

## TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

Selectboard, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Liquor commissioners, Cemetery Commissioners  
**REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, April 28, 2026 -- 7:00 P.M. AGENDA**  
**Zoom Meeting Link:** <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/85646551688>  
**Phone: 1 929 205 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, PegTV, Rose Anne VanLew, Johnathan Billewicz, Accountant Teresa Perry, Allen Bowen, Ann Finley, Brooke Fehr, Isaac Fehr, Police Chief William Humphries.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Viger 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. Lucci **made a motion** to add *Meeting with renters re: water shut offs* between numbers 2 and 3 of the agenda; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to add *Executive Session Personnel 1 VSA 313 (A)(1)*; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

**Meeting with Renters re: Water Shutoffs:** No one attended

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2026, Special meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

**Department Head Reports:** Chief Humphries reported:

- \* 4 Arrests (29 yr. to date)
- \* 97 Traffoc/Municipal violations (992 yr. to date)
- \* 1 Car crash (19 yr. to date)
- \* 5 Overweight permits (40 yr. to date)
- \* 14 sets of fingerprints (92 yr. to date)
- \* 236 Calls for service (2176 yr. to date)
- \* The Dept. is participating in the April Distracted Driving details through the area.
- \* On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the FBI conducted an audit of our record keeping and NSIS usage. The Dept. was found to be in compliance and found no issues.
- \* Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council reviewed our training records and found the Dept. to be in compliance.

**Accountant** Teresa Perry reported:

- \* Doing prep work for the 2026 audit
- \* Uploading documents
- \* A high school intern is working in the office getting hands on experience in accounting and audit preparation
- \* She reported good experiences with interns

**Town Manager Report & Communication:** Town Manager Gunter reported:

- \* We have had interns working at the water and wastewater Depts. in the past. It was a good experience for both them and the Town.
- \* Communicated with Ted Brady, VLCT, who said there is a bill in Legislature to increase the Option Tax revenue to Towns from 75% to 80%. The Board supports writing a letter of support for that.
- \* The company building the solar array off Airport Road is requesting a certificate of public good.
- \* Two breaks were found in the Fourth Street sewer line. Working with Brad Kendall for repair.
- \* Fire hydrant flushing is on-going
- \* Meeting with Casella next week re: contract savings.
- \* Switched scrap metal carrier to Earthwaste; were being paid \$35/ton; now will be \$100/ton; they separate the metal. Thank you to Mr. Reid who did the work.
- \* Music Mountain Compost is the new food scraps vendor.
- \* Working on installing a card reader at the Transfer Station
- \* The Auditor will report to this Board on the 2025 audit at the May 12 meeting.
- \* Submitted the Hampton Housing project to Opportunity Zone that allows tax breaks for businesses
- \* Popped the manhole covers on the stormwater collection project on the northwest corner of the Park. It is working as expected.
- \* The water/sewer budget will be on the agenda at the next meeting

At Mr. Hier's inquiry, the Fourth Street sewer line repair is expected to take two weeks.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Transfer Station Fees – Discussion and Approval:** Mr. Reid reviewed the research he is doing with Accountant Teresa Perry. Revenue is now paying 45% of cost of operation. \$200/ton scale weight = 63% of cost. Mr. Bowen said he is OK with that. \$240/ton scale weight = 80% of cost, leaving 20% to be paid by property taxes. Mr. Reid **made a motion** to raise the scale weight to \$240/ton to meet 80% of cost; seconded by Mr. Greenough. Discussion included: how to proceed; not looking to make money, only to get closer to meeting cost, ex. hauling cost increased from \$187/haul in July 2025, to \$221 now; usage has not changed in years. Mr. Hier said this is a high increase -- and still have to sort; Mr. Reid said the Transfer Station continues to lose money; we are now not doing anything; it is possible that taxes would decrease with savings at the Transfer Station. Mr. Lucci said this is a significant increase; he suggests getting expenses in order, then \$200 is closer to competitors. Chairman Viger said no matter what is done, taxes will still continue paying the difference; need to raise revenue for services to be paid by users; anything is better than now. Mr. Reid **rescinded the motion**. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to set the scale weight at \$200/ton; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed unanimously.

Mr. Reid reported recycling is no longer free; there is a charge for glass and plastic. The cost of window stickers has been \$10. since 1983. Mr. Reid **made a motion** to raise the Transfer Station window sticker price to \$40. per sticker; seconded by Mr. Lucci. It was noted that this would cover

charges mentioned and half of employee time. Mr. Reid noted there is a policy that the second sticker is half price. Manager Gunter said that services at Fair Haven's Transfer Station are so much better than other Towns; can dispose of paint, electronics, appliances, mattresses, etc., and the Swap Shop, that is not done in other Towns. The motion carried unanimously

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Coin Drop Lottery**: Five groups applied for coin drop permits; the Town awards four. Selectman Mr. Reid chose the number from a hat that would not receive a permit. The number chosen was the Congregational Church. Mr. Hier wants the lottery to be on a future agenda for discussion to allow more than 4.

**Forced Main Engineering Contract**: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve a contract for preliminary engineering to repair/replace the Adams Street pump station and forced main; seconded by Mr. Greenough. The sewer collection system has not had upgrades in decades and has experienced frequent failures for lack of resources. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve \$39,981 from the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund to pay for professional services for the Adams Street pump station; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

**Water Treatment Facility Engineering Contract**: Manager Gunter asked to delay this issue for further contract review.

**Appointment to the Planning Commission**: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Mick Richards to the Planning Commission for a term to expire in March, 2029; seconded by Mr. Hier. Mr. Lucci said Mr. Richards has experience and a degree in Public Policy; he fully supports this appointment; Mick's brother Bob is Chairman of the Planning Commission. Ms. Finley said he was the best candidate. The motion passed unanimously.

**Use of Town Garage Reserve Funds**: Manager Gunter reported this fund was established 20 years ago as a fund to move the Town garage; there is \$67,005 in the fund. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the use of Town Garage Reserve funds to pay \$53,982.57 in interest for the bridge loan, and \$12,000 for the first payment for the new Town garage; seconded by Mr. Hier. Mr. Greenough said we should continue this reserve fund for new garage maintenance, etc. The motion carried unanimously.

**Letter to Legislature**: Manager Gunter worked with Mike Stannard and drafted a letter (in members' packets) strongly opposing Act 181 that will be sent to the Vermont Legislature.

**Liquor Licenses**: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the Caterer application for Fairley Buzzed LLC, to allow the business to serve beer and wine at the Food Truck Frenzy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hier asked Ms. Fehr if there is a possibility that Fairly Buzzed would open a permanent storefront. Ms. Fehr said, probably not, that they are a beverage catering company for private parties and events. Ms. Fehr asked the Town to consider permits for sale inside the Park; having licensing and clear

guidelines; not applying to coolers. Chairman Viger said there would be some opposition; that it will be added to a future agenda

**Two Minutes for Public Comment:** Ms. VanLew inquired re: could the Adams St. bridge repair/replace be combined with the Pump station project. Manager Gunter said the Adams Street bridge was not a priority for State or Federal funding. The cost now would be \$3 million + to replace the bridge that belongs to the Town.

**Parking Lot:** At Mr. Hier's inquiry, the current work on curb re-setting is prep for Downtown paving and not the downtown sidewalk.

**Board Roundtable:** Mr. Greenough said there is an ordinance re: alcohol consumption in the Park. Manager Gunter said with a permit the ordinance would not have to be changed. Chief Humphries said with monitoring he sees no issues. \* At Mr. Greenough's inquiry, overweight permits are issued by the Police Dept. \* Good job is being done re-setting the curbstones.

Mr. Lucci said he will be Vice Chair of SWAK; they will soon add Castleton and Hubbardton. \* He noted **Green Up Day** is Saturday; he will be in front of the Municipal Building to hand out bags. DPW will pick up the green bags.

Chairman Viger said the Town is going through a State mandated reappraisal. People will be doing reassessment soon. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

**Review of Financial Reports:** The **checkbook** status is: \$260,090.52

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant, \$38,695.43; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the Accounts Payable warrant, \$160,803.07; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to enter into executive session at 8:42 p.m. to include Manager Gunter to discuss personnel 1VSA 313 (A)(1); seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed unanimously.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

**Adjourn:** The board came out of executive session at 9:20. Mr. Reid motioned to adjourn; Mr. Lucci seconded. Meeting **adjourned** at 9:22

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

---

Sam Lucci, Board Clerk