

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor Commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING – Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting Link: <http://us02web.zoom/join/85646551688>
Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 8564 655 688

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Chadd Viger

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Rose Anne VanLew, Johnathan J. Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz, Nathan Eagan, Julia Chiemingo Rivera, Madelyn Vanni, Kelly Donaldson, Hilary Solomon, Glenn Heitsmith, Steven Wilson, Peg TV, Lorraine Brown, Police Chief Humphries

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 Joe Bartlet and approval of Storm Water Project: The Board heard from Hilary Solomon who had project plans for review and gave an overview of the Storm Water Mitigation project. The construction will be on the Northwest corner of the Park; will tap into the Caernarvon Street storm drain (in front of the Municipal Building); stormwater then flows into the treatment facility. At this time, Board approval is needed so application for the grant can occur by March 6th. Chairman Richards noted that this project is being done now to be ahead of State mandate. The project is at no cost to the Town, no federal funds are used, and maintenance is State funded. The brief question and answer period included: the project is smaller and cheaper than the original plan; the treatment facility is underground and is strong enough to withstand vehicle traffic. The Caernarvon Street storm water line and drain will be cleaned before construction. Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to go forward with the Fair Haven 06 Storm Water Mitigation Project; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed with Mr. Greenough dissenting.

Meeting with Kelly Donaldson about Veteran Flags: Ms. Donaldson handed out applications and instructions for the Fair Haven Hometown Hero's Banner Program noting the project is underway with many responses. She said the committee has their own Email, a P.O. box, a checking account and a signed contract with Green Mountain Power. Banners will be displayed on GMP utility poles on Town managed streets; not on poles used by the Legion for U S flags. She answered questions including, work has to be done by employees; no duplicates are allowed; applications can be made online at Fairhavenhometownheros@gmail.com. Manager Gunter will inquire if the work can be subcontracted. She thanked the Board for their support.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Greenough **moved to add** "include Munger Road to the State Map" under New Business; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the February 4, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough. CORRECTIONS. Mr. Doran was absent; Pg. 2, last ¶, grants should be “loans”; Pg. 4, first line Ethan “Pepin”. The motion carried as corrected.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Billewicz said he is suing the Town and individuals for a civil rights violation; that the Town has answered the complaint; individuals have not.

Nathan Eagan commented sidewalk condition is improved; could use more sand, salt doesn’t work in cold; could the Town apply for a grant to equip one DPW truck with GPS that indicates curb closeness.

Ms. Billewicz commented that at the last meeting the motion to enter executive session did not include discussion of a legal matter.

Ms. VanLew commented there is Facebook talk about sidewalk care; she suggests an ordinance to have the Town responsible or that individuals be responsible for ice/snow removal at their location.

Department Head Reports: Chief Humphries reported:

- * 5 arrests (13 yr. to date)
- * 58 traffic/municipal violations (229 yr. to date)
- * 2 car crashes (9 yr. to date)
- * Completed 5 sets of fingerprints (21 yr. to date)
- * 102 calls for service (454 Yr. to date)

Town Manager Report and Communications: Manager Gunter reported:

- * Received notice from GMP that they submitted 45 day notice of relocation of a substation
- * There were two training sessions -- Respect in the Workplace, Castleton was invited and participated. Better Practice at the Transfer Station; there will be a battery collection; starting a Swap Shop in the former dog kennel space
- * Spent some time at a Montpelier discussion re: Economic Development, home construction; talked a bit about Skyline; the owner has signed option agreement; study of the building can begin.
- * The State has stated that Munger Road will be put back on the map. The original survey from 1918 was found and after 65 years Munger Road will be re-instated.
- * Two Castleton University students are here tonight; they will be writing a story about Munger Road
- * Chairman Richards commented, two people who were at the Economic Development meeting reported that Manager Gunter did well at the meeting
- * Mr. Heitsmith commented that there is a foundation at the intersection of Sheldon Road and Munger Road. Is it possible that Munger Road was on the map before 1918.

OLD BUSINESS

Liquor/Tobacco License Approvals: Mr. Traverse **moved to approve** a Second-Class Liquor license, a Tobacco license and a Tobacco Substitute endorsement to Global Montello Group DBA Jiffy Mart #680. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to approve** a Second-Class Liquor license, a Tobacco license and a Tobacco Substitute endorsement to R. L. Valley DBA Maple Fields at Fair Haven. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **moved to approve** a First-Class restaurant/bar license and a Third-Class liquor license to Jekyll and Hyde, Inc. DBA Tomasi's; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Deborah Laiacona to the EDC/Downtown Partnership: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to appoint Deborah Laiacona** to the Economic Development/Downtown Partnership Committee; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Police Dept. Car Purchase: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Police Dept. Equipment Reserve fund to purchase a used police cruiser and equipment to outfit the unit; seconded by Mr. Doran. Chief Humphries said it is a 2021 Ford Explorer with 18,642 miles purchased from the same place the last 3 cars were bought; then will cycle out older car. The motion passed.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to deposit** the revenue received from the sale of the Fair Haven police cruiser into the Police Dept. Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Gazebo Installation in Memorial Park: Manager Gunter said this is on the agenda for public input. Ms. Donaldson said the Memorial Park space is limited. There was discussion re: need, location, and that a permanent structure would take away from the Memorial. Chairman Richards said it would eliminate the need to put up/take down a stage every year; that it would be no bigger than the existing temporary stage; would be on the northwest corner of the space. Mr. Greenough said it is a good idea; is a smaller version of the bandstand in the Park. Ms. Brown feels it will take away from the Memorial; would like to see a visual. Mr. Eagan said, yes, there is room; questions who will maintain; would like to see a drawing. Manager Gunter noted that it is a positive thing, it's not often that a group donates \$6,000 to make improvements to the Town. Chairman Richards said to take the matter back to the Legion.

Lead Line Loan Program: Manager Gunter reported there is only one house in Town with a lead service line. He is working with the State on a program that loans funds to the Town for lead line replacement. The Town then loans the funds to homeowners to be repaid; The town repays the State. Though worthwhile, it is not free to the Town as there are administration and possible legal costs. Manager Gunter will bring this matter back to the Board as there was not enough time to finalize plans. Mr. Greenough noted that the homeowner may not want the loan.

Fireworks Permit: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to approve** the application from C. & C. Fireworks for a permit to sell Fireworks in Fair Haven; seconded by Mr. Greenough; Manager Gunter noted this is the third year they have applied; application is complete, and \$1,000 permit fee is paid. The motion carried.

Errors and Omissions Approval: Mr. Traverse **made a motion** to accept the Errors and Omissions report; seconded by Mr. Doran. It was noted that Michelle Beede's property was listed twice on the Grand List. The motion carried.

Munger Road Inclusion: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to sign** the letter to the State stating that this Board is confident that Munger Road was never discontinued and is a class 4 road; seconded by Mr. Doran. Manager Gunter said all that was needed was to provide a statement that there is documentation. The original 1918 survey was found, and the map will be corrected. The motion passed. Members signed the document.

Parking Lot: Chairman Richards reported that Subdivision Regulations and Downtown Designation will be discussed at tomorrow's Planning Commission meeting. He has been told that applications can wait until the September cycle allowing time for public hearings. The expectation is that all this work will make easier work for developers.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Greenough said he has heard complaints both for pushing snow too far and not far enough; it's a catch 22; DPW has done a great job.

Mr. Doran expressed thanks to Chairman Richards for his work on the Select Board. He commented that sidewalks were done better this snow event.

Mr. Traverse said there is need for cold patching the worse potholes. He has heard feedback that snowplows are going faster than necessary.

Chairman Richards reported the Planning Commission has two resignations; one needs to be reappointed. The Board of Adjustment is also down in numbers. Both need to be advertised.

Review of financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is **\$1,865,541.38**

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to pay the payroll warrant \$41,183.06**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Traverse **made a motion to pay the General Fund warrant \$124,505.44**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Executive Session: Mr. Traverse **made a motion to enter executive session** including Manager Gunter at 8:30 p.m. to discuss personnel/confidential attorney communications 1 VSA 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:39 with no actions taken.

Mr. Traverse moved to **adjourn** at 9:40; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Glen Traverse, Board Clerk