

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, August 19, 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, Rich Greenough, Mike Doran, Sam Lucci

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Peg Tv, Rose Anne VanLew, Laura Pedroni, Ann Finley, Mike Pavelic, Joe Laramie, Jon Meigs, Police Chief William Humphries.

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Rich Greenough called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2025, minutes; and the minutes of the August 5, 2025, Special meeting; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Department Head Reports: **Police;** Manager Gunter reported:

- * 7 arrests (85 yr. to date)
- * 118 traffic/municipal violations (1522 yr. to date)
- * 56 written warnings (588 yr. to date)
- * 2 car crashes (40 yr. to date)
- * 13 sets of fingerprints (244 yr. to date)
- * 258 calls for service (3382 yr. to date)

Dept. of Public Works

- * Construction will start on the stormwater mitigation project on Sept. 9th; the North Park Place street cut will be made on that date
- * Continue mowing roadsides along with moving; we are short-staffed and there is a lot to do. We appreciate your patience.
- * There have been some water issues/breaks/leaks in the past few weeks requiring boil water alerts that are repaired.
- * Scotch Hill grinding is due to start the end of August.

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * Our Lady of Seven Dolours sent a thank you note for allowing their coin drop
- * Received a thank you note from the lady whose lost wallet was found
- * Received a thank you note from Ceil Hunt for the coin drop for Castleton Community Center.

- * Last Thursday was Fred Capron's last Concert in the Park. He was presented with a plaque and a hearty thank you for his 16 years of dedicated service, growing the concerts from 0 to up to 1000 in attendance.
- * The auditor will be here next week; expecting to finish the audit by the end of November
- * All the AC units are up and running except the one in the large upstairs room; have found a person interested in doing the ceiling work.
- * The salt shed building has started
- * Working with the library on a grant (50/50 split) to do some building repairs. The estimate is \$90,000 to \$125,000.
- * Data of 2024 downtown car crashes prepared by the Police Dept. is in members' packets showing a breakdown by age group, time of day, weather conditions and injury/property damage. Fair Haven is considered a high crash area.
- * Members are asked to review and re-consider bids for reappraisal; maybe go with another bid.
- * Expect paving on Main Street waterline upgrade construction to be done middle of this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Water/Sewer -- Electronic Invoice Incentive: Discussion focus was on the proposed one-time \$5.00 rebate to customers for switching to electronic billing. Manager Gunter said he has not changed his position, to go with a \$1.00 quarterly discount, but will work with what the Board decides. Mr. Doran **made a motion** to offer a \$1.00 quarterly incentive to water/sewer customers for switching to electronic billing. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Lucci asked to postpone the decision until other members are present. Mr. Doran rescinded his motion.

Junk Ordinance Third Review: There was discussion re: "tall grass" being removed that would then allow grass to be grown to hide junk. The word vegetation was removed as ambiguous. Mr. Lucci asked that when the ordinance goes to public review, that the original verbiage be alongside to be more explicit for the public. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the Junk ordinance as amended; seconded by Mr. Doran. There is a 60-day waiting period for petition/appeal before the ordinance goes into effect. The motion carried.

Blighted Property Ordinance -- First Discussion: Tabled

Park Ordinance -- Review: Tabled -- Mr. Doran asked not to shoot it down

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Doran stated that this is his last meeting; that he is resigning from the Select Board for work-related personal reasons.

Alternate SWAC Representative: Mr. Doran **made a motion** to appoint Mr. Sam Lucci as the alternate representative to Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC); seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Appointment to the ZBA: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Paul Jardine to the Zoning board of Adjustment (ZBA) for the remainder of Cindy Adams' term, expiring March 2027; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint James Lynch to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) as an alternate for a term expiring March 2027; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Liquor License Approval: Mr. Lucci noted these permits would not allow consumption in the park, but on private property across the street from the Park during the Food Truck Frenzy. There was lengthy discussion that included: licensing, liability, fees, size of the space, public safety. Mr. Laramie said this would be an opportunity to increase his winery visibility. Mr. Lucci commented that this is a change from what some folks think about behavior at public events. Mr. Doran **made a motion** to approve a one-time occasion permit to Fall Mountain Wines LLC; seconded by Mr. Lucci. Ms. Pedroni commented that this is not a moral debate, that these vendors have a right to be there. Chief Humphries commented that in his experience, folks are not there to get drunk but to be with friends and have a drink. The motion carried.

Mr. Doran **made a motion** to approve a Caterer permit to Fairley Buzzed LLC during the Food Truck Frenzy; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. VanLew said that the last Food Truck Frenzy was great and is looking forward to another. *She commented that Mr. Doran will be missed. *Ms. VanLew said that the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station is a good thing.

Mr. Pavelic commented about the Vermont Beer Festival held in Burlington attracts up to 10,000 patrons with no issues.

Chief Humphries commented that in past years, the park was used most weekends for activities that foster a sense of community.

There followed lengthy conversation including: Ms. Pedroni noted we have the most beautiful Park in the State, and it is underused; Ms. VanLew said, once activities get started they will keep going; Manager Gunter commented that events like these don't just happen, it takes volunteers; Mr. Greenough noted we need more things like this; Mr. Doran said people need to attend meetings to have their voice heard; Mr. Lucci said, we have to be sensitive to the views of folks that have concerns.

Parking Lot: No action

Board Roundtable: Mr. Lucci said he would like to re-address the crosswalk lighting. *He thanked Mr. Doran for his time on the Select Board and all he does for the Town. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Doran commented about the excessive use of electric scooters and electric dirt bikes speeding all over. Chief Humphries noted confusion in monitoring this activity. It needs to be

addressed. *Mr. Doran thanked the Board and its members for the support he received during his 1 ½ years on the Select Board.

Mr. Greenough thanked Mr. Doran for his time on the Board. *He also thanked the Dept. of Public Works, hoping they will be able to catch up.

Mr. Viger thanked Mr. Doran for his time serving on the Select Board. *He commented that he has heard buzz/chatter that Fair Haven is on the up and up getting better. It's an exciting time.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook status is **\$1,080,766.48**

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the **payroll warrant \$46,271.64**; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the **general fund warrant \$156,700.04** seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: Mr. Viger **moved to adjourn** at 8:11 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Doran and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Board Clerk