

Fair Haven Select Board, May 4, 2010

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN SELECT BOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS--CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS**

MAY 4, 2010

Members Present: Ron Adams, Ray Bunker, Julie Ellis (by phone), Jeff Sheldon, Claire Stanley

Others Present: Richard Frazier, Jane Ellis, Larry Hughes, George Roberts, Roy Eckler, Anni Savage-Prusaczyk, Dan Roberts, Suzanne Dechame, Bonnie Rosati, Neil Robinson, Sharon Herbert, Debi Bailey, Karen Close, Patrick Frazier, Rebecca Audet, Peg Manley, Susan Roberts, Phil Stannard Jr., Phil Stannard, Sr., RoseAnne VanLew, Greg Parke, Serena Williams.

CALL TO ORDER

The May 4, 2010 meeting of the Fair Haven Select Board was called to order at 7 p.m., by Chair Ron Adams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Claire Stanley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2010 meeting of the Select Board. Second by Ray Bunker. No corrections. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Claire Stanley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2010 Special Meeting of the Select Board. Second by Ray Bunker. No corrections. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

FIVE MINUTES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

RoseAnne VanLew asked who to talk with regarding Neighborhood Watch. She was directed to the Police Chief who is already working on the program.

Greg Parke wanted to introduce himself and let the Board know of his interest. He is the new owner of the "Marble Mansion Inn." He also wanted to express his disapproval over the crosswalk issue which takes out six parking places. He does not believe it is in the best interest of business.

Patrick Frazier was asking for approval to hold the drug and alcohol program in the park, August 3. He was advised to call and get on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.

Anni Savage-Prusaczyk: had comments to make because she had been quoted as saying (at a Select Board meeting) the police are not doing their job. She had not said that and expressed concern over how things are reported out of the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS WITH INDIVIDUALS

Rebecca Audet spoke as a downtown business owner with concerns over the cross walk issue. She believes parking spots are necessary for the value of a business and, as well, for the value of the business property. Regarding the absence of business owners at Select Board meetings to speak on the issue, she said. "Business owners won't speak up. They think it will adversely affect their business." The Chair admitted, "The Select Board cannot win on this issue." Several people spoke out regarding location, inconvenience and need for more than one crosswalk. After considerable discussion, the Chair said they will take two weeks to see if there is something that can be done--such as a smaller scale for a small town, not losing so many parking spaces. Perhaps there are more options to be found. If not, he said, they will stay on schedule.

Suzanne Dechame, Town Clerk, expressed concern over the apparent reaction of the Board to an overage within her budget on a single line item, even though there is no problem with the total budget. The item related to salary for her assistant. The Chair explained this type of review takes place for all departments, as in, she was not singled out. Several citizens spoke in support of the Town Clerk. She acknowledged she understood the Chair had asked the Town Manager for information as to what her plans are. Ms. Dechame is dealing with a number of uncertainties--personal and family serious medical concerns now and for an uncertain amount of time. She said she could put a sign on the door indicating the office is closed. There was discussion in her defense. The Chair said the problem is one of communication--the five women in the office do not communicate with one another. Finally the Chair said Suzanne will be taken care of by the Board. Also, there was no action for the Board to take at this time. It was suggested the Board should

apologize to Suzanne, this would relieve some of the tension. This was done.

Phil Stannard, Jr. came to the meeting as a representative of the Town's Forest Management Plan. He says nothing significant has been done to the town's forestlands since 1986. He gave Board members a Synopsis of Forest Treatment Activities for Town of Fair Haven Municipal Forestlands. All of the acreage needs to be reevaluated. There are over 200 acres in two compartments (Inman Pond and Howard and Sheldon Ponds). He is to talk to the Town Manager regarding the reevaluation, costs, etc. A plan is to be presented at the next meeting.

William & Richard Wells (Called to cancel.)

(The Chair declared a short break at 8:35 p.m. Called back to order at 8:45 p.m.)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS, COMMITTEES

Police Chief Bill Humphries told the Board he has hired a new school resource officer, Sherri Prouty. She has started training, has many good ideas, and is very enthusiastic. The entire interview committee was impressed with her. A grant for which he applied, that would put equipment in each police car (four) has been received for two cars, totaling \$20,900. Mounting brackets for all cars were received and this will enable them to be moved among the cars with whoever is on duty. The Bike Rodeo will be May 22 at the high school. Two bikes have been donated and they will be given by way of a raffle. They are hoping Walmart will provide helmets for the children who do not have them. A press release will go out shortly and something will go on the website. In regards to reports of "police harassment"--there may be more as police are stopping suspicious vehicles in an attempt to curtail the break-in activity. He said this is not just a problem for Fair Haven, but for all the towns around. The Department of Corrections is having an additional 200 prisoners released. They are not releasing to departments information on the inmates. The Board agreed to have the Board Clerk write a letter to the governor, Corrections Department, and the legislators opposing the plan to release prisoners.

Fire Department Chief Dave Ward reported the fire engine specs have been mailed to 10 companies. Eight have acknowledged receipt. The Chair described the agreed upon process for review of the bids to be received. All pricing is to be in a sealed envelope enclosed with the bid documents. A committee will open the bids, review them carefully, and make a recommendation to the Select Board. The pricing information will be opened for review at that time. There was discussion on the sale of the 1982 truck which is on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Deed: Claire Stanley made a motion to sell 53N, Section 11 to Joan Briggs. Second by Ray Bunker. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Recreation Area Lights: On motion by Jeff Sheldon, second by Claire Stanley, action on this was tabled due to the lack of any recreation person being present. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Scrap Metal & Tire Proposals: Three proposals were received.. After considerable discussion on the bids, much relating to an attempt to compare information, Ray Bunker made a motion to go local and award the bid to Robert Spaulding. Second by Jeff Sheldon. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote, Ron Adams voting no. The Chair said, and the Board agreed, another year there will be a form for the bidding process that will make comparisons of the bids easier.

Intent to Sell Bids--Parcel 220019: This is 7.9 acres. Located off Rt.4A and land-locked. Prior to the property being purchased by the Town of Fair Haven at a tax sale, it was owned by George Roberts. In response to the advertisement for sealed bids, a single bid was received. The envelope was from Vermont Rail System. Clarendon and Pittsford Rail Company submitted a bid of \$5001.00 for the property. Claire Stanley made a motion to accept the bid. Second by Jeff Sheldon. George Roberts stated he plans to sue the Town of Fair Haven and the man who purchases the property, because he believes the land was illegally taken. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote. David Wilson represented the company at the meeting.

Bridge Inspection Report: This was a report on the bridge at the foot of South Main Street hill. The bridge was said to be in satisfactory condition, except for some scaling on one of the piers. Claire Stanley made a motion to accept the report from the Agency of Transportation. Second by Jeff Sheldon. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Water and Sewer Budget-2010/2011: Board members have copies of the proposed budget. There is a 2% increase over this year's budget. Jeff Sheldon made a motion to table action on the budget until the Board had more time to study it. Second by Ray Bunker. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Fire Truck/1982 GMC: The opinion is this truck will not bring much money. A golf course or farm are

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likely going to be the interested parties. Claire Stanley made a motion to locally advertise the truck for sale Second by Jeff Sheldon. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS

The Board members were given finance reports for review. In the General Fund, 83.74% of the total budget has been spent. In the Water and Sewer budget, a total of 80.28% of the budget has been spent.

REPORTS OF BOARDS

Town Manager Serena Williams reported there has been a good response in the payment of property taxes. She has an opportunity to apply for another Transportation Enhancement Grant and asked for Board input. Several suggestions were made as possible projects. Cory Stone began working for the town, May 3, even though his background check has not been received. Serena reported she will be on vacation June 1,2,3,4. Sherwin Williams has made the best offer on paint needed for the park fence. They are also including a significant number of the needed supplies..

Claire Stanley spoke in reference to a comment made at the last meeting. It was said the Town Manager did not deserve a raise because she is receiving on-the-job training. Mrs. Stanley did some research and reported the Town Manager has, for the Town, applied for and received over \$200,000 in grants, plus the \$285,000 for the Fourth Street sidewalk. She has also successfully applied for equipment grants and worked with the grade school to secure funds for the playground. In summary, Mrs. Stanley said she believes the raise is deserved. (The rest of the Board supported her conclusion.)

Jeff Sheldon reported he had a phone call from former Town Manager Mike Barslow in regard to the statement there had never been employee evaluations. Barslow says evaluations were done "on his watch." (There is no sign of them in the personnel folders, which is what led to the statements at the last meeting indicating evaluations had not been done before.)

SIGNING OF WARRANT

Claire Stanley made a motion to pay the warrant as follows: General Fund-\$51,622.23; Payroll-\$24,912.36. Second by Jeff Sheldon. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Claire Stanley made a motion to adjourn at 10:16 p.m. Second by Jeff Sheldon. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma DeSpain

Claire Stanley, Clerk