

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS--CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
SELECT BOARD SESSION
FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

Members present: Christopher Cole, Bob Richards, Jeff Sheldon, Claire Stanley, Dave Ward
Others present: Glen Roberts, Ken Jones, Frank Faryniarz, Neil Robinson, Larry Hughes, Jon Lulek, Jay Riehl, Police Chief Bill Humphries, Recorder Wilma, DeSpain, Town Manager Herb Durfee

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christopher Cole called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Stanley moved to add to the agenda approval of the January 13, 2014 minutes. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sheldon moved to approve the January 13, 2014 minutes. Second by Ward. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Stanley abstained). Stanley moved to approve the January 20, 2014 minutes. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. Stanley moved to approve the January 23, 2014 special meeting minutes. Second by Ward. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Neil Robinson recalled "Handicap" parking signs were to be put up near the intersection of Main and Liberty Streets and are not done yet. He asked if the agenda for meetings could be posted on the front door of Town Hall. He raised the question of why the recreation program had gone from volunteer to paid workers. He also suggested higher fees for the children participating in the programs would be helpful in offsetting costs.

Durfee reported the Recreation Committee asked the Select Board to include the cost for a fulltime Recreation Director in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 proposed budget and the Board denied the request. He reported that some committee members then circulated a petition to get the request on the ballot despite the Selectboard's action. Durfee explained that the Selectboard was compelled to put the petitioned request on the Warning.

Larry Hughes in making his observations, is mainly interested in the town getting the most for its money.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Durfee indicated that the Lister does not recommend appealing the Equalized Education Grand List this year for several reasons: 1) the CLA remains beneficial to the Town; 2) the COD while a concern is not yet at a level requiring the Town to consider reappraisal; 3) sales have been generally accurate but some have been single sales in some categories and may be affecting the COD; and, 4) there have also been some other accurate sales but they've been related to

estate type of sales that usually are priced to move not necessarily what the market may be able to bear. This, too, can have an impact on the COD.

Durfee in reply to a question on the insurance for the recreation building lost to arson said the Town's insurance company (PACIF) probably is seeking legally permissible subrogation (financial recoupment of some costs) from the family of the arsonist(s).

Durfee reported the Hydro study report is almost ready. It will be reported first to the Energy Committee and thereafter to the Select Board.

The manager also mentioned a number of informational reports he had placed in the board's packets for their information. He advised he will not be in the office the week of February 24th, as such he asked members to let him know what they would like prepared for the Public Informational Meeting on March 3.

Police Chief Humphries reported the department received 157 calls this past month some requiring additional investigation.

NEW BUSINESS

Neil Robinson brought up a letter to the editor that was in the Rutland Herald regarding a property tax rebate that is available and generally known about. The board agreed to at least have the information researched. It was mentioned this was information the School Board also needed and Robinson agreed to attend their next meeting with information.

CDL Drug & Alcohol: Durfee suggested if the Board is comfortable, we can give the policy to the Union for their review. Sheldon moved to adopt the CDL Drug & Alcohol Policy & Guidelines, subject to review by the Union. Stanley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Sand/Salt Policy: The general opinion was no changes in the existing policy are necessary. It is just important to enforce the policy we have.

Recreation Committee Membership Policy: The Board agreed to review the changes drafted by Durfee and to discuss it during the February 18 meeting.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Richards asked about a grant the Police Chief mentioned, wondering if it was for Fair Haven and would it be used in Fair Haven only. Humphries replied that it was an extension of an existing grant and that generally the funds result in police services specific to Fair Haven. However, Humphries stated that occasionally officers will participate in regional or county-wide projects (e.g., Click It or Ticket and DUI checkpoints) where a larger police presence is typical.

Stanley encouraged citizens to vote, whether on Town Meeting day or by early/absentee ballot. She recalled only 1/3 of the Town's registered voters participated in the last election.

When asked, Durfee reported there are about 10 tax sales he's moving forward on.

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS

Finance reports were provided for Board review. The checkbook balance is \$274,838.40. Stanley made a motion to pay the Warrant as follows: General Fund – \$52,289.58 and Payroll – \$28,378.75. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Richards made a motion to go into Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss Union contract negotiations at 8:15 p.m. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

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Sheldon moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. Second by Richards. All voted aye. No action was taken.

ADJOURN

Stanley made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Second by Richards.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma B. DeSpain



Claire Stanley, Clerk
Jeff Sheldon