

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor Commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING -- Tuesday, October 29, 2024 -- 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting Link: <http://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, Mike Doran, Rich Greenough

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley Peg TV, Johnathan Billewicz, Rose Anne VanLew, Olivia Bucksbaum, Cooper Babbitt, Lyle Jepson, Dani Roberts, Phil Adams, Kerry Stevens

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.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2024: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the October 15, 2024, meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: At Mr. Billewicz inquiry, there will be no investigation re: his recent arrest. At Mr. Billewicz inquiry, the \$250,000 "Peter Welch grant" was to be and is being used for common spaces which the Municipal Building is. The Municipal Building upstairs will not be used for a Halloween event.

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

- * This Board approved Orwell's request for a 10'x10' piece of slate to repair their Library walk. They instead elected to take a 4'x16' piece. Received a thank you note from the Library.
- * **Police** had 5 arrests; 73 traffic/municipal violations; completed 9 sets of fingerprints; answered 169 calls for service.
- * We recognize Wastewater Dept. Chief Operator Carrie Lafond who was recently named Vermont State Operator of the Year. Mr. Doran said she deserves this award as she runs a tight ship down there doing a good job. Ms. Lafond will be going to Boston to receive the commendation.
- * Basketball starts next week
- * Have renewed the VLCT PACIF insurance
- * Will be starting hydrant flushing the 1st week of November
- * The Water plant has replaced the large valve
- * The Rec Dept. has received overwhelmingly positive comments re: programs
- * Scotch Hill and Bigelow Road culverts and paving are done
- * Cemetery St. shoulders were done
- * 130+ kids came to the Trunk or Treat event where Mr. & Mrs. Gunter passed out candy

* Ms. VanLew commented enjoying the Halloween “stick figures” around the park and the Holiday lights last season and expected again

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Town Hall Painting Contract: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to accept** the Town Hall Painting bid from Flying Colors not to exceed \$50,000; seconded by Mr. Doran. Manager Gunter reported this is the only bid submitted (\$38,950) in the 18 months of advertising; bid does not include any woodwork repair; Board has approved \$50,000 for the work. The motion carried unanimously.

Meting with Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR): The Board heard from Lyle Jepson, Executive Director of CEDRR who thanked the Town for supporting CEDRR programs; requesting for continued support. He gave an overview of the programs including that they are reviewing the former Skyline project that is moving along. He introduced Cooper Babbitt, Operations Director, who explained his role in helping with grant programs speaking to the top 10 projects in Rutland county noting that all ten are funded. He encourages Town(s) to reach out CEDRR for assistance in applying for funding sources, as Towns can have more than one project on the funding list, small up to multi-million dollar projects. Mr. Jepson presented a handout -- Annual Report 2023 – 2024 – that includes information on all programs offered by CEDRR. Olivia Bucksbaum, Communications and Marketing Manager spoke about reaching out through social media to attract skilled workers with a goal to move here permanently. She spoke of the Weekend Getaway program that offers families a weekend that includes tours of Rutland County points of interest, opportunities and a variety of activities. So far this year, 30+ people have moved to Rutland County. She reported plans for a Winter Weekend Getaway with information on available jobs. They are available to answer questions, working with Realty Cos. that have information about the region. Chairman Richards said it is an impressive operation and thanked them for their time and efforts to report to Towns.

Budget Review Continues: Members reviewed selected sections of the budget line by line. No change was made to the **Elections** as there will be fewer elections next year. No changes to the **Treasurers** section. **Town Clerk** Dani Roberts said the dues and meetings line can be reduced by \$840 due to switching to the Cott computer system. Ms. Roberts said she will petition for an assistant for 8 hrs./week, \$11,300. She explained reasons why an assistant is needed (9 elections this year); the overwhelming amount of work that does not allow time to teach the job to someone. Lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Doran said he is OK with the increase but would expect some coverage on Fridays. Mr. Traverse noted the Board is trying to budget for a 3% increase and proposed \$6,300 or some Friday coverage. Mr. Doran said it makes no difference if the Board is willing to compromise since you will petition for the full amount. Mr. Greenough said he did some calculating and proposed \$9,000 for the assistant position. Clerk Roberts said if the Board will not cut that amount at the last minute of budget review, she is OK with the \$9,000. **Listers** section. It was noted that it will most likely be 2027-2028 before anyone is available to do reappraisal. The **Municipal Planning Commission** secretarial services line is reduced by \$500. **Zoning** Administrator Adams said he has increased the number of

hours worked. There is need to make colored copies; he has permission to use the Listers color printer; needs to buy ink for it; budget increased \$544. The \$200 increase for **Street Lights** considers the lights in the Park. It was noted that there seems to be an increase in the number of folks walking in the Park. The increase in **Memberships** is due to RRPC changing from a flat fee to a per capita fee -- up \$1736; CEDRR Promotion up from \$500 to \$1000. The **County Tax** payment is down by \$1,000 to \$14,000.

Parking Lot: No Discussion

Board Roundtable: Mr. Greenough commented the Scotch Hill project looks nice. * We have to be thinking about the water main replacement on Main Street from River St. to Adams St. Manager Gunter reported he spoke with Aldrich & Elliott engineers and was told they are applying closer to December to get better pricing.

Mr. Doran said there is need for increased police presence on Fourth and Washington Streets as speeding has gone out of control. * He gave a special shout out to those people who did the repair work on vandalized headstones in the Washington Street cemetery.

Mr. Viger reported on an exciting local football game this evening. Also 7th & 8th grade Vipers program is in the Northern Vermont championship; also, our 5th & 6th grade vipers playing Saturday in Schuylerville.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook status is \$595,083.30**

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the Payroll Warrant, \$38,519.83**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the General Fund Warrant, \$273,413.48**; seconded by Mr. Viger. This includes \$118,400 for the Scotch Hill project. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Travers **made a motion to enter into Executive Session** at 8:45 p.m. to discuss personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

Board came out of executive session at 10:01 pm. No cation taken.

Mr. Traverse motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Greenough
Meeting **adjourned** at 10:02pm

Respectfully submitted: Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk