

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, May 26, 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, Chadd Viger, Rich Greenough, Keith Hier, Dennis Reid

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Peg TV, Rose Anne VanLew, Ann Finley, Mike LaDuke, Laura Notarino.

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. Reid **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Department Head Reports: Manager Gunter reported:

Police: * 1 arrest

* 175 Municipal violations

* 37 written warnings

* 5 car crashes

* 4 sets of fingerprints

DPW

* Held cross training at the cemetery; need for everyone to know jobs

* Have been filling potholes/ working dirt roads with grader

* Started mowing; this is on-going, not only once a year

* Ditching

* Will do a curb stop repair on Thursday morning

Town Manager Report & Communication:

* The DPW truck has sold for \$23,000

* The cement pad at the southeast Park entrance is finished

* Are caught up installing cemetery corner stones

* Are cleaning storm drains * Hydrant flushing has started

* Thank you to DPW for their time working on water project

* Doing some painting upstairs

* We are working with the State to be accepted for an Opportunity Zone; it is a tax incentive for businesses relocating; is an incentive for long-term locations

* The Fourth Street sewer project is done

* Need to paint the soffits on this building -- to discourage pigeons

- * The cameras have been a big help in catching vandalism ex. car that crashed breaking the light pole and signs on northwest corner of the Park
- * Received letter stating the \$1.2 million grant applied for to build the housing development has been moved on to Congress

Meet With the Auditor (RHR Smith) Regarding FY 2026 Audit: Mr. Smith (on phone) reported they are “knee deep” in the ’26 audit. The ’25 audit is “wrapped up”; all statutory deadlines were met. No problems were found; the Town’s financial status is stable; reserve funds are getting closer to the 60 days of general fund. The town has done good things; setting aside for unexpected infrastructure issues; most “stuff” has been cleaned up. Manager Gunter said Capital Assets report has been brought back to current status; are doing the little things to keep the Town fiscally responsible. The Board thanked Mr. Smith for his time.

OLD BUSINESS

Transfer Station Fees -- Discussion and Approval: Mr. Reid reported he has three (3) items to address. Mr. Reid **made a motion** to go back to a \$2.00 punch card; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Reid **made a motion** to implement a \$5.00 day pass, beginning July 1, 2026; seconded by Mr. Hier. All agreed that the \$5.00 day pass is a good idea; can be purchased at the Transfer Station; is a good way to address the problem of people coming with no sticker -- can buy a day pass until they purchase a windshield sticker. Will work on enforcement. The motion carried.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to change the windshield sticker price structure to \$40.00 for the first sticker, with a second and/or subsequent vehicle sticker at \$20.00; seconded by Mr. Greenough. It was noted that stickers are to be on the windshield. The motion carried.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to raise the Transfer Station early bird windshield sticker purchase discount to \$5.00; seconded by Mr. Greenough. Discussion was that it has been at \$3.00 for many years; suggestions of other amounts. The motion carried with Mr. Reid dissenting.

Letter to the Legislature: Draft of the letter with Mr. Lucci’s edits was in members’ packets. Mr. Lucci noted that Act 181 is already being revised by the Legislature; this letter briefly and with clarity expresses this Board’s concerns. Mr. Lucci read the letter to the meeting. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to sign the letter and send it to the Vermont State Legislature; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed unanimously.

Permitting Alcohol for Special Events in the Park: The matter is tabled for further review and research. There may be an old ordinance that would supersede.

Hampton Housing Engineering contract: This matter will be discussed in executive session.

Slate Sidewalk Pavers -- Use Approval: Mr. Lucci reported the slate sidewalk pavers in front of his home on Allen Ave. are broken/uneven and he wants to re-set them. He requests using some of the old slates stored in the former Town garage for the project. Mr. Reid **made a motion** to allow Mr. Lucci to use pavers stored in the Town garage; seconded by Mr. Greenough. Chairman Viger said there is an ordinance that states cement will be used to replace/repair sidewalks. Mr. Hier said who is liable should

there be an accident and Mr. Lucci is hurt? Mr. Reid **withdrew his motion**. Mr. LaDuke said, are we opening up to anyone that wants to repair, can come to the Town to supply pavers. Mr. Greenough said the ordinance was done years ago because pavers were getting uneven and caused problems to plow. We don't have the staff to maintain slate sidewalks. Mr. Reid read from the ordinance that pavers can be used to replace; cement must be used to repair/replace large significant sections. Mr. Reid **made a motion** to agree to provide pavers to people who want to repair/replace their slate paved sidewalk themselves to the extent that pavers are available; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP): Members reviewed the document that includes: list of names and contact information of people in charge of emergency event(s); local shelters; list of resources; public information and warning(s); etc. Members made two minor edits -- people no longer working. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan as presented; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed unanimously.

Water Plant Engineering Contract: Manager Gunter reported the scope of the study has been limited to replacement of water filters and inspection of the area of the pond that was leaking; reducing the engineering cost to \$64,000. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to accept the proposal from Hoyle and Tanner for the rehabilitation of the water treatment plant filter system and to expend not more than \$64,000 from the water capital improvement fund; seconded by Mr. Lucci. There is \$122,305.51 in the water capital improvement fund. The motion carried.

Liquor Licenses: None

Coin Drop Edits: Manager Gunter reported, as requested by the Board he edited out language re: limit of number of events and lottery choice. Ms. Stanley said the policy was done during her time on the Board in response to complaints that there seemed to be coin drops every weekend. Mr. Hier said the policy should include Saturdays only, no Sundays or holidays. Manager Gunter will re-draft the policy with revisions for vote next meeting.

Deposit into the Public Works Equipment Fund: Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to deposit \$23,000 from the sale of the DPW Dodge truck into the Highway Reserve Capital Fund; seconded by Mr. Hier. Manager Gunter requests to use some of this money (not more than \$20,000) to buy a used pickup; at present some personal vehicles are used. This to be discussed and voted at the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Water/Sewer Budget -- Water Budget Discussion: Members reviewed the document line by line with Mr. LaDuke noting that there recently was an access road washout; he built a tool shed with de-humidifier to store tools in a dry environment to stop rusting; are doing more waterline repairs than historically. Chairman Viger asked, is it possible to buy anticipated items with this year's budget. Some waterline work is done by DPW that is billed to the water dept. There is an increased cost for chemicals/supplies; more stringent regulations on testing. Not looking at any major facility upgrades/repairs in the near future. Will need to buy filters, \$500,000, last year's price. Manager Gunter advocates for \$40,000 in reserves -- money well spent. Chairman Viger said, we have to do something, we started with 24% increase. Do not want to trim so that Mr. LaDuke cannot do what is needed. Mr.

Greenough agrees to keep \$40,000 in reserve fund. Manager Gunter will work on the budget for further review at next meeting.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. VanLew asked to revamp the skateboard ordinance to include electric scooters and mini-bikes -- very dangerous on sidewalks. Mr. Hier noted parents can be charged if signals are not used. She thanked the EDC and Jennie Kendall for the work with flowers -- Fair Haven Blooms.

Parking Lot: No discussion

Board Roundtable: : Mr. Lucci said he missed Spring Fling; hope it went well.

Mr. Greenough noted the playground is not as well kept as last year.

Mr. Hier said he was not aware of Spring Fling; there were no signs; he is not on Facebook. He takes issue with the Stop sign out front. Can't see traffic turning left onto 22A.

Mr. Reid noted for those who do not have access to internet, to call the office re: VT ALERT

Chairman Viger reported the **Little League Jamboree** was well attended; over a dozen teams; parents had a good all day experience; he thanked the Rec Director and those who organized for a good job. Noted that a "One Way" sign needs to be on Maple St. for future events.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is \$398,280.34

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the General Fund warrant, \$62,085.53; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant, \$42,358.56; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 pm for a contract 1 VSA 313 (a)(1); Seconded by Mr. Read and passed unanimously.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

Adjourn: Board came out of executive session at 11:06

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the Engineering contract from VIA in the amount of \$89,500 contingent on grant funding; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenough motioned to adjourn Seconded by Mr. Hier; meeting **adjourned** at 11:10pm

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Sam Lucci, Board Clerk