

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT

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

REGULAR Meeting -- Tuesday, September 29, 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: Interim Town Manager Terry Perry, Recording Secretary Claire Stanley, Rose Anne VanLew, Ann Finley, Bob Richards, Water Plant Chief Operator Mike LaDuke, Interim Town Manager/Police Chief William Humphries, Wastewater Chief Operator Carrie LaFond.

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 *Approve MERP Grant Contract to New Business*; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lucci **made and motion** to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2026, meeting; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2026, meeting; seconded by Mr. Hier and passed with Mr. Viger abstaining.

Department Head Reports: Chief Humphries reported:

- * 4 arrests (51 yr. to date)
- * 54 Traffic/Municipal violations (2050 yr. to date)
- * 15 Written warnings (569 yr. to date)
- * 1 Parking violation (40 yr. to date)
- * 2 Car crashes (29 yr. to date)
- * 23 set of fingerprints (291 yr. to date)
- * 122 Calls for service (4539 yr. to date)
- * Incident details were included

Town Manager Report & Communication: Interim Town Manager Teresa Perry reported:

- * Water and Sewer Depts. doing routine testing
- * Are preparing for hydrant flushing
- * Rutland has stopped taking sewer plant sludge for 8 weeks; are having to truck to Schenectady, NY; will increase costs; sending only one load per week
- * Have 4 applicants for the DPW CDL position
- * Finishing work on Bigelow Road

- * Finishing shoulder work on Sheldon Road, Cemetery Street and Swamp Road
- * DPW is doing trash removal and tree work around the Municipal building
- * The Park fountain is repaired and functional again
- * Were in a crunch to get the MERP grant done and contract signed by September 30th
- * Erica Notte, Rec Director and I are finalizing the recreation grant, due out tomorrow; have letters of support; looking for small things that can be done to improve the space
- * Nate Saxton of DPW and I are Investigating a Better Roads Grant; there are 3 options to look at
- * Wastewater Chief Operator Carrie LaFond said UVM has started their Capstone project; Ms. Lafond expects to attend their presentation for helpful information
- * Water Dept. Chief Operator Mike LaDuke reported he participated in a Security Training; he said the Water Plant property gate will be locked for security; will be a walkway to the building not allowing vehicles or camping on the property.
- * At Mr. Lucci's inquiry, Ms. LaFond said Rutland is not taking sludge because they are short-handed; have a new Chief Operator; there is a regional plan for Middlebury to be ready in 5 years; expecting regulations for both water and sewer to change; we have no (regulation) issues at this time

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Sewer Collection System -- Repair and Rehabilitation Plan: Ms. LaFond prepared a report for members -- Sewer Collection Repair and Rehabilitation Plan. Discussion included: there are 119 manholes not inspected --12 of those that cannot be opened; plan to focus on those first; in mapping the system it was discovered that some of the manholes have been paved over; are now locating them; doing some of the work in-house. Ms. LaFond plans to target 3 streets and do complete manhole cleaning; approximately \$50,000 is needed to complete tier 1 of 3 of the plan; engineering adds to the cost. Are working with DPW to determine what can be fixed in-house. Mr. Greenough said the manhole at the corner of West and Washington Streets is beyond our capabilities. Mr. LaDuke said as the manhole cleaning is done, unknown problems may be found. Ms. LaFond would like to form a committee to work on outdated forms ex. checklist for restaurants, ordinances, etc.

Chuck Roundtree -- Support for Crosswalk on Rte. 4A in Castleton at Community Center: Chief Humphries said Mr. Roundtree is looking for a letter of support for the crosswalk. Mr. Lucci said the Board could sign on to a letter as one of many that support the project.

Robert Richards -- Planning Board Act 181 Review: Ms. Finley reported the Planning Board is at a point where a Downtown Partnership needs to be formed. The Select Board needs to sign on as support and provide a stipend (\$2000/\$2500). The partnership is for beautification, grant writing, etc. A draft was prepared for members' review and approval. This matter has been on hold; are now on tier 1A of Act 181. Mr. Richards discussed the "bureaucratic" process noting they would work with Economic Development (EDC). The State wants to see commitment of the Town. He noted they are starting with a lot of the leg work done.

Robert Richards -- Zoning Changes for Prospect Street to Allow Mixed Use: Mr. Richards reported that Prospect Street is zoned Industrial; the Board changed it to Mixed Use making that property more viable. The change requires a Public Hearing advertised 15 days prior. The Zoning Board expects to have a finished, comprehensive copy by the end of the year.

Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Grant Contract: Ms. Perry reported she and Chief Humphries solicited several contractors for quotes -- only one bid was received. This is for an ADA accessible ramp, door, porch at the rear entrance to the Police Dept. \$60,000 of the MERP grant is available for this sort of work at the Municipal building. There was brief discussion of materials to be used. Mr. Hier **made a motion** to accept the bid from Covino, LLC, not to exceed \$18,650; seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

Two Minutes for Public Comment: Ms. Finley went to the Dog Park for the first time and thought it was closed as the gate was locked. Discussion was that one can park and walk in.

Ms. VanLew reported the fund raiser for 15 Main Street flooded building tenants raised \$743. She thanked the businesses that supported and participated in the effort. She noted that any tenant that needs help should contact Slate Valley Cares for assistance.

Ms. VanLew reported that dedication slates on the Main Street sidewalk are no longer protected by the trees and are being broken. She suggested relocating or to find some way to protect them from foot and delivery traffic. Chairman Viger suggests to contact Nate at DPW.

Claire Stanley said that listening to Ms. LaFond and Mr. LaDuke's reports that she is impressed by the complexity of their work. She feels people do not know the scope of the work done, that includes far more than caring for the plant building(s). They are involved all over town with the infrastructure of water distribution and sewer collection while maintaining clean and safe environments at the respective plants. Great work, thank you.

Parking Lot: Mr. Lucci said he submitted the revised Parks and Rec ordinance to VLCT and has yet to receive a response. * He continues to urge people to register for VT ALERT. * Mr. Lucci reported they have a few Town Manager applicants for final interviews; expect to hold final interviews in a week or so; are entering the final phase.

At Mr. Reid's inquiry, the Transfer Station computer update is on order; have not received response re: the credit card reader.

At Mr. Greenough's inquiry, there is no further information re: the Water Plant rehab.

Board Roundtable: Mr. Reid inquired re: winter maintenance. Ms. Perry reported she will be meeting with Nate at DPW next week; they have started winter vehicle maintenance/changeover; need to hire the CDL position or there will be only one of the large trucks working. There was discussion re: the new contract that negotiated a 4-hour call in, that will make staffing very difficult; winter salt was pre-bought; are out of liquid.

Mr. Hier read his letter of resignation citing personal reasons, thanking members for making him feel welcome. Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to accept with, a heavy heart, Mr. Hier's resignation from the Select Board; seconded by Mr. Greenough. Chairman Viger said they have seen members come and go in the past and perhaps Mr. Hier would return. The motion carried.

Review of Financial Reports: The **checkbook** status is \$115,376,71

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the payroll warrant, \$42,126.10; seconded by Mr. Reid and passed.

Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to pay the Accounts Payable warrant, \$749,174.71; seconded by Mr. Hier. It was noted this amount includes the School quarterly payment. The motion carried.

Executive Session: Mr. Lucci **made a motion** to enter into executive session at 8:28 p.m. to discuss Legal/Personnel 1 VSA 313 (a)(3); seconded by Mr. Greenough and passed.

The recording secretary was excused at this time. Mr. Hier was excused as well.

Adjourn:

The board emerged from at approximately 9:30 with no decisions made. Mr. Lucci made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Reid seconded.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Stanley

Sam Lucci, Board Clerk