

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, March 17, 2026 -- 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: Sam Lucci, Chadd Viger, Rich Greenough, Keith Hier, Dennis Reid

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Rose Anne VanLew, Johnathan J. Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz, Ann Finley, Simon Snow, Bob Richards.

Call to Order: Manager Gunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in reciting the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Reorganization: Manager Gunter asked for nominations for Board Chair. Mr. Lucci nominated Chadd Viger for **Select Board Chairman**; seconded by Mr. Hier. There being no other nominations, Mr. Viger was voted to serve as Board Chairman.

Mr. Greenough nominated Mr. Lucci as **Select Board Clerk**; seconded by Mr. Reid. There being no other nominations, Mr. Lucci was voted as Board Clerk.

Mr. Hier **made a motion** to set the day and time for meeting every other Tuesday at 7 P.m. as in the past; seconded by Mr. Lucci. Mr. Lucci reminded that changing day and time was discussed at a previous meeting; maybe could return to that discussion at another meeting. Chairman Viger noted the Board can change rules as necessary. The motion carried.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to designate the Paper of Record be the **Lakeside News and Rutland Sun**; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to accept the Board Rules as written; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026; seconded by Mr. Lucci. CORRECTION pgs. 3 & 4, Ms. Hutchen(s) name is spelled with an "s". The minutes were approved as corrected.

Department Head Reports: Chief Humphries reported:

- * 6 Arrests (20 yr. to date)
- * 210 Traffic/Municipal violations (637 yr. to date)
- * Completed 6 sets of fingerprints (49 yr. to date)
- * Completed quarterly sex offense registry checks

* 368 calls for service (1401 yr. to date)

Mr. Hier commented that 1401 calls for service since January 1, are a lot of calls. He thanked the Chief and the Dept. for their work.

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

- * The cost of Oxygen/acetylene, for welding, has increased from \$292/qtr. to \$632/qtr. There are no contract fees; the increase is caused by inflation, not more usage.
- * A calendar of Board events is in members' packets; the water/sewer budget starts this week.
- * The solar credits earned from the solar array at the Transfer Station are being used at the municipal building and the Dept. of Public Works (DPW) building.
- * The Water Dept. are upgrading facility drains
- * DPW has started street sweeping
- * Have removed wings from plows.
- * Work was done at the Airport Road culvert allowing flow of groundwater
- * The budget is frozen at this time.
- * OSHA WorkSafe inspection at DPW facility found a few minor infractions that have been addressed
- * VLCT did an inspection of heat pumps and insulation at the Town Hall; work was paid for by the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP).
- * Received one response for the housing project; bids close next week; there is a \$120,000 (20% match) grant applied to the housing study. Will hear back in the Spring
- * DPW did some cold patching last week
- * Storm drains have been cleaned
- * DPW is staying on top of equipment maintenance/cleaning

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Historic District Zoning Regs: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to adopt the Historic District Zoning Regs as written and presented at the February 17, 2026 Select Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Hier. At Mr. Lucci's request the Board heard from Bob Richards who reviewed highlights of the Zoning regs. The biggest benefit is some relief from Act 250; and eligibility for grants. Downtown boundary lines are from St. Mary's to the bottom of the hill; working to extend to include former Skyline building. Restoration/repairs done within the downtown district are to be as close as possible to original. Regs have been reviewed by the State Historic District; are required for Downtown Designation. It enables the Town to maintain the downtown integrity.

NEW BUSINESS

Ballot Validation: It was noted that Article 16 contained an error not impacting on the dollars requested. Town Moderator Ceil Hunt contacted the Secretary of State and was told that to rectify the typo, the Select Board needs to validate the Article under 17 VSA 2662. Mr. Lucci **made the motion**, Shall the action taken at the meeting of this Town held on March 3, 2026, in spite of the fact that the words "senior bus transportation" were inadvertently left in Article 16 of the warning, and any act or action of the municipal officers or agents pursuant thereto be readopted, ratified and confirmed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reid and carried.

Liquor/Tobacco Licenses: Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** a tobacco license, tobacco substitute endorsement, and a second-class liquor license for E. L. Valle Inc.; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** a tobacco license, tobacco substitute endorsement, and a second-class liquor license for Stewart's Shops Corporation; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** a tobacco license, and a second-class liquor license for DG Retail, LLC; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** a first-class and a third-class liquor license and an outside consumption permit for the Ieremias Family Enterprise Ltd; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** a second-class liquor license for the Brockton Corporation (aka Shaws); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** a first-class and third-class liquor license for American Legion Post 49; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion to approve** a tobacco license and a tobacco substitute endorsement for the Brockton Corporation (aka Shaws); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Appointments: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Mary McNeil, Danielle Roberts, Lorraine Brown, Scott Formsbee, and Paul Laramie for a 1 year term to the **Cemetery Committee**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Ann Finley, David Camara III, Joe Gunter, and Chadd Viger for a 1 year term to the **Economic Development Committee**; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Bob Richards and Claire Stanley for a 1 year term as **Fence Viewers**; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Jason Coupal as the representative to the **Rutland Transportation Council** for a 1 year term; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to appoint Sam Lucci for a 1 year term as the Fair Haven **representative to the Otter Creek Communication District**. It was noted that this district works for the advancement of Broadband in Vermont. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to accept the slate of **Fire Department Officers**: Jim Heller as Fire Chief; Tom Fucile as 1st Assist. Chief; Don Proctor as 2nd Assist. Chief; Eli Charlton as Captain; Matt Decker as 1st Lieutenant; Scott Reed as 2nd Lieutenant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Ray Phillips for a 1 year term as the **Inspector of Lumber**; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Bill Humphries for a 1 year term as **Pound-Keeper**; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Bob Richards for a 1 year term as the Town's representative to the **Rutland Regional Planning Commission** and Jason Coupal for a 1 year term as the Town's alternate representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to appoint Sam Lucci for a 1 year term as the Town's **SWAC representative**; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Phil Stannard for a 1 year term as the **Tree Warden**; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Chris Cole for a 1 year term as the **Weigher of Coal**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint John Lulek to the **Zoning Board of Adjustment** for a 3 year term with the appointment **expiring in March 2029**; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Ann Finley to the **Planning Commission** for a 3 year term with her term appointment **expiring in March 2029**; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Sean Galvin as Fair Haven's representative to the **Fair Haven Rescue Squad**; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. Rose Anne VanLew acknowledged the passing of former Police Chief Ray Viger.

Johnathan Billewicz asked that the Peg-TV video be shared on the Town's web page. He congratulated Mr. Reid on his election to the Board

Mr. Chadd Viger said that since he moved to Fair Haven, he has fielded many questions whether he is/was related to former Police Chief Ray Viger.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Lucci noted the 500+ people who turned out to vote on Town Meeting Day thanking them for taking part in the process. Ms. VanLew said it was a higher number than usual.

Mr. Greenough said DPW does a great job. He noted a couple things that could be done better; when plowing, to wing back further; keep catch basins clean; all need to work together.

Mr. Hier congratulated Mr. Reid on his election and welcomed him to the Board. Mr. Hier gave a shoutout to the High School bowling team that won the State Championship. He thanked the Police Dept. and Rescue for their work.

Mr. Reid said the Town should revisit which roads are Town roads and which are private. Mr. Greenough said the signage is starting to get illegible, the shine/glitter has gone on some. Chairman Viger said these would be good topics to discuss as agenda items. Mr. Reid said there is need to discuss DPW funding; DPW has too much to do -- sidewalk cutouts where trees were removed need repair; readying the Park for events, etc. Mr. Greenough added that if the regular crew is mowing, ditching suffers more than it already does -- it's a step backwards. Mr. Reid feels the numbers at the Transfer Station are not good and have to be discussed.

Chairman Viger congratulated Mr. Reid on his election. He said he is excited for the coming year; there is a lot to be done. He wants the Board to be super focused on priorities, streets and sidewalks, and budgeting for best outcomes.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is \$1,045,922.30.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the 03/05/26 payroll warrant, \$41,779.24; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the 03/14/26 payroll warrant, \$39,238.12; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the 03/05/26 General Accounts Payable, \$100,935.72; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the 03/19/26 General Accounts Payable, \$134,756.78; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Executive Session: Mr. Hier **made a motion** to enter into Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. for Attorney/Client Communication, 1VSA 313 (a)(1); seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Adjourn: The Board came out of executive session at 8:50 pm. Mr. Lucci **motioned to approve** the "Fair Haven Solar Project Municipal Road and Utility Right of Way Agreement"; seconded by Mr. Hier. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenough made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Reid. Meeting **adjourned** at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Sam Lucci, Board Clerk