

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, March 18, 2025 -- 7:00 P.M.

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

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

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Chadd Viger, Glen Traverse, Rich Greenough, Mike Doran, Sam Lucci

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Rose Anne VanLew, Sean Galvin, Michael Murphy, Alex Barry, Nate Saxon, Reece de Castro, Glen Heitsmith

Call to Order: Town Manager Joe Gunter called the meeting to order and led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Manager Gunter introduced Mayor Duncan and asked Mr. de Castro to formally swear in **Mayor Duncan**, a Golden to a one year term as Mayor. Mayor Duncan affixed his paw print to the certificate and Manager Gunter signed the document to applause from the assembly.

Reorganization -- Board Reorganization: Mr. Doran nominated Mr. Glen Traverse as Board Chair; seconded by Mr. Greenough. There being no other nominations, Mr. Traverse was appointed as **Board Chairman**.

Board Clerk: Mr. Doran nominated Mr. Chadd Viger as Board Clerk; seconded by Mr. Greenough. There being no other nominations, Mr. Viger was appointed as **Board Clerk**.

Set Day and Time for Meetings: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to continue meetings every other Tuesday at 7:00; seconded by Mr. Lucci. Mr. Doran proposed starting meetings at 6:30. Other members felt 6:30 would be difficult. The consensus is to continue meeting at 7:00.

Adopt Board Rules: Copies of Board rules were in members' packets. Mr. Viger **made a motion** to adopt the Board rules and procedures as written; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Designate Paper of Record: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to designate the Lakeside News and Rutland Sun as the Paper of Record; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Meeting with the RC Flyers: The RC Flyers representative noted that they have been using the Air Park for about 30 years; the Air Show is scheduled for July 12th; they plan to make donations as in the past. Chairman Traverse thanked the RC Flyers for letting the Board know of their plans. At Mr. Heitsmith's inquiry, there are 25 registered flyers, and 100 to 125 folks attend the Air Show.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to add "Mr. Galvin, discussion about a proposed gazebo" to Old Business; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Greenough **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Doran. The motion carried with Mr. Viger and Mr. Lucci abstaining.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the March 3, 2025 meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Doran. The motion carried with Mr. Viger and Mr. Lucci abstaining.

Department Head Reports: Police Chief Humphries reported:

- * 0 Arrests (16 yr. to date)
- * 113 Traffic/Municipal violations (436 yr. to date)
- * 55 Written warnings (190 Yr. to date)
- * 7 Parking violations (19 yr. to date)
- * 4 Car crashes (14 yr to date)
- * 8 Sets of Fingerprints (45 yr. to date)
- * 307 Calls for service (991 yr. to date)

On March 15, 2025 provided Escort to High School Girls Basketball Team after their 2025 State Championship win.

Nate Saxon, Dept of Public Works (DPW) reported:

- * Working on Scotch Hill Road shoulders
- * Cold patching
- * Cutting trees

Mr. Heitsmith reported a tree down on Sheldon Road that fell on utility lines. Mr. Saxon said, GMP takes care of trees that fall on their lines.

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * Spoke with the State -- we are 6th on a list of 38 to receive paving grant. We could do the \$900,000 Scotch Hill project if/when grant is received
- * Thank you To DPW for pot hole cold patch work
- * Thank you to Frank Faryniarz and Rick Wilson for removing the Park Christmas wreaths
- * We did a VLCT On Boarding Class
- * Met with Brad Stevens re: the Lumberjack Show. It will now be a Town function, eligible for insurance coverage. All the people that work the show will sign on
- * Have started the water/sewer budget work
- * Everyone has done a good job with their budgets; all are below the average- 73% spent.

OLD BUSINESS

Liquor Licenses: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve a Second-Class liquor license for Brockton Corporation DBA Shaw's Beer and Wine; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve a First-Class Club license, a Third-Class liquor license, and an Outside Consumption permit to the American Legion Fair Haven Post 49; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve a Second-Class liquor license, a Tobacco license and a Tobacco Substitute endorsement to Midway Oil Corporation DBA Fair Haven Mobile; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve a First-Class Restaurant/bar license to Scotch Hill Brewery; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Water Main Construction -- Contract Approval: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve the engineer's analysis and recommendation and approve Manager Gunter to sign for the Town; seconded by Mr. Greenough. The analysis states the first bid process received only one bid that was rejected because it was over budget. A second bid went out; where 2 bids were received: one for \$1.7 million; another for \$1.5 million; because bids were high, the Town was required to go for bond issue. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to concur with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBD) document and allow Manager Gunter to sign for the Town; seconded by Mr. Doran. Markoski provided paperwork that they did solicit bids from disadvantaged companies. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Galvin, Discussion About a Proposed Gazebo: The Board heard from Mr. Sean Galvin who reported that comments on Facebook went "crazy" including that Legionnaires were too lazy to put up and take down the Memorial Day stage. He expounded on some of what the Legion does, including: Bingo that allows donations to local charitable organizations; scholarships, children to camp; playground equipment, EMT classes, honor guards (veteran funerals) (six events this year). Putting up and taking down the Memorial Day (indoor) stage; will not be used outside again. The Legion offered to buy a small permanent stage. If the Town wants it, fine; if not, the Town will have to find alternate plans. Mr. Doran said people complain on Facebook, but do not attend at meetings for discussion. He is in favor of the gazebo. Mr. Greenough said he too is in favor. There followed discussion re: impact on view of traffic, safety, maintenance, size; power is accessible at the flagpole. Mr. Doran said the Legion is willing to give this to the Town and dragging out the decision will sour relationship with them. Chairman Traverse feels it should be on an agenda for vote. Mr. Greenough suggests having a photo/drawing of the proposed gazebo.

NEW BUSINESS

Reappraisal Bids -- Approving a Contractor: The matter is tabled, waiting for more information.

Reapprove MP-1: Manager Gunter explained that MP-1 is a requirement to access Community Development Block grants, ex. the Skyline building grant. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the MP-1; seconded by Mr. Viger and passed unanimously.

Listers' Certificate of No Appeal: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to accept the Listers' Certificate of No Appeal or Suit pending; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed. Members signed the document.

Errors and Omissions: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to accept the Listers' Errors and Omissions statement; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Cemetery Deeds: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to sell one (1) grave in lot 82, section 11, to Gregory Amerio and Karen Kehoe for \$545.00; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to sell one (1) grave in lot 82, section 11, to Anthony and Charlene Amerion for \$545.00; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Appointments: Mr. Viger **made a motion to appoint** Mary McNeil, Danielle Roberts, Matthew McNeil, Lorraine Brown, Scott Folmsbee, and Paul Laramie for a 1 year term to the **Cemetery Committee**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion to appoint** Joe Gunter, Ceil Hunt, Mike Pavelec, Laura Pedroni, Glen Traverse, Judi Sutherland and Chadd Viger for a 1 year term to the **Economic Development Committee**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion to appoint** Chris Stanton, Michael Stannard, Neil Robinson, and Robert Richards for a 1 year term to the **Energy Committee**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion to appoint** Robert Richards and Claire Stanley for a 1 year term as **Fence Viewers**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to accept the slate of **Fire Department Officers:** Jim Heller as Fire Chief; Tom Fucile as 1st Assist. Chief; Don Proctor as 2nd Assist. Chief; Wayne Charlton, Captain; Mike Finnegan, Lieutenant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Ray Phillips for a 1 year term as **Inspector of Lumber**; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Bill Humphries for a 1 year term as **Pound-keeper**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Eric Ramey and Josh Markie to the **Recreation Committee**; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Jason Coupal for a 1 year term as the Town's representative to the **Rutland Regional Planning Commission**; and Bob Richards for a 1 year term as the Town's **alternate** representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Shayden Coombs for a 1 year term as the Town's **Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC) representative**; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed. Members signed the document.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Phil Stannard for a 1 year term as the **Tree Warden**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Chris Cole for a 1 year term as the **Weigher of Coal**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Jake Helm to complete the balance of a 3 year term on the **Zoning Board of Adjustment** with his appointment expiring in **March, 2027**; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to clarify that **Deborah Laiacona** will complete the balance of a 3 year term on the **Planning Commission** with her appointment expiring in **March, 2026**. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to clarify that **Deborah Laiacona** will complete the balance of a 3 year term on the **Zoning Board of Adjustment** with her appointment expiring in **March, 2027**. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Viger noted that Vermont statutes allow for 2 minutes for public comment; it was moved to end of meeting because sometimes questions are answered during the meeting. Chairman Traverse commented that it is an effort to do the business of the Town first; that sometimes comments are made about non-agenda items.

Mr. Galvin said that any organization wanting to be on the Town Meeting Warning for vote, be required to circulate a petition; without that, people don't know what they are voting for, citing the Regional Ambulance Service. Fair Haven has their own Rescue Squad, and don't use the Regional. Mr. Doran suggests voting some articles from the floor. Mr. Galvin noted that kind of change requires a long process. Chairman Traverse said to first review the policy.

Mr. Galvin inquired re: does the Town own property; Town should not own property; why are we not getting tax revenue from those properties; can the Town sell property.

Parking Lot: At Mr. Viger's inquiry, Chairman Traverse said Bob Richards of the Planning Commission said to expect **Downtown Designation** by September. This is necessary to be eligible for grants.

Mr. Doran said, we should get the **DPW Salt Shed/Garage** issue going again; it has been here for a year or more. Mr. Saxon noted the main question is where do you want DPW. Mr. Viger suggested collaborating with another Town, ex Poultney and build a salt shed somewhere in between. Manager Gunter said at one time the Town got a wetland permit at the Air Park, but the new Board, at the time, did not pursue it. He understands the need and is working on something that is progressing at a glacial pace.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Lucci has heard complaints about rats. Chief Humphries reported that the property in question is in Court for eviction and soon should be cleaned up of the infestation.

Mr. Doran reported noise complaints. Chief Humphries said they have videos of the incident(s) and so far, no cause for complaint has been found.

Mr. Greenough said only one side of Washington and North Main Streets were fog line striped on both sides last year. He hopes a better job will be done this year by the State.

Mr. Viger extended congratulations to Mr. Sam Lucci, new member of the Select Board. He congratulated the Slater bowling team on their State Championship, Cole Belden for his wrestling State championship and the Slater Girls Basketball team for their State Championship.

Chairman Traverse said a good job was done escorting the Girls basketball team.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is **\$2,094,163.96**

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the March 6, 2025 **payroll warrant, \$39,709.60**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the March 6, 2025 **General Fund warrant, \$745,875.05**; seconded by Mr. Lucci. This amount includes a school payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the March 20, 2025 **payroll warrant, \$35,349.66**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the March 20, 2025 **General Fund warrant, \$221,226.25**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Greenough **made a motion to enter Executive Session** at 8:33 to discuss Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(1); seconded by Me. Doran and passed unanimously.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:59 pm

Mr. Viger motioned to approve the AFSCME Union agreement; seconded by Mr. Doran; motion passed unanimously

Adjourn: Meeting **adjourned** at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Chadd Viger, Board Clerk