

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

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2013
SELECT BOARD SESSION**

Members Present: Christopher Cole, Jeffrey Sheldon, Bob Richards, Claire Stanley, Dave Ward
Others Present: John Lulek, Walter "Bud" Panoushek, DPW Supt., Larry Hughes, Neil Robinson, Glen Roberts, Police Chief William Humphries, Town Manager Herb Durfee, Recorder Wilma DeSpain

CALL TO ORDER

Select Board Chair Christopher Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

The only change noted to the agenda was removal of an item under New Business, A report on River Street Pump Station by Engineer Jason Booth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Stanley moved to approve the September 16, 2013 meeting minutes. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Neil Robinson raised the need for an outdoor bulletin board in front of Town Hall or in such a location where a person could drive up and read a meeting agenda or other posted item. He also had comments on the recent "blasting incident", the number of households affected and suggested Green Mountain Power should be held responsible.

Larry Hughes echoed the need for someone to be accountable for homeowners' losses. He believes some insurance companies are saying they will have nothing to do with any claims coming from the incident.

DEPARTMENT HEAD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW Superintendent Panoushek reported the crew has been fixing a water leak at Apple Tree. He reported Miner Construction is doing a great job on the River Street pump station. He also indicated his crew has been working to paint the crosswalks with a priority near the schools. He was asked how soon they will be able to clean the recently burned recreation building at the Recreation Fields behind the Grade School. Panoushek replied as soon as the investigation and insurance adjusters have completed their work over the next several days.

Police Chief Humphries reported the department is expecting a new in-car camera. The \$4,800 valued camera was selected from a list of items offered as a grant due to participation in the state's "Click-It-Or-Ticket" campaign.

NEW BUSINESS

VTrans "Transportation Alternatives Grant" Program – Durfee is preparing an application to scope construction of a sidewalk on the east side of Mechanic Street from 2nd Street to the high school building. The application is due October 16. Based upon a grant award and resulting work, a subsequent grant would be applied for next year to offset actual sidewalk construction.

FYE 2015 Budget Process and Schedule – Durfee offered a budget schedule for the board's consideration. He indicated that budget department heads need to prepare their budget requests by November 15. He would then develop his recommendations and deliver the draft of the budget to the board on December 9. Budget department heads would present their component budgets to the board on December 9 and on December 23. A budget hearing would be held on January 6, with board discussion occurring on January 6 and January 20. The budget would be finalized by the board for Town Meeting on January 20. Also, a special meeting would likely have to be scheduled sometime during the 3rd week of January for the board to sign the Warrant in order to meet statutory deadlines. Richards indicated that the recommended schedule didn't offer enough time for board discussion. Durfee replied that there are other dates whereby the board could schedule special meetings. Overall, the board agreed the schedule offered a good starting point and agreed to amend the schedule as needed.

Castleton Request for Police Chief Services – The Castleton Police Chief is retiring. As such, the Castleton Town Manager approached Durfee to see if the Town would be interested in sharing through contract the administrative position of Police Chief. The two existing police departments would continue to serve as separate entities but would share the chief services. Durfee also indicated that the Poultney Village Manager approached him separately to consider contracting **Poultney Police Services**. Durfee reported Poultney's inquiry would be to provide police coverage via an inter-municipal services contract similar to the Benson contract but probably for a greater number of hours. Poultney is looking for better response time than they currently receive from the State Police. Richards generally expressed his disinterest in both requests. After additional discussion there was general consensus that, without any commitment at this time, additional analysis is warranted even if only as a courtesy to the requesting communities. Durfee said he would work with the two other managers and Humphries to get a better handle on what specifically Castleton and Poultney seek to limit the range of discussion.

Cemetery Deed – Sheldon moved to deed Section 11, Lots 134 and 135 North at Cedar Grove Cemetery to Kenneth, Gale and John Martin. Second by Ward. All voted aye.

Draft Blasting/Explosive Demolition Notification Ordinance – In response to discussion at the last meeting, Durfee introduced a two-page ordinance dealing with the public notification of the use of explosives in Town. Notification would include adjacent property owners, owners of easements and rights-of-way affected, the police department, and in the newspaper. The board agreed to discuss the draft at the next meeting.

Draft Town Office Fee Schedule Policy – Durfee indicated he is preparing a fee schedule policy for board consideration related to charges for copies, faxing, and other services requested of the Town Office by the public.

OLD BUSINESS

LED Street Light – Durfee indicated he believes the idea of switching street lights over to LED fixtures is a good, cost-saving project. However, he is still working with Efficiency Vermont on a memorandum of understanding that has some contradictory provisions. Once that is worked out, he said he would probably ask the board to sign the MOU if only as a place marker in the

schedule for conversion, since Efficiency Vermont is booking as far out as 2015. In the interim, he would be working to determine the project's logistics including cost, financing, project reasonableness, fixture ownership/lease arrangements, etc. He noted that the Town can back out of the MOU at any time should it be found that the project is not in the Town's best interests.

BOARD ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Richards returned to the subject of the recent explosion, the damage it caused, the significant loss of power, the number of people without power for a significant number of hours, destroyed electrically dependent property (e.g., appliances and computers) and other resulting losses (e.g., refrigerator food). He wonders if our attorney or the police chief would have any help to offer as people consider their options. Durfee and Humphries indicated that the Town is doing what it can, though it really isn't a Town issue. Durfee iterated that the draft blasting ordinance is intended to help minimize the issue from happening again. Humphries reminded the board that the case remains under investigation. Durfee added that insurance companies and entities like Green Mountain Power most likely are waiting for completion of the investigation in order to decide how to take action.

Richards also asked if the school resource officer was already in place. He had wanted to have some input in the contract, though he admitted he wasn't on the board when the budget was prepared that included that line item. Humphries indicated that the SRO already was in place based on the assumption that since the item was approved in the budget and that the officer had been in the position for several years now that it was okay to move forward with the contract. He apologized for any misunderstanding.

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS AND CHECKBOOK STATUS

Board members were given Finance Reports for their review. The checkbook status is \$279,858.16.

SIGNING OF WARRANTS

Stanley moved to pay the warrant as follows: Payroll--\$31,179.28; General Fund--\$92,955. Second by Ward. All voted aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Union Contract – Health Care Change Agreement: At 9:09 p.m., Stanley moved to go into an Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss a Health Care Change Agreement under the Union Contract. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. At 9:28 p.m., Stanley moved to come out of Executive Session. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. Stanley moved to accept the Health Care Benefit Package as negotiated through collective bargaining for Union employees, and Cole and Richards are authorized to sign on behalf of the Town. Second by Ward. All voted aye. At 9:30 p.m., Stanley moved to offer to non-Union employees and the Town Clerk the same health care benefit package offered to Union employees. Second by Ward. All voted aye.

Union Contract – Pending Successor Contract Negotiations: At 9:31 p.m., Ward moved to go into Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss pending Union Contract negotiations. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. At 9:59 p.m., Stanley moved to come out of Executive Session. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. No action taken.

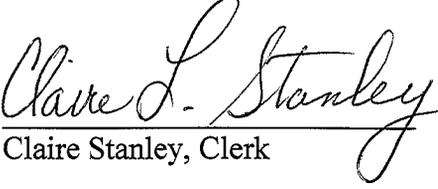
Personnel Issue – Pending Grievance: At 10:00 p.m., Stanley moved to go into Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss a pending grievance. Second by Sheldon. All voted

aye. At 10:10 p.m., Stanley moved to come out of Executive Session. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 p.m., Ward moved to adjourn. Second by Sheldon. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma B. DeSpain


Claire Stanley, Clerk