

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, May 27, 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 Van Lew, Johnathan J. Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz, James Doran, Water Dept. Chief Operator, Mike Laduke, Lauri Notarino

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.

Meeting with Mary McNeil Re: Cemetery Trees: Did not attend

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Greenough **moved** to add “*Contract Negotiation and Civil Litigation*” to Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Doran. CORRECTION Mr. Viger was absent. The motion carried with Mr. Viger abstaining.

Department Head Reports: **Water Dept. Chief Operator Mike Laduke** reported:

- * All in all things are working pretty good
- * The exerciser trailer is received
- * The roof repair is done
- * Making good water; the State is happy
- * To replace the filtering system, including all parts and pieces cost is approximately \$250,000

Police: Manager Gunter reported:

- * 9 arrests (32 yr. to date)
- * 214 Traffic/municipal violations (934 yr. to date)
- * 63 written warnings (364 yr. to date)
- * 1 car crash (22 yr. to date)
- * Completed 9 sets of fingerprints (96 yr. to date)
- * 337 calls for service (2057 yr. to date)

Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Manager Gunter reported:

- * The Transfer Station PA system died -- repair will be done when parts are received
- * The Swap Shop is open
- * Eli Charlton filled in for a vacation at the Sewer plant

- * The Fire Engine Chassis is in -- \$114,000
 - * The Transfer station access road is paved
 - * Road grading, roadside mowing and cold patching are on-going
 - * Did two burials last week
 - * The water/mud puddle at the southeast Park entrance, at the bus stop has been eliminated
 - * Worked to prepare cemeteries for Memorial Day
 - * Community Bulletin Board will be installed this week
 - * Working to cancel the dangerous parking space across from the bus stop
- Mr. Lucci inquired, approximately how many people used the Swap Shop; Mr. Doran noted there needs to be a sign for the Swap Shop as it is not easily visible.
- * Manager Gunter reported receiving an e-mail from Ms. Pedroni re: a rat problem. He said it may become a case of complying with property clean-up or be ticketed. Daily ticketing is allowed for every day of non-compliance.

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * The Prospect Street housing project is "chugging along"
- * Town Accountant Teri Perry is working on switching from BC/BS to the new insurance Co., plans are almost the same; it is also a savings to the Town
- * The .GOV website is moving forward
- * Have frozen the budget -- so it can be finalized by July
- * A tree on the Town side of the West Street cemetery fence will be removed. The homeowner has been contacted re: the tree on their property that is a potential hazard.
- * Information re: 1B subdivision designation in members' packet
- * Transfer station stickers are available now at the office (\$7.00)
- * Saturdays Memorial Day event and parade went well in spite of cold and rainy weather

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of the Tier 1B Application: Manager Gunter said this is to begin the process of the Tier 1B option to be submitted to the State for review. It goes along with the work being done by the Zoning and Planning Committees updating the Town Plan; it impacts Act 250 for future building process. Mr. Viger noted it impacts the cost of living creating opportunities for contractors planning building development. Mr. Viger **made a motion to submit** the Tier 1B application for the Town of Fair Haven; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed unanimously. Mr. Greenough noted there needs to be parking to go along with this.

LEMP Approval: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan and designate the Board Chair to sign the document; seconded by Mr. Greenough. Manager Gunter noted the Plan is updated by Jim Heller every year. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Traverse signed the document.

Appointment to the Planning Commission: There were no applications

Water/Sewer Budget Review: **Water Budget Review:** Manager Gunter reported, the budget, as staff proposed shows an increase of 1.76%. He noted the apprentice position has been eliminated as there are no applicants; this reduces the salary line. The Board reviewed the budget line by line; Mr. Laduke explained that they mow at the dam; he requests a used lawnmower for that purpose. He said that watershed work consists mostly of tree cleanup and mowing; small tools needed for curb stop/cap repair; will be needing to purchase new meters (only 7 left). Mr. Greenough noted he does not see any reserve built in so far. There are two bonds: \$39,000; \$43,000. Other purchased services was reduced by \$5,000; Benefits reduced \$3,600; Information from VLCT reduced Workers Comp, \$4,200. With changes made, the budget is 1.71% less than last year. There was discussion re: buying a sensor with this year's budget. Also, that there is a constant leak seemingly coming from ledge, not a structural failure; has been leaking for years; suggest having Aldrich & Elliott look at it.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Jim Doran reported he acquired a piece of land on Town Highway 63; he has cleaned it up; no taxes have been paid for years; he would like to get clear title to it; nobody knows who owns it. Manager Gunter said the Town does not control the property; there is a 99 year lease on it, unknown owner. The Board suggests he continue to work with Manager Gunter.

Ms. Van Lew inquired, does anyone know the status of the Washington Street Cemetery fence repair. Mrs. Stanley noted having been told that repair is in the works; had to wait for insurance information. *Ms. Van Lew inquired, when the Prospect Street water project will start and how long is it expected to take. It is expected to be done this summer.

Parking Lot: No discussion

Board Roundtable: Mr. Doran inquired, is there an ordinance re: food trucks. Manager Gunter said it is part of the Itinerant Vendor ordinance; requires a \$5.00 permit. Discussion was about options; that it would be a draw bringing people to Town; would not impact local restaurants in the evening. Chairman Traverse said, before any decision is made, he wants to have it be an agenda item for public discussion.

Mr. Greenough asked is there interest in having "Memory Benches" in the Park to replace some of the existing ones. Also, to add a few more picnic tables. *Mr. Greenough stated before Main Street is paved, to be sure that catch basins are in place correctly for water to flow into them.

Mr. Viger suggests the Town increase help to event organizers; options were discussed. Chairman Traverse said to invite event planners to a Board meeting to discuss needs and options.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is \$702,591.76

Mr. Viger **made a motion to pay** the payroll warrant \$40,911.26; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Viger **made a motion to pay** the General Fund warrant \$250,618.51; seconded by Mr. Lucci. This amount included a fire truck payment. The motion carried unanimously

Executive Session: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to enter executive session at 8:26 to discuss contract negotiation and Civil Litigation 1 VSA 313 (A)(1); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

Adjourn: The Board came out of executive session at 8:59. Mr. Viger motioned to adjourn; Mr. Lucci seconded. Meeting **adjourned** at 9pm

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Chadd Viger, Board Clerk