -- good feedback

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook status is \$788,888.70.**

Mr. Greenough **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$38,725.72**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenough **moved to pay the 2024 General Fund Warrant, \$868.69**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenough **moved to pay the FY 2025 warrant for \$155,122.95**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: Mr. Greenough **moved to adjourn** at 8:34 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk