

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, July 22, 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, Sam Lucci

Members Absent: Mike Doran

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Rose Anne Van Lew, Ceil Hunt, Athletic Director Erika Notte, Police Chief William Humphries

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.

Appointment with the Auditor -- Ron Smith: Was unable to attend, asked to be on next agenda

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to add *"Appointment with Tenant re Water Bill"* to NEW BUSINESS; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to add *"Approval of Special Permit Liquor License"* to NEW BUSINESS; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025, minutes; seconded by Mr. Greenough. CORRECTIONS. Pg. 1, date should be July 8; pg.4, line 1, . . . to not remove any items; pg. 3, ¶ 9, . . . his family gravesite globes; pg. 3, ¶ 8, \$60,000 to do feasibility study to rehab. . . Motion and second were withdrawn. Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Department Head Reports: **Police** Chief Humphries had no report because he has been on vacation. He noted that Dept. Officers are in the process of training for Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (A.R.I.D.E) certification.

DPW Manager Gunter reported:

- * The former National Guard building is closed; Dept. of Public Works (DPW) has started their move
- * DPW is filling potholes
- * Helped with the River Street water leak
- * Have been doing equipment repair and maintenance
- * The three outstanding boil-water alerts have been taken care of
- * Talked with Shaden Coombs who reported activity at the swap shop saved about 4 tons of garbage. At Mr. Lucci's inquiry, this is tracked by comparing two past year's activity.

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * Tax bills went out last week
- * The former National Guard building is insured since the Town took possession; electric and water are in service
- * Reached out to Castleton and Poultney to discuss if there is interest in collaborating for a three-town big event for America's 250th anniversary.
- * 7 Union Street is posted for sale
- * Auditor Ron Smith will be here next meeting; have scheduled meetings with him for the 26, 27 and 28 to finish the 25/26 audit. This to get us back on track for audit reports
- * Had a good meet and greet with the Governor; many representatives attended
- * Heat pumps are in; still a minor problem in the Clerk's office
- * The downtown waterline construction should be done this week
- * There was a meeting with the Governor at the former Skyline building after the press conference at the old racetrack
- * Expect South Main Street paving late August
- * Early discussion to place the salt shed at the Air Park visitor parking lot is not feasible because drainage would impact flood zone. The only feasible location is behind the building; that location does provide access for tractor trailer delivery
- * Manager Gunter introduced Erika Notte, new Athletic Director. She reported 35/45 kids registered for summer program that include breakfast and lunch; programs are open for ages 5 to 12 though some older kids are showing interest. Discussion included: There are 8 counselors; they are open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; can be non-residents; the Legion helps with registration payment if/when necessary; that the number of kids reflects a decrease in number of children registering for school.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

3 Town Fireworks for America's Semiquincentennial: Manager Gunter reported he reached out to Castleton University inquiring for use of their space. Ms. Hunt asked if there is money budgeted for the 250th anniversary. Chairman Traverse noted requests would be considered during the budget season; that it is unknown what is involved; no idea how much is needed; need this information before budgeting.

Updated Junk Ordinance: Manager Gunter reported the Economic Development and Downtown Partnership (EDDP) committee took this up to help. This ordinance allows the Town to clean up property of junk/garbage at the owners' expense. Chairman Traverse noted the ordinance addresses leaves that end up/clog up storm drains; added junk, not only junk vehicles to the process. Discussion included the process is that police, not the Selectboard sends out letters; owners can appeal to the Selectboard; the ordinance addresses tall grass around junk vehicles, junk and/or garbage. Members can review and make edits as necessary for later review and approval by this board.

Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA): There were no applications

Appointment With Tenant re: Water Bill: No one attended

Approval of Special Permit Liquor License: Manager Gunter proposed having Fairly Buzzed LLC attend at 4 Concerts in the Park, in an area outside the Park fence selling wine and beer. Mr. Greenough noted no one at concerts has ever asked him about this. Mr. Lucci said he is not opposed in concept; did Fairly Buzzed approach the Town or was she solicited -- she approached the Town. Ms. Hunt said she has been involved with Concerts in the Park for 12/13 years and thought there was an open container ordinance for the Park; this would take up space (parking), the concerts are family friendly -- she is opposed. Chief Humphries said he is not opposed if it will be in a contained area. Chairman Traverse said he is concerned about adding alcohol to a successful program and wants more input; there are places in town that sell spirits; he thinks there are more down than up sides to this; a police officer currently patrols at the concerts. Manager Gunter noted this is scary, not been done before; not to think about what was, but where is Fair Haven going; there is need to appeal to younger folks; is asking to try something new; if we continue to say no to new things, we will never move forward; need to do something to attract people; is asking to try; has spoken to Mr. Capron who said as long as it is outside the fence, he is OK. Ms. Hunt said to bring different bands to attract young folks; to try this at the car show; Manager Gunter said he wants to try at the concerts. Ms. Notte commented that she has never attended a concert, it is not her taste in music. Mr. Lucci stated the idea has merit. Mrs. Stanley commented that she has been involved with Concerts in the Park from the beginning when a dozen or fewer people attended. She said she is not afraid for people to have access to wine/beer at concerts; that just because it was not done in the past is not reason to not try. Manager Gunter showed on the Town map where the contained area would be -- cordoned off -- behind the bus stop. Mr. Greenough said try once. Ms. Van Lew said maybe twice. Mr. Lucci said success can only be measured over time; charging a fee. Ms. Hunt explained the concert cost for bands and supplies, noting revenue is largely based on weather conditions and attendance. Mr. Viger said if voted in, does the Board have the right to revoke? Yes. Using a local vendor was suggested. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve a temporary two-week special permit beer and wine license to Fairly Buzzed, LLC for sale at Concerts in the Park; seconded by Mr. Lucci. The motion failed with Mr. Greenough, yes; Mr. Lucci, yes; Chairman Traverse, no; Mr. Viger abstained.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. Hunt commented the Meet and Greet with Governor Scott was a success; she was glad to see property owner Vanessa Reed there, who is a former Fair Haven Grade School teacher. She asked, what is the intent for use of the Town Barn after DPW moves out; can the Historical Society Park marble posts stay there; can it be used by the IBC for storage. It was noted that the playground has storage trailers for storage.

Ms. Van Lew thanked DPW for repair to sidewalk she brought to their attention. She commented that she is impressed that her tax bill went down thanking Dept. Heads and the Board for careful budgeting.

Parking Lot: No action

Board Roundtable: Mr. Lucci congratulated Manager Gunter on his presence at the press conference. "You reflected the Town well".

Mr. Viger commented the Town was represented in good light on the newscasts. He thanked Manager Gunter, Terry Perry, Nate Saxton and Chief Humphries for their attendance; their photo shows their interest. He noted the program covered at the press conference is for getting funds to small towns for future projects by developers -- that the Town is not building, as is on some social media feeds. Mr. Viger asked if there is an ordinance to address houses in disrepair -- some may be hazardous. Manager Gunter said, no, but the Town has broad power re: the health of the community.

Chairman Traverse reported a person seemed confused re: the discussion about water/sewer bills going to email thinking it would cost more. This proposal was to be on a future agenda. He noted being impressed with the delegation from Montpelier at the press conference.

Review of Financial Reports: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve payment of the payroll warrant, \$47,920.98; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve payment of the accounts payable warrant, \$131,990.95; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

The **checkbook status** is -\$95,409.65

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: Mr. Lucci made a motion to **adjourn** at 8:37 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Board Clerk