

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, June 9, 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, Nate Saxton, Dan Pennington, 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: None

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the Minutes of May 20, 2026, and the May 26, 2026, meetings; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed unanimously.

Department Head Reports: Chief Humphries reported:

- * 1 arrest (31 yr. to date)
- * 123 traffic/municipal violations (1379 yr. to date)
- * 3 car crashes (9 yr. to date)
- * Completed 9 sets of fingerprints (136 yr. to date)
- * 259 calls for service (2979 yr. to date)
- * Attended the Benson ATV Club meeting where he reviewed ATV rules and regulations
- * Ptl Tyler Duel is beginning his 11th year with the Dept.

Chief Humphries noted that there are negative complaints about the South Park Place parking lot design. He said that on the positive side, his Dept. used to spend multiple hours dealing with issues there -- loud noise, etc. Those kind of issues have declined significantly; has eased their work load.

- * The Supreme court has ruled in the Town's favor. There was not a false arrest.
- * There is a new speed device on Fourth Street.

Nate Saxton, DPW reported:

- * They are mowing, grading
- * Replacing stop signs, street signs
- * Responded to a significant water leak over the weekend on River Street
- * Chairman Viger voiced appreciation for DPW response to water leak.

- * At Mr. Lucci's inquiry, Chief Humphries noted he had no experience with wide, low speed bumps at crosswalks. Discussion included: would be rough on plowing and motorcycles; maybe entertain this issue at a future meeting.
- * Chairman Viger said he has noticed a few spots where water is pooling -- at catch basins. Discussed possible remedies to alleviate these. Mr. Saxton said these are mostly addressed when paving.

Town Manager Report & Communication: Town Manager Gunter reported:

- * There is one more pay warrant before the new budget. General fund is 97.86% spent; Highway 98% spent. We're going to be OK.
- * Will purchase a credit card reader for the Transfer Station with the next budget, July 1st
- * The Food Truck Frenzy went well. Food vendors did better than other vendors.
- * Thank you to the DPW -- the Park looked great; good job.
- * There are 18 properties up for tax sale; beginning the process.
- * The tax rate is set the first week in July. Need to wait for the school tax numbers from the State
- * Working with Efficiency Vermont looking into an automatic temperature control for this building -- changing when no one is in the building. Could save a substantial amount.
- * Expecting to start milling for the downtown Rte. 4 paving to start mid-July.
- * Mr. Greenough noted re: the Food Truck Frenzy, that a few more trash receptacles and picnic tables would have been nice.

OLD BUSINESS

Coin Drop Edits: Edited policies are in members' packets. Mr. Hier **made a motion** to approve the Coin Drop Policy updates as written; seconded by Mr. Lucci. Edits are: exclude holidays; Saturdays only; organizations are allowed only one per year. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

DPW Used Truck Purchase: At the last meeting \$23,000 was deposited into the DPW Reserve Account; there is \$103,133.55 in the account. They are asking to use \$20,000 to purchase a small pickup or utility truck. At present staff members are using personal vehicles for some jobs. Discussion was: Mr. Greenough said a small pickup with a dump would be useful; some Towns are using trailers for tools; when the Fire Dept. truck is settled, to move their small truck to DPW. Mr. Reid said staff should not be using personal vehicles. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the use of not more than \$23,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve fund to purchase a used pickup truck for DPW; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed unanimously.

Liquor License: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve an Outside consumption Permit for Fall Mountain Wine, LLC; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Appointment of Health Officer: Received a letter from the State that it is time to appoint a Health Officer. Dan Pennington is here, interested in the position. He listed his qualifications/ experience including: works for the Fair Haven Police Dept. handling code enforcement

complaints; is interested in and has worked in ordinance enforcement; has experience in municipal health matters; and lives in Fair Haven. Mr. Lucci asked re: the line between Health and Police work. He said he could use both authorities; there would not be double pay. Mr. Lulek has asked to be Assistant. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to appoint Mr. Dan Pennington as Health Officer with Mr. Lulek as Assistant; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed unanimously. Mr. Lucci asked if parttime police officers could do dog license enforcement. Chief Humphries said there is not Animal Control Officer; his Dept. tries to do that during the day ex. list lost dogs on social media. There are very seldom dog issues.

Water/Sewer Budget Review -- Water Budget Discussion: Manager Gunter reported, he reduced the budget by \$20,000 as requested by the Board. It is still at 16.92% increase. We need to keep reserves; all the current repairs have been paid from reserves. The current budget is 89% spent. The first 1% options tax check is expected in November -- that for infrastructure progress. Have been told to expect a large increase in the cost of sewer solids disposal. Chairman Viger said this is still a higher increase than he wants; reserves is the only area that we have any control over; the rest of the budget is very tight. Manager Gunter said there were 13 boil water alerts last year. There was discussion re: putting less than \$40,000 in reserves. Mr. Greenough said the reality is that costs have increased; we should stick with what we've got. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the water budget as presented, except to reduce the Reserves allocation to \$35,000; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed with Mr. Reed and chairman Viger dissenting.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: None

Parking Lot: Mr. Lucci is studying **Park Ordinances** and found there are redundant and contradictory statements re: public use of alcohol in the Park. A 1977 ordinance states, open containers are unlawful except with written permits (no permits on school property). A 1979 revision allows permits for the airport. The Parks & Recs ordinance sets illegal drugs and alcohol free zones. He proposes to change these two ordinances to make them clear and to allow the Select Board ability to issue permits. Chief Humphries said the Select Board has the right to issue specialized permits that supersede any ordinance without change to the ordinance. Chairman Viger said we are overanalyzing the issue and noted policy is more easily changed. Will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Reid thanked DPW for work in the old Town shed parking lot. *Also the fantastic job finding and repairing the River Street water leak.

At Mr. Hier's inquiry of how to get a peddlers license, need apply at the office for special event.

Mr. Greenough said he received comments and phone calls from people that were appreciative of the response to the River Street water leak. Mr. Saxton said people brought water; one family brought pizza for the crew.

Mr. Lucci said that as of today, there are 194 unregistered dogs; due April 1st; cost \$13/\$2. late fee. Need only to call the Town Clerk to register. *He urges folks to sign up for VT Alerts; it is a very good system; alerts can be received by text, e-mail, phone; contact the Town office, 802-265-3010 or Mr. Lucci personally, his contact information is on the Town website.

Chairman Viger noted the good work done by Mr. Saxton and his crew. *He also noted a good job done by Manager Gunter in the budget season. They try to keep challenges in mind as work goes on. Manager Gunter said the credit also goes to Accountant Teresa Perry. *The Food Truck Frenzy went very well, I enjoyed it. * Is it possible to have auto-renewal for dog licenses. *There is an APP (not on social media) where concerns can be shared with the Town. It is worth looking into.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook balance** is \$437,617.93

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the General Fund warrant, \$129,405.72; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the Payroll warrant, \$42,502.60; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Mr. Reid **made a motion** to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Sam Lucci, Board Clerk