

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

**REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, October 14, 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, Keith Hier, Sam Lucci

**Members Absent:** Chadd Viger

**Others Present:** Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Peg-TV, Rose Anne VanLew, Ann Finley, Laura Pedroni, Police Chief William Humphries

**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.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** the minutes of the September 30, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

### **Department Head Reports:** **Manager Gunter reported:**

- \* Received a Thank You note from Fair Haven Grade School thanking the Board for allowing **Applefest** in the Park. All agreed it was a success.
- \* **Police:** There were 5 arrests in the last two weeks
- \* 74 traffic/municipal violations
- \* 1 parking violation
- \* 71 warnings
- \* 2 car crashes
- \* Completed 10 sets of fingerprints
- \* 257 calls for service

### **Dept of Public Works:**

- \* Continue grading, filling potholes, grading shoulders (Dump Road, Scotch Hill), cleaning storm drains, cleanup cemeteries.
- \* There is a sewer line break on Fourth Street; will be repaired Thursday
- \* Appreciate the new building, are taking good care of it.
- \* Thank you to Doug Wood and Rich Greenough for work on the salt shed; getting close to finish
- \* Lights were strung in the Park for Food Truck Frenzy; will stay up until after the new year.
- \* Working with the State on getting the Prospect Street "Outlet" out of the flood zone
- \* Police Chief Humphries said that there was a home invasion; that the Dept. will be addressing the homelessness issues.

- \* Police Chief Humphries reported that Cheri McDermott is starting her 7th year with the Dept.
- \* At Mr. Greenough's inquiry Manager Gunter said there are still a few fire hydrants that need work. Mr. Greenough said this should be prioritized as is possible.
- \* Mr. Greenough commented that the left-turn Main Street striping at Liberty Street is getting faded; needs to be re-painted.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Accept New Zoning Regulations:** Manager Gunter reported that there was a Public Hearing at the last Selectboard meeting on the Zoning Regulations. There was brief discussion, but no feedback/changes. Mr. Hier **made a motion to accept** the new Zoning Regulations, seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Budget Review Begins:** Manager Gunter prepared a budget summary and a meeting schedule for members noting that the Dept. of Public Works (DPW) will attend the next Selectboard meeting to present their budget. The budget summary overview shows the municipal budget, including appropriations, shows an increase of 2.99%. **Key increases** (Public Works) are paving, +\$61,000; winter operations, +\$19,000; Building utilities and fuel, +\$12,000. Transfer Station hauling fees, +\$7,000. Employee Benefits +\$21,450 (FICA/Medicare/retirement/updated salary levels). County Tax, +\$5,000.

**Key Reductions:** (Selectboard Budget) Reserves, -\$32,000; Legal Services, -\$5,000; Equipment Debt, -\$21,400; Economic Development, -\$5,000; Hydrant replacement, -\$25,000. (Fire Dept.) Air pack Maintenance, -\$6,000.

Manager Gunter noted the budget completion deadline to be ready to print in the Town Report is January 6, 2026. Members received copies of proposed budget for review.

**Two Minutes for Public Comment:** Ms. VanLew offered huge Kudos to the people that worked to put on the Food Truck Frenzy. The Park decorations looked nice with the lights. Also thank you to Mike Doran who initiated the Food Truck Frenzy. Look forward to next season.

**Parking Lot:** Mr. Lucci commented that Castleton and Hubbardton are discussing joining their **Transfer Station** operation with Fair Haven. SWAK has voted to move forward with the project.

**Board Roundtable:** Mr. Lucci said he seconds Ms. VanLew's comments about the Food Truck Frenzy and he too looks forward to next season.

Mr. Hier inquired if local businesses were notified about the Food Truck activities. Ms. Finley noted, yes it was on social media, and businesses were visited in person. Chairman Traverse noted that one business said the Frenzy took away from local business and requested that it be held other than a Wednesday night. Heard mostly good things.

Mr. Greenough commented that DPW has to keep trying the best they can -- ditching, mowing; focus on cleaning and maintaining equipment -- all these things save money. Manager Gunter noted that DPW spends 20+ hours a week focused on equipment maintenance.

There was discussion re: closing Caernarvon Street for Trick or Treat time. Chief Humphries said it would be a good idea to close side streets as well or cars will be coming from all directions. Discussion included: Trunk or Treat is the same night; is there enough signage and manpower; involve Fire Dept.; impact on handicapped; that Friday could involve a playoff football game. Trick or Treat is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Greenough noted that there have been no issues in the past. Chief Humphries said that calls for service are historically minimal on Halloween.

**Review of Financial Reports:** The checkbook status is **-\$538,590.37**

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant, **\$47,847.30**; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to pay the Accounts Payable (General) warrant, **\$434,739.34**; seconded by Mr. Hier. This amount includes payment for paving Scotch Hill, \$386,747.55. The motion carried.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Lucci **made a motion to enter** into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss a labor contract, 1 VSA 313(a)(1); seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Lucci **motion to approve** the Police Chief contract for \$105,000 with 3% increases annually beginning July 1, 2026 through July 1, 2030; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Greenough **motioned** to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lucci. Meeting **adjourned** at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

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Board Clerk