

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, April 15, 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: Glen Traverse, Rich Greenough, Sam Lucci

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Frank Faryniarz, Ann Finley, Steffanie Bourque, Joy Martelliti, Ceil Hunt, Mary Enichois, Gins Grove, Jim Aubin, Chris Adams, Carrieann Wolcott, Nathan Eagan, Rosemary Greene, Diane Drake, Police Chief William Humphries, Johnathan Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz.

Call to Order: Chairman 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 Final: The Board heard from Steffanie Bourque, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) who reported that at their last meeting, Board members were given a final draft of the plan that was also made available to the public at the Municipal Building and online. Today is the final day for revisions. She noted that no comments were received from the public. Mr. Traverse commented that the document is very comprehensive; that it should include that a new electric substation is in progress by GMP. The current one on Cottage Street will be closed; the new one built on Airport Road. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to authorize Ms. Bourque to make the change(s) and move the Plan to approval pending. It was noted that once the approval pending is received, the Plan will come back to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Appropriation Policy -- Discussion: Manager Gunter explained that the Social Service Agency Appropriation Policy was changed to not requiring petition signatures in 2020 during COVID. The Board recently discussed returning to signature requirement. Manager Gunter notified all previous petitioners of this meeting where the Board wanted to hear input from them. Representatives from VNA, ARC, Slate Valley Cares, Council on Aging, Child First, Community Cares (mental health) attended. All shared what service(s) they provide, all in multiple Towns. Ms. Hunt reported she has collected signatures in the past for many social organizations and noted it is very difficult to cover multiple Towns. VNA reported they serve 48 Towns providing critical care to under and uninsured people. She noted that their funding is "under the gun"; that it is difficult to get signatures from 5% of registered voters citing: limited staff members, inclement weather conditions, and safety issues. ARC noted that it is good that people need to vote on these issues, needing to be aware of services. Ms. Hunt said that when the policy was changed, programs were urged to provide written reports for the Town Report and to attend pre-Town meetings. Slate Valley Cares (formerly Fair Haven Concerned) thanked the Board for

supporting them for many years; that they are a very small group with no paid staff at this time. Council on Aging also cited safety issues going door to door; are happy to provide written reports; and to please keep the policy of no petition signatures requirement. Community Cares said the opportunity to voice their concerns and comments is very much appreciated. Chairman Traverse said these agencies services are appreciated. Mr. Lucci said he appreciates these folks being here to speak in person. Ms. Hunt noted that agencies could represent at National Night Out, at pre-Town meeting, and that it is important to provide a written report on how funds are spent and benefits to the Town(s) for inclusion in Town Reports.

Planning Commission -- Zoning Discussion -- Bob Richards: Tabled to next meeting

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the April 1, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

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

- * 2 car crashes
- * 9 traffic/municipal violations
- * Completed 14 sets of fingerprints
- * 209 calls for service

Mr. Aubin commented that there is a white pickup that frequently drives noisily and at high speed on Fourth Street; Mr. Eagan agrees. Chief Humphries will investigate the problem.

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * The deadline for receiving **coin drop** requests is April 16th
- * Greenup Day/Fair Haven Blooms is May 3rd
- * The Water/Sewer budget will be on the May 13th agenda
- * The Rec Dept. recently purchased a Snack Shack for the playground
- * Hydrant flushing started today
- * Reached out to the forester for update/status of timber harvesting
- * The Fair Haven Fire Dept. helped out the Hubbardton and Castleton Depts.
- * The road signs, corner of Washington and North Park Place, that were knocked down, were replaced today; the light pole will be replaced May 13th; work covered by insurance
- * The Cemetery crew started work today
- * Wastewater Chief Operator Carrie Lafond thanked the Board for mapping the water/sewer lines.
- * Cameras will be used to check out the sewer line damage at the collapsed line at Stewarts, and will check the line at the corner of West and Washington St.
- * Water Plant Chief Operator Mike LaDuke is getting quotes to replace "original" filters; also, for repair of damaged infrastructure

OLD BUSINESS

Reappraisal Bids -- Approving a Contractor: Tabled, waiting for references

Hilary Solomon -- Storm Water Project Easement: Tabled, waiting for feedback

Gazebo at Memorial Park -- Discussion: Mr. Frank Faryniarz stated he is against a gazebo, or any other permanent structure in the Memorial Park; that there may be a need for another monument at a later time; that ground should be left for veterans. Mr. Aubin agrees; that this is sacred ground; it was not established for gathering. Chief Humphries agrees, citing safety issues. Manager Gunter stated that he does not recommend building a gazebo; that there are other ways to go; the idea has not been well received. It is the consensus of the Board to thank the Legion for their offer; that it is very much appreciated but will not be installing a gazebo in the Memorial Park.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Bulletin Board Placement Approval: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to install a Community Bulletin Board near the bus stop seconded by Mr. Greenough. It is a two-sided minimal cost sign placed on the south side of the bus stop, installed by DPW. The motion carried.

Downtown Designation Resolution: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to adopt the Fair Haven Downtown Designation Resolution; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Camara Land Donation to the State: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to support the donation of 17 acres of land by Mr. Walter Camara to the State, and to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support; seconded by Mr. Greenough. The parcel is located off Scotch Hill Road abutting VT Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Bonsawinno Area (Gr. Mtn. Conservation Camp). The motion carried. Chairman Traverse signed the document.

Appointing Ann Finley to the Planning Commission: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to appoint Ann Finley to the Planning Commission to fill the remainder of a three (3) year term ending March, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Highway Financial Plan -- Review and Approval: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the Annual Highway Financial Plan; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the Certificate of Compliance of Roads and Bridges Standards; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

HVAC Contract Approval -- MERP Funding: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the bid from U 1st Plumbing, Heating and Cooling, \$282,625,00 to install heat pumps in the Municipal Building offices, paid from the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant; seconded by Mr. Lucci. The proposal includes 9 condensers and associated equipment, new 400 amp single phase service metered separately. Manager Gunter noted, the work also includes insulation and sealing cracks in the building. Chief Humphries noted it does not interfere with the historical integrity or value of the building. The motion carried

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. Lillian Billewicz presented a handout re: the handling of an OSHA fine in 2019.

Mr. Johnathan Billewicz said he is willing to settle a lawsuit and became belligerent.

The Board took a brief recess

Parking Lot: No action

Board Roundtable: Mr. Greenough noted that DPW has been patching potholes -- looks good. Should be concentrating on cleaning catch basins of street debris.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is \$981,471.79

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant \$36,732.37; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to pay the General Fund warrant \$81,699.44; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Adjourn: Mr. Greenough **moved to adjourn** at 8:21 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Board Clerk