

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, May 12, 2026 -- 7:00 P.M.

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

Phone: 1 929 205 6099 | Meeting ID: 8564 655 1688

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Sam Lucci, Rich Greenough, Dennis Reid

Members Absent: Chadd Viger, Keith Hier

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Peg TV, Rose Anne VanLew, Wastewater Chief Operator Carrie Lafond, Lillian E. Billewicz, Johnathan J. Billewicz

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Lucci 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. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026, meeting; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Department Head Reports: Manager Gunter reported:

Police: * 4 arrests

* 97 Municipal violations

* 1 car crash

* 5 overweight permits

* 14 sets of fingerprints (92 yr. to date)

* Congratulations to Sargent Kerber for recognition by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Town Manager Report & Communication: Manager Gunter reported:

* Have started work on the sale of the fire truck. This with the understanding that the Town will hold it until the new one is delivered.

* The cement pad at the southeast entrance to the Park was completed today.

* Old School Bagel received a \$5,000 grant through the Economic Development Committee. Since the start of this program, \$132,000 has been awarded. These are for fuel improvement, and/or buying new equipment.

* The coin drops have been scheduled

* A pre-construction meeting with the State is scheduled for tomorrow, 1:00 p.m. re: paving Rte. 4A through downtown.

* Are making good progress on the Fourth Street sewer line project; it impacts 7 homes.

* Received an e-mail from the State stating letters have been sent to businesses re: the Options Tax that goes into effect July 1. The Legislature is working on a bill to increase the revenue to Towns to 80%. Manager Gunter said there is \$13 million dollars Options Tax collected by the State that has yet to be paid to the Towns.

OLD BUSINESS

Transfer Station Fees – Discussion and Approval: Mr. Reid suggests a \$5.00 one day fee; example for those who have trash picked up, but might occasionally need to use the Transfer Station. Mr. Reid suggests having the Transfer Station open 2 days per week from November to March. Matter is tabled to next meeting.

Letter to the Legislature – Act 181: Draft of letter in members' packets. Mr. Lucci suggests that some revisions be done given the State is working on issues addressed in the letter; that we still support the repeal of tiers 2 and 3. The matter is tabled to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Hampton Housing Engineering Contract: Three proposals were received in answer to the RFP for preliminary engineering for the project; one was incomplete and eliminated. Haven Architecture, \$29,500; Vermont Integrated Architecture, \$89,978. Both are very good, complete proposals, each scoring 79 out of 100 on evaluation tool. Discussion included why so much difference. Manager Gunter expects it is because VT Integrated used more expensive sub-contractors; he recommends Haven Architecture. Mr. Lucci said he wants to see both proposals before making a decision.

Slate Sidewalk Pavers -- Use Approval: Mr. Lucci reported the sidewalk slates in front of his house on Allen Ave. are broken/uneven. He wants to re-set them and requests to use some of the old slates stored at the Town garage. Mr. Reid said there is no conflict with the policy. The matter is tabled to the next meeting for vote.

Permitting Alcohol for Events in the Park: This would be in a constrained, specific space; anyone requesting a permit to be required to be licensed. Manager Gunter reached out to VLCT and was told that it is not necessary to change the ordinance for permits; it might be good to limit the number of vendors. Mr. Lucci feels this will be controversial -- might be seen as skirting the ordinance; would rather add a clause in the ordinance. Mr. Greenough noted we can't please everybody and he does not see any harm in this. Ms. VanLew said it should be for selected events and not for ex. Applefest where children are heavily involved. The matter is tabled to the next meeting for full Board approval.

Liquor License: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve an outside consumption license as requested by American Legion Post 49; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Water/Sewer Budget Review -- Sewer Budget Discussion: Members reviewed the proposed budget line by line noting there are salary increases, that include adding a staff member; and increase in postage -- are encouraging electronic payments to allow mailing fewer bills. Ms. Lafond prepared a handout that includes a timeline for replacement of equipment, noting that their truck is 10 years old but in very good shape. There was discussion re: many streets with roots issues; cost of using cameras; frequency of jetting/extracting debris in manholes; cost of chemicals, operating supplies; cost of disposal/trucking; testing; maintenance. There is increased water from use of sump pumps. Ms. Lafond noted the possible dangers to the plant because of (toxic) materials from people's basements entering the collection system; if not going into the collection system, where is sump pump water going? Members thanked Chief Operator Lafond; budget review continues next meeting.

Parking Lot: No Discussion

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Johnathan Billewicz prepared a handout and reviewed the process of tax sale of the property on Union Street. He requested that this matter be on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Greenough commended the Dept. of Public Works for their work of the past two weeks.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is \$385,919.27

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to pay the Accounts Payable, General, \$634,223.78; seconded by Mr. Reid. This amount includes \$517,893.15 to the school district. The motion carried.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant, \$39,784.33; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Executive Session: None

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

Adjourn: Mr. Greenough **made a motion to adjourn** at 8:34 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Board Clerk