

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting – Tuesday, August 5th, 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, Mike Doran

Members Absent:

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Ann Finely

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.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the July 22nd, 2025, minutes; seconded by Mr. Greenough. **CORRECTIONS.** Pg. 3, It was noted that the governor did not attend the visit to the former skyline building. Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Appointment with the Auditor -- Ron Smith:

Ron, the auditor, reported that the town's financial condition is improving, with a general fund balance of around \$200,000, up from \$100,000 last year. He noted that the town has made progress in bookkeeping practices and is on track for the June 30, 2025 audit. Ron advised the town to pay attention to capital reserves and consider developing a capital plan.

Town Manager noted that the town opened a separate reserve bank account to remain compliant with USDA grant funds, as required. The board discussed the importance of reserves and infrastructure maintenance, with Joe explaining a recent change in how reserve funds are managed for the wastewater plant.

unable to attend, asked to be on next agenda

Amendments to the Agenda: None

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

Department Head Reports: Police Manager Gunter reported from 7-21-25 to 8-03-25:

- * There have been 7 arrest
- * 86 Traffic/Municipal violations
- * 30 Written warnings

- * 0 parking violations
- * 0 Overweight permits
- 7 Set of fingerprints

Water/Wastewater

- * Both water and wastewater had inspections this week
- * The water plant had 0 violations and only 2 recommendations for improvements
- * wastewater had zero violations as well. The inspector from the EPA in Boston said he has never seen a clean wastewater treatment facility.

DPW Manager Gunter reported:

- * The public works foreman Nate Saxton has done a good job managing the water line upgrade project
- * The department has been roadside mowing. They will continue to knock the grass back

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * The manager and accountant will meet with the auditor August 26-28 and the FY25 audit is on track
- * The Manager commended the excellent work of the Fair Haven Fire Department for its handling of the Scotch Hill fire
- * The manager will meet with the library board to talk about the foundation issues with the building
- * 35 Castleton students are set to paint the park fence on the 23rd of this month

OLD BUSINESS

Junk ordinance – Second look

The meeting focused on discussing the junk vehicle ordinance and related issues. The selectboard reviewed the revised ordinance and discussed the Walcott ordinance that had been successful in reducing problems, though enforcement was not strictly necessary in that community. The board discussed whether to include overgrown grass and weeds in the junk vehicle ordinance, with some suggesting a separate ordinance for derelict homes. They also discussed the challenges of enforcement, including staffing limitations and the need for clear authority to address blighted properties. The board tabled the conversation until the next meeting to provide time for members to review and others to suggest changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to the EDDP : Mr. **Greenough** **Motioned** to appoint Ann Finley to the Economic Development Downtown Partnership motion **seconded by Mr. Lucci**. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Two Minutes for Public Comment: No public comment

Parking Lot: No action

Board Roundtable: Mr. Lucci congratulated the Fir Haven Fire Department on how well they handled the fire on Scotch Hill.

Mr. Doran Thanks everyone responsible for making the food truck frenzy a success. He noted that there were nearly 600 people in attendance. Mr. Doran wanted to revisit the discussion about having alcohol in the park.

Mr. Greenough did not have any comments

Chairman Traverse would like to have members of the selectboard at the final concert on August 14th to thank Fred Capron for his years of service to the concerts in the park.

Review of Financial Reports: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve payment of the payroll warrant, \$46,277.18; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve payment of the accounts payable warrant, \$397,146.44; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

The **checkbook status** is -\$85,603.32

Executive Session: Mr. Greenough **motioned** to go into executive session under Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(4) **Seconded by Mr. Viger.** Motioned passed unanimously

Out of Executive session: The board came out of executive session with no action taken. Discussion continued about the junk ordinance.

Adjourn: Mr. Lucci made a motion to **adjourn** at 9:30 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Gunter

Board Clerk