

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners
REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 2025 -- 7:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting Link: <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/85646551688>

Phone: 1 929 2005 6099 | Meeting ID: 8564 655 1688

APPROVED 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, Health Officer John Lulek, Ann Finley, Erika Notte, Mike LaDuke, Chief William Humphries, Don Proctor.

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: Mr. Greenough **made a motion to add** *“Letter of Support”* and *“Proxy Emergency Delegation”* to New Business; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve the Minutes of the November 25, 2025, meeting as written; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Department Head Reports: **Water Dept. Chief Operator Mike LaDuke** reported things are working smoothly; not much to report; doing winter projects. Received contact information from the company that will check (with camera) the 6 gal./minute leak in the dam; the same company will be checking the 18 year old filters. Then we will see what engineers recommend.

Police Chief Humphries reported: 4 arrests, 99 traffic violations, 4 car crashes; 255 calls for service. Chief Humphries received an e-mail from a lady commending Officer Mark Gutel on his professional behavior when stopping her for speeding with two children in the car. His words and action were calm and showed a sense of empathy and security. Chief Humphries commented that all officers treat people well during roadside traffic incidents. At Mr. Hier’s inquiry, the car crashing into the church caused no damage. Members thanked the Chief and officers for their professionalism.

Town Manager Report & Communication:

- * Have changed Health Insurance company to MVP; this change is a savings of \$27,000
- * Have been working with the Library to secure a USDA grant for building repairs
- * The notice of Public Good received is for the Bischof solar array, not for the Sheldon project
- * Santa made his appearance in the Park the day after Thanksgiving to many happy kids
- * There was a plan for sidewalk snow removal that was not executed; it will not happen again
- * Have received a quote for the Town Hall attic insulation

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

School Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Copies of the first draft of the MOU are in members' packets; Town and School attorneys have reviewed it; a few items are changed ex. restricting access; closing the gate. Mr. Greenough said he does not support locking the gate. A lot of money was spent to make the space user friendly, such as the Pickle Ball court, and should be accessible to the public. At Mr. Lucci's inquiry, the gate does not restrict access to the parking lot. Mr. Hier said it is a bad idea to restrict public access; the Rec Dept. has done and continues to do an excellent job. Mr. Viger commented that the Babe Ruth, Little League and softball fields are named; re: responsibility and safety -- the Town cannot guarantee safety, should be reasonable safety. There should be continued public access; is curious whether the school or Town is responsible for playground insurance. Mr. Hier asked, how precedence is determined. Rec Director Ms. Notte said, usually during school hours the school has first dibs, same during summer programs. There have been no problems so far. Manager Gunter will send the information gathered to the Attorneys for revision for Board approval.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to authorize Chairman Traverse to sign a **letter of support** for a \$125,000. USDA grant for repairs to the Library building. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to approve the Proxy Emergency Management Delegation appointing Jim Heller as Emergency Designee and Chief William Humphries as Emergency Services Manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Budget Review: Members reviewed sections of the proposed budget line by line. **Delinquent Taxes**: no change. **Municipal Building and Grounds**: Move \$10,000 from Fuel and Propane to Electricity to accommodate change to Heat pumps. **Police Dept.**: Contract, full staff, salaries increased noting the School Resource Officer (SRO) is reimbursed; The part-time line includes special services, ex. covering Devils Bowl racetrack. **Training**; No change. **Vehicles/Equipment**: There was lengthy discussion re: accounting and tracking the salary time for DPW working on Police vehicles; it is difficult for people to understand as their time is accounted for in all Depts. **Constables**: Move \$200 from communications to Machinery and Equipment. **Cemetery**: No change, except salary increases. Mr. Greenough commented that fees/pricing be re-visited as they seem low compared to other Towns. Manager Gunter noted fees are remarkably low in comparison to other Towns. This can be discussed when the budget review is done. **Air Park**: No change. **Public Health Inspector**: Mr. Lulek reported that the Assistant was unavailable during two incidents over the summer. He has a candidate in mind. Mr. Viger said, the Assistant will be invited to speak. **Animal Control**: There is no one in the position. Chief Humphries said his Dept. is doing best they can. **Parks and Rec**: Rec Director Notte reported they hope to take on 5th and 6th grade sports (basketball and soccer) next year -- school sports start with grade 7 & 8. There were about 45 registered students this year -- 50 to 60 in previous years. Enrollment is declining everywhere. There was lengthy discussion re: revamping

programs; impact of Boys and Girls Club on Rec; cost and need for equipment including uniforms, umpires, advertising, transportation, balls, etc. The 2 storage containers agreement is rent to own; this is the second of three years; have procured/built shelving in them for better use of the space. The Rec Dept. is level funded.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: None

Parking Lot: No discussion

Board Roundtable: Mr. Viger expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Fair Haven Police Dept. and a special shout out to the Castleton Police Dept that responded to his incident of going off the road.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is \$ -8,755.17

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the Accounts Payable (General) warrant, \$76,501.53; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Viger **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant, \$38,436.95; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Executive Session: Mr. Viger **made a motion** to enter into **Executive Session** at 9:06 p.m. to discuss contracts 1 VSA 313(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

Adjourn: The Board came out of executive session at 9:50 p.m.
Mr. Greenough motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lucci; **Adjourned** at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Board Clerk