

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN VERMONT
SELECT BOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS--LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS
SELECT BOARD SESSION
JUNE 23, 2014**

Members Present: Christopher Cole, Rod Holzworth, Bob Richards, Jeff Sheldon, Dave Ward

Others Present: Ann Pelkey, Jane Ellis, Cindy Adams, John Lulek, Don Howard, Susan Schreibman, Fred Nicholson, Jamie Stewart, Police Chief William Humphries, Raymond Phillips, Town Manager Herb Durfee, Recorder Wilma DeSpain

CALL TO ORDER

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

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Add to the agenda: contracts for police services with Benson and Devil's Bowl, short-term budget coverage, and Executive Session to discuss union contract negotiations. Sheldon moved to add the above items to the agenda. Seconded by Holzworth. All voted aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Holzworth moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2014. Second by Richards. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Ellis spoke of the need for more attention to the grounds at Cedar Grove Cemetery. John Lulek requested a change in the allowable length of the dog leash permitted in the Park to not exceed six feet.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Humphries indicated there had been an incident in Town that he was not free to discuss publicly due to the on-going investigation. He said he could elaborate in an Executive Session, if the board wanted more information. He spoke of the department's cruiser replacement needs, including his car that is seven years old with 99,000 miles on it and another that has over 100,000 miles. Durfee followed up saying the Town needs to reconnect the replacement of cruisers on a regular basis.

Durfee reported he is holding "cracker barrel" sessions Tuesday at the gazebo in the Park, from noon to 1 p.m. and from 5-6 p.m. He hopes people will come by with questions and things they would like to discuss. He reported he has only heard from one of the recently resigned Recreation Committee members about meeting on July 21. He indicated that if that opportunity fails that the board may need to solicit and appoint new members. Durfee spoke of a recent broken window at the Library as part of a growing concern about vandalism in and near the Park. He said as a result he, unfortunately, is looking into surveillance cameras to cover some of the

Park area.

NEW BUSINESS

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Fred Nicholson, Interim Director, and Susan Schreibman, Assistant Director, spoke of the many benefits the Town has access to as part of their annual dues. Some of the benefits include training, grants, monthly meetings, and other resources. The two highlighted helping with the Town's culvert inventory, grant writing for Mechanic Street sidewalk, mapping, and several other forms of technical assistance.

Rutland Economic Development Corporation: Jamie Stewart, President outlined the level of services that REDC provides, including some of their work related to the former Skyline building. Stewart also spoke about some of the larger projects that could have a positive impact on western Rutland County (e.g., New England Clean Power Link's new power line and related local tax dollars and Vermont Gas Systems natural gas line expansion).

Abatement Request: The request for abatement comes from Debbie Bozzo, 2 & 4 Dutton Avenue. After considering Ms. Bozzo's letter, Town information, and Durfee's recommendation that the abatement not be granted since the water from the leakage entered the sewer system, Richards moved to decline the request. Seconded by Ward. All voted aye. If any new information becomes available, the Board agreed to reconsider the decision.

OLD BUSINESS

Benson Police Coverage: Given the lack of a budget for FY 2014-15 and the community discussion on whether or not the Police Department should offer police services outside municipal boundaries, Cole and Durfee suggested the board ought to decide on the question, especially related to budget passage issues. The Benson contract ends June 30 and the general consensus of the board was to let it expire without renewal. A decision on Devil's Bowl coverage was not made. It was pointed out Devil's Bowl is a positive experience, with higher visibility for the Police Department since many Town residents attend the races.

FY 2014-15 Water/Sewer

Based on the board's discussion during its special meeting on June 11, Sheldon moved to approve the FY 2014-15 Water and Sewer Budget in the amount of \$845,308. Seconded by Holzworth. All voted aye.

Sheldon moved to set the base and usage rates as follows: water usage = \$5.48; water base = \$31.20; sewer usage = \$9.67; and, sewer base = \$16.30. Seconded by Holzworth. All voted aye.

FY 2014-15 Town Budget

There will be a Public Forum, July 7, beginning at 6 p.m. This will be a Town Meeting style session with the Selectboard present to discuss questions and concerns. Also, July 14, at 7:00 p.m., is the statutorily required Public Informational Meeting that the Town Moderator will run. Both meetings will be at the Grade School Gymnasium. Other information regarding the budget and voting is available on the Fair Haven webpage and Facebook page.

ROUNDTABLE

Richards asked a question about the status of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Ward asked if

the Concerts in the Park would continue, if the budget failed to gain approval on July 15. Durfee indicated he would look into both questions.

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS

Finance reports were provided for the Board to review. The checkbook balance is \$339,657.05.

SIGN WARRANT

Sheldon made a motion to pay the General Fund bills totaling \$55,524.94 and the Payroll in the amount of \$28,169.33. Seconded by Holzworth. All voted aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sheldon moved to go into Executive Session at 10:10 p.m., with the Town Manager and the Police Chief, to discuss a pending law enforcement/legal issue under on-going investigation that premature knowledge by the public could jeopardize said investigation. Seconded by Holzworth. All voted aye. Sheldon moved to come out of Executive Session at 10:22 with no action to be taken. Second by Holzworth. All voted aye.

Sheldon moved to go into Executive Session, with the Town Manager, at 10:23 p.m. to discuss Union contract negotiations. Seconded by Holzworth. All voted aye.

At 11:03 p.m., Sheldon moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Richards. All voted aye.

Holzworth moved, pending Budget approval, to accept the proposal of the Town's exempt employees, the Town Clerk, and the Town Accountant for a 1.54% salary increase. Seconded by Sheldon. All voted aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Ward moved at 11:05 p.m. to adjourn. Seconded by Richards. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma B. DeSpain, Recorder



Jeff Sheldon, Board Clerk