

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

**REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, April 1, 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, Peg TV, Rose Anne VanLew, Police Chief William Humphries, Lillian E. Billewicz, Johnathan J. Billewicz

**Call to Order:** Chairman Glen Traverse Called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Presentation by Steffanie Bourque -- LHMP Update:** Ms. Bourque reported the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is almost at the finish line. She thanked the Planning team of Joe Gunter and Jim Heller for the work done to bring it up to date. She presented a handout (available to the public at the Municipal Office) of details of the Plan including its purpose, what is it, what does it do and why, what is changed ex. land use. The plan identifies high risk hazards (flood, wind), develops mitigation strategies and identifies what the Town has available in place. The Plan, required by FEMA, is updated every five years and is quite different than that of 2019. There is a public comment period from April 1 to April 15. The Select Board will review and consider prior approval at the next meeting before the Plan goes to the State and then to FEMA for final approval. Mr. Viger inquired what are the benefits to the Town. Ms. Bourque noted the Plan is community driven, it is financially driven and cost effective -- plan and mitigate before natural hazard event(s). The plan makes the Town eligible for federal and State funds. It is hoped that approval pending adoption will be finished in April. The Board thanked Ms. Bourque for her time and effort.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to add "*Liquor and Tobacco Licenses* to NEW BUSINESS; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

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

- \* 2 arrests (18 yr. to date)
- \* 119 traffic/municipal violations (555 yr. to date)
- \* 35 written warnings (225 yr. to date)
- \* 13 sets of fingerprints (58 yr. to date)
- \* 340 calls for service (1228 yr. to date)

### **Town Manager Report & Communication:**

- \* Work Safe Program will be at the Transfer Station in May
- \* Repaired the water leak at Jiffy Mart today
- \* Installed a culvert on Mahar Road
- \* Cutting brush/trees on Scotch Hill Road
- \* Prepping Scotch Hill Road for paving -- feeling confident for grant funding
- \* Cleaned up the Cedar Grove Cemetery tree this week
- \* Working on preparing for the Transfer Station swap shop
- \* Renewed the Mutual Aid agreement -- this is the 5th year.
- \* The Municipal building outside painting will be done late April/early May by Flying Colors
- \* Sustained some tree damage during last weekend storm. Also there was equipment damage at the water plant. Preparing a report and list of damaged equipment for insurance co.
- \* The RFP for air-conditioning and heat pump for the Municipal building is due the 7th
- \* The water/sewer budget is in development; will present to the Board next month.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Appraisal Bids -- Approving a Contractor:** Tabled, waiting for references

**Appoint Linda Sienkiewicz to the P.C.:** Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Linda Sienkiewicz to the Planning Commission for a three (3) year term that ends March, 2028. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Appropriation Policy:** Copies of the Appropriation Policy were supplied to members for review. Discussion included: Mr. Viger suggested that language stating that petitions are not required be removed; Chairman Traverse said petitioners should supply information re: how funds were spent; Mr. Doran said petitioners should attend pre-Town meeting with presentation; Mr. Greenough said information on how the funding would benefit the Town should be presented. Mr. Viger noted that if petitions are a requirement, some petitioners that serve multi-Town's ex. Slate Valley Cares, would not be able to attend each Town's pre-meeting. Manager Gunter noted that anybody can get on the ballot if a signed petition is presented no matter what the Board says. Also, that if the Board requires a petition with appropriation request, the agency need not submit any further information. Mr. Doran said voters need to know that appropriations are not part of the Town's budget. After discussion, it is the consensus (4/1) to go back to the need for signed petitions. Chairman Traverse noted that the policy was changed during COVID when it was difficult to get to people for signatures. Manager Gunter will inquire of VLCT if the Fair Haven Rescue Squad can be exempt in perpetuity. Mr. Viger suggested inviting some organizations to attend a meeting for their input.

**Tree Pruning in the Park:** Minimal Park tree maintenance has been done since COVID. Trees provided a maintenance schedule for all Park trees (\$10,500). One large tree in the southwest corner of the Park has been watched for 8 years, and Trees feels because of the center rotting

that it should be removed. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to trim all trees according to the provided maintenance schedule, not to exceed \$10,500, and to remove the large, damaged tree if it is deemed necessary; seconded by Mr. Doran. Mr. Doran inquired if the large tree would be replaced. The motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment to Otter Creek Communication District (CUD):** Mr. Viger **made a motion** to appoint Sam Lucci to the Otter Creek Communication District; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

**Liquor/Tobacco Licenses:** Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve a first-class club license, a third-class club license and an outside consumption permit to Fair Haven Eagles, Aerie #3907; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve a first-class restaurant license/bar license, and an outside consumption permit to Scotch Hill Brewing, LLC; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve a second-class liquor license and a tobacco license to S.W. Wolk Corporation DBA Liberty Street Market; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

**Two Minutes for Public Comment:** Johnathan Billewicz congratulated members for re-election and welcomed Mr. Lucci, new member. He reminded that he is suing the Board and is now willing to settle. Chairman Traverse thanked him for his comment.

Ms. Lillian Billewicz also congratulated members on the election and questioned why the paid accountant report has not been posted on the Town website.

Ms. Rose Anne VanLew commented that people think that ballot appropriations are part of the Town budget.

Ms. Lorraine Brown presented a list of Itty Bitty Committee items stored in her garage. She stated that they will no longer be willing to store these items, and the Town must find storage space elsewhere.

**Parking Lot:** Chairman Traverse noted that all parking lot items are being worked on.

**Board Roundtable:** At Mr. Doran's inquiry, Manager Gunter stated that most of the properties that can be, have been sold. One is in the process now, and there is a lot of interest in the two properties on Union Street, and one on Willard Avenue.

**Review of Financial Reports:** The **Checkbook** status is **\$932,967.50**

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant **\$35,032.13**; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the General Fund warrant **\$39,999.33**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session**: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to enter Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations 1 VSA 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed unanimously.

The board came out of executive session at 9pm. No actions were taken.

**Adjourn**: Mr. Viger motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Doran. The meeting **adjourned** at 9:01pm

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

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Board Clerk