

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, July 21, 2026 -- 7:00 P.M.

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

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

Members Present: Sam Lucci, Chadd Viger, Rich Greenough, Keith Hier

Members Absent: Dennis Reid

Others Present: Town Manager Joe Gunter, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Bree Gunter, Rose Anne VanLew, Mary McNeil, Glen Traverse, Johnathan J. Billewicz, Lillian E. Billewicz, Thomas Graton, Chief William Humphries, Don , Teresa Perry, Bob workman.

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.

Meeting with Tenants Regarding Water Bills: None

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Lucci **moved** to add *Correction(s) to the July 2, Special Meeting Minutes*; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2026 meeting; seconded by Mr. Greenough. CORRECTIONS Mrs. Stanley did not submit minutes; Chairman Viger was absent; Minutes were submitted by Joe Gunter. The motion carried.

Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2026 meeting; seconded by Mr. Lucci and passed.

Department Head Reports: Police Chief Humphries reported:

- * 1 arrest (36 yr. to date)
- * 35 Traffic/Municipal; violations (1588 yr. to date)
- * 6 car crashes (19 yr. to date)
- * 9 sets of fingerprints (168 yr. to date)
- * 114 calls for service (3535 yr. to date)

Chief Humphries noted activity details, and approximate revenue income are included in Members' packets.

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

- * The River Street sewer pump station is down; repair is expected to cost \$5,000
- * Paving Sheldon Road will begin on Thursday followed by a section of Cedar Street.

- * Working on transfer of information to the staff
- * Finishing reports to the feds
- * Thank you to Mr. Hier for his appearance at Matthew Lyon Day; it was a good day with Governor Scott and legislative representatives in attendance. The event was made possible by the Fair Haven Historical Society.
- * There will be a meeting on the 28th re: the Manager transfer
- * Grant information to Chief Humphries, Treasurer Perry and Assistant Eileen Richards.
- * No parking striping will be done by the paving company as they have their own regulations that would remove 4 spaces in front of Durfees and 3 spaces in front of Old School Bagels. We will do our own striping for parking.
- * August 24th starts the budget process

OLD BUSINESS

Appointment of Deputy Health Officer: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to appoint Daniel Pennington as Deputy Health Officer; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Liquor Licenses: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve an Outdoor Cater Permit at Food Truck Frenzy as requested by Fairly Buzzed LLC; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Fire Dept. Brush Truck: A heavier brush truck was purchased by the Fire Dept and will be ready to work when equipment (radios, lights, etc.) is transferred from the current truck to the new. They have a quote of \$13,700 to do the work -- are hoping to get a lower quote. There was lengthy discussion re: the transfer of the current truck to DPW to use as a utility truck; the transfer of funds from DPW to Fire; timeline to get the work done; that at present, DPW staff are using personal vehicles to transport tools/equipment to job sites. Manager Gunter said he will start stripping the old truck tomorrow to jump start the process. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to postpone stripping the old truck until the new one is ready; seconded by Mr. Greenough. Mr. Heller agreed to a two-week deadline to have the new truck online as recommended by Manager Gunter. Mr. Lucci asked to have this matter on the next meeting agenda for discussion. The motion carried.

Mr. Hier **made a motion** to transfer \$10,000 from the DPW Equipment reserve fund to the Fire Dept. Equipment reserve fund as recommended by Chairman Viger. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Hier **made a motion** to approve the transfer of not more than \$10,000 from the DPW Equipment reserve fund to the Fire Dept. Equipment reserve fund for the purpose of outfitting the new brush truck; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the School: Manager Gunter reported this is a document re: use of the playground drafted by the Town lawyer that protects the Town in the event of injury at the playground. After 4 years, the school has signed. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to

approve and sign the MOU agreement between the Town of Fair Haven and the Slate Valley Unified Union School District; seconded by Mr. Hier. Mr. Greenough said his only concern about closing the gate to the public is addressed. The motion carried. Members signed the document.

Temporary Permit to sell alcohol in the Park: Manager Gunter explained that the earlier permit approval was from the State; this is an application for Town approval of a temporary license for sale at Food Truck events only. Mr. Lucci said he supports the request but has an issue with the Parks and Rec ordinance language; that it is his preference to remove language that makes the Park a drug free zone. Chief Humphries said the Town is allowed to issue temporary permits that override an ordinance; he sees no difference in the two ordinances; one says townwide, the other is specific to the Park. Manager Gunter said this is not arbitrary, but a very public discussion that allows the Board to publicly grant temporary permits. Chief Humphries said it is safer to be contained in the Park at events rather than crossing the street to a cordoned off space across the street. The vendor must have a State license which was approved earlier at this meeting. Mr. Greenough **made a motion** to allow a temporary permit to sell alcohol in the Park at Food Truck events; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Bob Workman said the Old School Bagel Café has been in operation for 9 months with no issues. He thanked Chief Humphries for that. He stated that he sold the restaurant to Michelle's Bakery and she is moving her entire operation to Fair Haven. It will now be a full bakery and restaurant; he is proud to be staying as Ambassador.

Johnathan Billewicz commented that because Manager Gunter did not give 40 days' notice, the Town should not pay the severance package. There are not 40 days between July 2 and 31. Chairman Viger said this is a personnel matter and the Board is not allowed to discuss personnel.

Mr. Glen Traverse thanked Manager Gunter for his 8 years and 7 months tenure as Town Manager noting his work with Economic Development; the Sewer Plant; the DPW move to the former National Guard building among his many accomplishments.

Rose Anne VanLew said she and Joe don't always agree but have had good discussions; that she has seen 8 Town Managers come and go – no one cares more about Fair Haven; he deserves credit that he really cares.

Chief Humphries said if you do the job and do it right, some people will not like it; Joe always pushed the Town forward.

Parking Lot: Add Liquor License to the Parking Lot

Board Roundtable: Mr. Hier thanked Manager Gunter for his caring; he answered phone calls, texts, and listened to questions. And a "hell of a good job up here". Manager Gunter said DPW came in to help with final cleaning today knowing that it was important to him.

Mr. Greenough reported on the light on the front of the building; is it scheduled to be fixed? Yes; He also thanked Manager Gunter for his time and work here.

Mr. Lucci urged people to contact the Town Clerk office to sign up for VT Alert; also there are still 100+ unregistered dogs. Come in or call the Town Clerk to register your dog.

Chairman Viger said, "thank you Joe"; always had Fair Haven's best intent; has a vision of where we want to be. He and Mrs. Gunter (Bree) attended events; got engaged. Hope he has similar vision for Newport.

Review of Financial Reports: The checkbook balance is \$42,733.88

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay for General fund warrant, \$93,650.33; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay for Payroll warrant, \$46,809.13; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Executive Session: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to enter Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3); to include Manager Gunter, Accountant Teresa Perry and Chief Humphries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

The recording secretary was excused at this time.

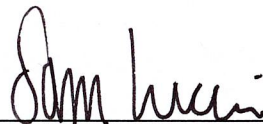
The Board came out of executive session at 9:05.

Mr. Lucci **motioned** to appoint William Humphries and Teresa Perry as Co-interim town managers; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Mr. Lucci **motioned** to approve a pay increase to the interim managers using 70% of the manager salary (\$29,750 each) to be divided between Mr. Humphries and Ms. Perry equally. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Adjourn: Mr. Lucci motioned to **adjourn** at 9:09 Seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley



Sam Lucci Board Clerk