

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN

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

Regular Meeting -- Tuesday, February 4, 2025 -- 7:00 PM

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

Phone: 1 929 2005 6099 | Meeting ID: 8564 655 1688

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

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

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Chris Donahue, PEG TV, Glenn Heitsmith, Johnathan J. Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz, Laura Pedroni, Nathan Eagan, Hilary Solomon, Samuel Lucci, Joe Bartlett, online, Jason Booth, online.

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 Hilary Solomon about Town Green Storm Water Project: Ms. Solomon presented copies of the design plan to members showing updates since the last meeting. The storm water treatment system has been downsized; have determined the water table that flows west/southwest and is one (1) foot below the treatment plant; water lines have been accurately mapped; utilities are not impacted. The storm water treatment system is located at the northwest corner of the Green, is three (3) feet deep; the downsized design will cause less disturbance and is at a lower cost. At Mr. Traverse's inquiry, Mr. Bartlett said, though not ideal, heavy equipment should be safe. Ms. Solomon said Rutland Regional is doing the planning; they have the funding; maintenance is State funded; these projects are meant to keep Lake Champlain clean. Ms. Solomon said the grant contract is super specific, and Fair Haven meets those criteria; the Caernarvon Street storm drain system needs to be in order before activating the system; cultural review will be done for a March application. Mr. Greenough expressed concern all along about eventual surrounding saturation. Mr. Bartlett noted the new design finds more separation between treatment and water table; the smaller project is cheaper and at no cost to the Town. Chairman Richards will have the matter on the next agenda for vote and thanked Ms. Solomon and Mr. Bartlett for their time and efforts. Ms. Solomon thanked the Board and Manager Gunter for their open-mindedness.

Jason Booth -- Water Line Upgrade Project Update: Mr. Jason Booth reported the first bid, out last year was over budget and rejected; the December 2024 bid was even more over budget; question is, how to proceed, as costs are unlikely to decrease. A handout was prepared "Total Project Cost Summary" as of February 4, 2025, for members. At Mr. Traverse inquiry, Mr. Booth noted there is a grant application out for over a year -- may learn in a month or two of the grant's availability. The project is short \$672,100 of the total \$1,872,100 project cost; the project cannot start without funding. Mr. Traverse also noted that this is a major complicated water main; there is risk in doing nothing. Mr. Booth also noted the State will be paving Main Street and this project needs to be done before paving. Question: is there time to do another bond vote and still get the project done before paving? Discussion was of procedure and timeline. Mr. Greenough said we've got to do it, and are foolish not to; if the grant comes through, the bond will not be needed. Mr. Viger noted it is

important to remind people about last year's watermain break on Airport Road. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign the Resolution Certificate** stating the Board resolved the waterline project is necessary; that there are not sufficient funds to pay for the project; and the question of borrowing funds should go before the voters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign the warning to the Bond vote**; seconded by Mr. Viger. This vote will happen on Town Meeting Day. The motion passed unanimously. Members signed the document.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Billewicz informed the Board that he is suing the Town, Mr. Gunter and Chief Humphries.

Mr. Eagan reported that he spent an hour cleaning up debris at the dump entrance gate last week; feels grounds cleanup is the employee's responsibility.

Department Head Reports: Police Chief Humphries reported:

- * 4 arrests (8 yr. To date)
- * 60 Traffic/Municipal violations (171 yr. to date)
- * 20 written warnings (60 Yr. to date)
- * 5 parking violations (6 yr. to date)
- * 2 car crashes (7 yr. to date)
- * 1 overweight permit (2 yr. to date)
- * 8 sets of fingerprints completed (17 yr. to date)
- * 148 calls for service (352 yr. to date)

Ptl. Rod Breese began his 8th year with the Fair Haven Police Dept.

Chief Humphries reported he has found a 2021 car; has 18,642 miles on it; price \$19,900; Dept. has the money in reserve. If the Board is interested, could cycle older cars.

- * **DPW** schedules in members' packets
- * Handout from **Rec Dept.**
- * Planning/advertising Meet the Candidates Day at the Library on Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 1 to 5 p.m.
- * The Rec Dept. will receive 50% of Lake Monsters July 31st game for Fair Haven Little League
- * Getting summer counselors ready (fingerprint, T-shirt size). Staff will have neon shirts for away games
- * Baseball and softball registration is being advertised; on website including team sponsors
- * Planning the Memorial Day parade

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * Grants are being paid back -- the grants awarded to local businesses by the Town
- * GMP replaced 3 utility poles on North Park Place (in front of Municipal Building and Congregational Church)

- * There will be a Rabies clinic on April 5th in the Park
- * Shout out to the DPW crew for sidewalk and street cleanup. It is noted that the school routes are first to get done
- * There will be training for the Transfer Station staff next week -- there will be improvement there.
- * Working on Housing Authority; no information yet.

Purchase Agreement -- “Skyline” Building: Making slow progress

Fuel Bids: Two bids were received. Mr. Greenough **made a motion to offer the fuel contract** to Champlain Valley at a fixed rate of \$2.70/gal; seconded by Mr. Traverse and passed unanimously.

Certificate of Highway Mileage Approval: Manager Gunter reported the State has removed .03 miles (on Benson Lane). Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign** the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2025, (36.405 miles); seconded by Mr. Viger. Manager Gunter noted he is working on having the State re-include Munger Road. So far, they have not. Will continue efforts. The motion carried unanimously.

Liquor Licenses: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** a Second-Class Liquor License and a Tobacco license to DG Retail, DBA Dollar General; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** a Second-Class Liquor License, a Tobacco License and a Tobacco endorsement to Stewarts Shops Corp.; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** a Second-Class Liquor License and a Tobacco License to Walgreen Eastern Co. Inc.; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Engine Repair for Chipper: Manager Gunter reported the chipper was bought five years ago for \$5000; new chipper this size costs \$100,000; cost to rebuild the engine is \$8,688.23; paid from Public Works Reserve Acct. Mr. Traverse **made a motion to spend** not to exceed \$8,688.23 from the Public Works Reserve Acct. for the engine repair of the chipper as recommended by Manager Gunter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Ethics Liaison Appointment: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to appoint** Dani Roberts as Ethics Liaison from Fair Haven; seconded by Mr. Viger. Manager Gunter stated a liaison is required by the State. The motion carried unanimously.

Cancelling the March 4, 2025 Meeting: Mr. Traverse **moved to cancel** the March 4, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Viger. It was noted that this is Town Meeting Day. The motion passed unanimously.

Parking Lot: Chairman Richards said the Planning Commission will meet with Rutland Regional tomorrow taking up Subdivision Regs and Neighborhood Designation getting ready for application in March.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Greenough said the Board should work with Chief Humphries re: the purchase of a car.

Mr. Viger drew attention to the large draft map of Fair Haven on the wall by Ethan Pittman. Mr. Traverse said It is intended to be a large sign set on the south side of the Park. A Bulletin Board is expected in the same general location.

Chairman Richards inquired are we prepared to videotape Town Meeting as required by the State.

The Legion is planning a speaker gazebo at the Memorial Park; are asking for a stone base from the Town. Mr. Viger commented, how will it impact visibility followed by discussion re: placement; Mr. Traverse said to have it on the next agenda for discussion.

Chairman Richards reported the pulley on the Memorial flagpole needs to be replaced. * Scotch Hill needs some work. There is as much traffic in winter (fishing) as in the summer (camping).

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is **\$1,295,298.32**

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the payroll warrant \$38,770.80**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to pay the general fund warrant \$74,219.28**; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to enter executive session** at 8:26 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.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.; no action taken

Mr. Traverse moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Viger; meeting **adjourned** at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk