

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, October 28, 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, Keith Hier, Sam Lucci

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Peg TV, Rose Anne VanLew, Sean Galvin, Greg Parke, Ann Finley, Devorah Laiacona, Mike Pavelec (on Phone), Laura Pedroni, Nate Saxton.

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.

Meeting with Sean Galvin – Parade/Spring Fling and Rescue Squad Discussion: Mr. Galvin reported that the Fair Haven Rescue Squad is now maintaining a full staff 24/7. They have a mutual aid agreement with other Towns and sometimes an ambulance from another Town is/ will be working in Fair Haven. One third of their budget is Town(s) funded; about 10% of the budget is from resident subscription; insurance(es) pay only 60% of billings. He said they are working to increase the skill sets of their EMTs and staff to improve the level of care. Regional provides advanced care; their per capita is less because they have a larger client base; there are several nursing homes in their area allowing for more transfers . The last ambulance purchased is a smaller vehicle, lower cost, but provides the same level of care as the larger vehicles. Mr. Galvin said the Rescue Squad receives approximately 100 calls per month, exact Fair Haven numbers is not known (he will find out and report back); the money from the sale of an ambulance goes to the purchase price of a new vehicle.

Mr. Galvin said that historically, the Memorial Day Parade is led by the Legion. He would like to see the Legion, Fair Haven Rec Dept. and a third-party work together for a Memorial Day event. He feels the Fair Haven Park is great, but we are not doing the Town justice -- could do much more. He has reached out to members of The Shriners that are interested; involve the Chamber of Commerce. Percentage of Memorial Day event revenue be invested for planning the next year's event; it could grow to be able to invite larger groups to perform, ex. the West Point Drill Team. Mr. Hier agrees; need to work out details. Mr. Viger said the Chamber has done events for many years; could partner with EDC and others for more ideas, suggestions. Mr. Hier said he can contact a business that has a bounce house, dunk tank, etc. Mr. Galvin said, we could do so much better. Ms. Pedroni said the EDC could help; Ms. Finley said she knows vendors. Chairman Traverse said there is need for follow-up with Mr. Hier, EDC and Chamber President Mr. Parke. Members thanked Mr. Galvin for his time and effort.

Meeting with Renters for Water Shutoff: No renters in attendance

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to add 1 VSA 313 (A)(1) to Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2025 meeting; seconded by Mr. Hier. CORRECTION Pg. 2, ¶ 6, “*Castleton is joining SWAK, not Fair Haven Transfer Station*”. The motion carried as corrected with Mr. Viger abstaining.

Department Head Reports: Manager Gunter reported;

- * Halloween trick or treating is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There is an ordinance about Halloween. Also reminded that the central Town streets will be shut down during that time. At Ms. Laiacona’s inquiry, Police will monitor traffic, not stopping anyone from going home. Mr. Hier said to just be cautious.
- * Received a thank-you note from the Lunberjack Show thanking the Town for their support -- will be back next year

Police

- * There were 7 arrests (104 yr. to date)
- * 119 traffic/municipal violations
- * 62 warnings
- * 3 car crashes
- * Completed 12 sets of fingerprints for employment purposes (307 yr. to date)

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

- * The Fourth Street sewer line collapse will be done tomorrow
- * All the water project loan documents are signed
- * Meeting with Skyline people tomorrow; expecting a report from them
- * One crosswalk sign went up today. It is insured as are the playground containers
- * The water plant filters will be replaced (\$250,000)
- * The Planning Commission has approved all the Zoning changes
- * It is too late for this year, but Manager Gunter reported the Guinnis Book of World Records will recognize the highest number of people in one place dressed as ghosts. Will try for that next Halloween.

DPW Mr. Saxton reported:

- * Have started fall grading
- * The fountain will be removed
- * Thanked Mr. Greenough for his help in building the salt shed at the new location on Airport Road

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Review – DPW Budget: Manager Gunter reported the Belden Construction estimate to replace the downtown sidewalks is \$367,000. Members will see a large increase in the salary line to meet the new 5-year union contract.

Members reviewed the Dept. of Public Works (DPW) proposed budget line by line. There was lengthy discussion re: paving. Mr. Saxton said the cost to reclaim, and pave is \$150,000 per half mile. There are 2 miles left to do on Scotch Hill. Mr. Greenough said there needs to be ditching for drainage included because without ditching, the paving work will not hold up. Scotch Hill has been waiting way too long; meanwhile other roads are going bad. Manager Gunter said there is a petition out for finishing Scotch Hill. Is this an opportunity to introduce the 1% options tax again. Mr. Viger said our responsibility is to do what is best, most important for citizens. It was noted that the staff is responsible for much more than roadwork; they dig graves, work in the Park and playground, put up signs, equipment repair and maintenance, work the Transfer Station and cemeteries. Can't do more without staff. Mr. Lucci said, is this the time to talk about hiring another person -- there are two open positions. Chairman Traverse said he is not willing to hire a new person until the current open positions are filled. The old building is being kept heated to accommodate the Police Dept. vehicles that are moved from the barn that is now storage, not heated. After the first review, the proposed DPW budget was reduced by \$52,000.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Mr. Neil Robinson spoke about the Green Mountain Power program for Energy Assistance. He provided income guidelines and application forms to the Board.

Ms. Pedroni, Chair of the Economic Development and Downtown Partnership (EDDP), provided a list of ways/activities to attract people to move here and open a business. Brief discussion was details of what has been done and plans for future accomplishments.

Ms. VanLew thanked Mr. Saxton for the installed crosswalk sign -- the lights work.

Ms. Finley said, the Downtown Designation application states the EDC must have a budget from the Town. Ms. Laiacona noted the EDC does a lot for the Town and their budget can have a huge impact on the Town.

Parking Lot: No action

Board Roundtable: At Mr. Hier's inquiry, the lot between Shaws and the Truck Stop is owned by the Allen family.

Mr. Viger commented that he appreciates this Board's disagreement and compromise; that there is disagreement and members are still OK with each other.

Chairman Traverse wished everyone a good Halloween; hope the rain holds out for Trick-or-Treaters.

Ms. Vanlew noted the new bakery opens tomorrow with longer hours on Halloween; free hot chocolate for kids under 12, in costume.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is -\$130,933.90

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant, \$42,512.87; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the Accounts Payable (General) \$535,337.79; seconded by Mr. Lucci. This amount includes, BC/BS, \$22,216.88; Markowski, \$430,946.28; VMERS, \$28,339.97. the motion carried.

Executive Session: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to enter into Executive session at 9:41 p.m. for 1 VSA 313 (A)(1); seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

The Recording Secretary was excused at this time.

Adjourn: The board came out of executive session 10:10pm
Mr. Greenough motioned to **adjourn** the meeting; seconded by Mr. Lucci. Meeting adjourned at 10:11

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Board Clerk