

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

**AUGUST 16, 2011
PUBLIC HEARING**

Members Present: Christopher Cole, Rod Holzworth,II, Timothy Langlois, Jeff Sheldon, Claire Stanley

Others Present: Peter Hathaway, Lucia Suarez, Anna DeGraw, Rachel Key, Nathan Cauley, Patrick Frazier, Robert Murphy, Missy Murphy, Stephen Taylor, Justin Bolster, Frank Bolster, Connie Bolster, Elsie Ferman, William Ferman, Erica Jones, Brian Sunnice, Lisa Cawley, Glenn Cawley, Jay Brown, Stacy Chapman, Karen Close, Ann Thayer, Carol Parker, Lea Pettis, Lee Moss, Chief William Humphries, Kenneth Coe, William Wells, Beatrice Wells,

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Jeff Sheldon, Board Chair. He announced the meeting was a public hearing for the purpose of hearing citizen comment on consideration of a daytime noise ordinance.

DISCUSSION

Citizen comments began with the statement, "There are always people who complain about noise." Hearing noise is an expectation of living in a town of close neighborhoods, it was pointed out.

It was said that "when you buy property (in a residential neighborhood) you expect residential noise but not otherwise." This was followed by comments regarding noise coming from non-residential activity and the need to have respect for people who live next door.

The Chair again advised the group the purpose of the Hearing was to focus on the pros and cons of a noise ordinance.

Select Langlois asked, " Outside of two locations is there a noise problem?"

It appeared from the comments of citizens that there are two problem areas with serious noise issues. One instance seems to be caused by work being done on vehicles and the other seems to be neighborhood children playing and/or a radio.

One comment regarding a noise ordinance was, " it is taking rights away from other people."

A citizen introduced a thought by asking if the problem could possibly relate to zoning, this in regard to the work being done on vehicles..

It was suggested the town needs to "update zoning to the 21 century".

Police Chief Bill Humphries suggested, "An ordinance is not the answer. Neighbors need to talk to one another."

It was said, "An ordinance is not a perfect answer."

It was also suggested that with an ordinance to deal with the major concerns, "Everybody

is going to be arrested.”

The idea of sending a communication in everyone's water bill was suggested. Someone observed everyone does not get a water bill.

The Board assured the group every effort would be made to contact everyone if there was a necessity.

It was explained that in the event a noise ordinance is adopted, when sworn statements are taken and the case goes to the District Court in Rutland., both parties will be expected to be in attendance. These will be civil complaints.

One observation was: “An ordinance is not a perfect solution.” Another: “Everybody is going to be arrested.” And, “The perfect solution is to work things out.” Or, “We all have annoyances we have to deal with.”

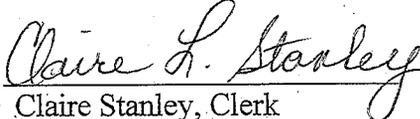
The idea of having the question of a noise ordinance placed on the ballot was mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

After about an hour and a half, the Chair appeared to think everything that related to the purpose of the Hearing had been said and he entertained a motion to adjourn.

Select Langlois made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Second by Select Cole. The Hearing adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma B. DeSpain


Claire Stanley, Clerk