

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN
SELECT BORAD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS - CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 19, 2010**

Members Present: Ron Adams, Ray Bunker, Julie Ellis, Jeff Sheldon (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Claire Stanley

Others Present: Lucia Suarez (Rutland Herald), Nicole Kesselring (Enman Engineering), Blair Enman (Enman Engineering), Laura Green (Cambridge Environmental), Tom, Emero (Beaver Wood Energy), Bill Bousquet (Beaver Wood Energy), Larry Hughes, Neil Robinson, Allen Bowen, Ken Jones, Peg Flory (Rutland City Senator), Bob Richards, John Lulek, Chief Bill Humphries, Karen Close, David Ward, Town Manager Serena Williams

CALL TO ORDER

The October 19, 2010 meeting of the Fair Haven Select Board was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Board Chair Ron Adams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Julie Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2010 meeting of the Select Board. Second by Claire Stanley. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Neil Robinson reminded the Board that those receiving social security will not be receiving a raise next year. He would like the Board to keep that in mind during negotiation talks with the town employees.

Bob Richards asked if the Audit Report was back. Not at this time.

Bob Richards asked about the policy of the Air Park being locked and Fair Haven citizens not being able to enter, yet Radio Flyers have access. Ron Adams responded that the Radio Flyers have asked for permission to enter the Air Park. He was the one who recommended the south gate be locked due to the large ruts the vehicles make. The north gate is unlocked and you can enter the south gate by foot.

Larry Hughes asked about the John Root situation. John is no longer in the Supervisor position because he was part of the union and the union did not agree to release him. The Board had assigned Mr. Root to the Supervisor position after receiving notification from the State Water Supply Division that they had to have a Supervisor. At this time, Mr. Root is part of the union and is being paid his previous salary.

Jeff Sheldon spoke on George Lovell's behalf. Mr. Lovell wanted it clarified that he did not stand up the Board at the last meeting. He had notified the Town Manager to let her know he would not be attending the meeting.

Bob Richards asked if there were any results from the Town's burglary. Polygraph tests will be done in November.

APPOINTMENT WITH INDIVIDUALS

Beaver Wood Energy - Tom Emero

Serena Williams asked Beaver Wood Energy to come and update the Board on their proposed Fair Haven biomass power and wood pellet plant project after receiving a letter from their lawyer regarding a section 248 permit. The section 248 permit is equivalent to an Act 250 permit for commercial project. A section 248 permit is specific to power generator facilities. The letter had asked for early consideration and since that time they are not applying for early consideration. They are now seeking a partial permit to allow them to begin some very basic construction and qualify for some Federal money that is available through the end of the year.

Tom Emero presented a slide show explaining the project. The plant is to be located across Route 4 from the Welcome Center. It will be a 29 megawatt, wood powered base-load plant that is expected to create approximately 50 renewable energy jobs and produce 110,000 tons of pellets per year for commercial and home use which is equal to approximately 13 million gallons of #2 heating oil. The plant will also provide an estimated 1,050 jobs during construction and 230 indirect jobs in forestry and other businesses. The project produces two forms of renewable energy; electricity and pellets. No construction or demolition wood will ever be utilized for this project. All fuel will be harvested from within a 50 mile radius. It is estimated that the municipal revenues will be 1.1 million dollars of the net revenues from their property taxes (home value of 163,000; tax reduction of \$570 - estimated at current town spending). The water source will come from Lake Champlain and the plant discharge is the Castleton River. The sanitary waste will go to the Fair Haven Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Answers to questions:

- Energy will be sold to utilities. It will not be sold to individuals.
- Most of the pellets will be sold to distributors. The plan is to have a period of time each year were they can make them available directly to people in the area. The location will not be at the plant.
- They have been exploring different options for trucks leaving the plant that need to head east without having to build a bridge. One plan is to create a turn around near the weigh station. Another option is to purchase land in NY specifically for a turn around.
- The plan to get the water from Lake Champlain is a process called directional drill which is a process that bores underground and then the piping is laid in segments along the roadsides. There will be one pump station with multiple pumps. It is approximately 6.5 miles. The actual route has not been finalized.
- The waste water to the Fair Haven plant will be about 800 gallons per day.
- The oppositions in Pownal are specific to Pownal. There is a well on the property that people are concerned that the use of this well will affect their wells. Another concern is the smoke that settles in the valley from woodstoves. Their concern is that the plant will make this situation worse.
- The tops and branches of the trees will power the plant.
- There are no scrubbers in the stacks; there is no sulfur.
- For additional information - www.beaverwoodenergy.com.
- Very limited construction is planned to start December 7, 2010. They would access the site and start foundations for the scales and the raw water tank. No above ground work will be done. Full excavation is planned for summer/fall 2011.
- They do not plan to expand on this site; they are contemplating conservation use for the unused land.
- Both plants are being done at the same time because they are needed in both places, to save construction costs, to make the application process easier, utilize the skills of those building the plants and to make the plants as identical as possible by placing orders within a time-frame where there will not be changes to components.
- It looks like the Fair Haven plant will start before the Pownal plant.
- Union workers will not be required to do the work.
- A good business reason not to use demolition or construction waste is that the project is not designed to burn it and it would ruin the SCR (selected catalytic reduction). If it is not in the air permit already they will specifically request that it says just clean wood/untreated.
- A job fair will be held to hire employees for the construction of the plant and employees to work at the plant.

There is a sign up sheet for 25 people to tour the McNeil Generating Station in Burlington, VT on October 29th. They will be leaving from the town office at 9:00 a.m. and returning by mid-afternoon.

A letter of support for the project will be reviewed by the Board at their November 2nd meeting.

Ms. Kesselring (Enman Engineering) requested the Board to sign a co-application for an Operational Storm Water Discharge permit that is required by the State because the on and off ramps that connect to route 4 are in the State right-of-way. The Board wanted time to review the application before signing it.

Jeff Sheldon made a motion that the Town of Fair Haven will be a co-applicants with Beaver Wood Energy on the Operational Storm Water Discharge permit for Beaver Wood Energy's on and off ramps connecting to route 4. The selectmen will sign the application by Thursday, October 21st. The Town is not obligated to maintain the storm water system or pay any application or annual fees. Second by Ray Bunker. Motion carried 5-0.

A short recess was called at 9:05 p.m. Called back to order at 9:15 p.m.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire Department - Dave Ward reported on the Fire Safety Program. The program went very well with 274 kids participating. The men volunteered approximately 50 hours of their time for the program.

Mr. Ward attended a meeting in Pennsylvania regarding the new fire truck. A few changes were made to the specs. The truck should be out of production by mid-March and delivered by mid-April.

Police Department - Chief Humphries reported on the Cadet Program. They continue to have 13-14 attending each week. Today they practiced building clearing. The booster club is interested in helping them fundraise and Officer Prouty will attend their meeting for more information.

The department has lost two part-time officers. One officer has taken a leave of absence and the other officer has taken another position with another department with more hours.

The community meeting sponsored by FAN was very well attended and went very well. It gave people a chance to ask questions and voice their concerns. Chief Humphries has been in contact with FAN and they will try to schedule another meeting to see if the community is interested in forming a watch. Mrs. Stanley attended the meeting and commended Chief Humphries and Officer Riehl for providing a very informative meeting.

Public Works - The Town Manager reported for Jack Eaton. The sewer lines will be flushed on the October 25th, the fountain has been removed for the winter and Cedar Grove Cemetery is being closed at dark.

NEW BUSINESS

USDA/Loan Resolution - Serena presented a 30 year USDA loan in the amount of \$108,000 for the West Street water project to be signed by the board. The rate of the loan is 3% and there are no penalties for paying the loan off early. The 30 day bid process has been waived and construction should begin by November 15th. The Town will also be receiving a grant in the amount of \$42,000 for the project.

Julie Ellis made a motion to sign the \$108,000 USDA Loan Resolution for the 700 ft. water line project on West Street. Second by Ray Bunker. Motion carried 5-0 vote.

Julie Ellis made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to borrow funds from the Emergency Fund for the West Street water project in the event that the grant money has not been received when vendor bills are due. The Emergency Fund will be reimbursed as soon as the grant money becomes available. Second by Claire Stanley. Motion carried 5-0 vote.

Health Officer - The Board received a letter of interest for the Health Officer position from John Lulek. Jeff Sheldon made a motion to recommend John Lulek to the State as the Town's Health Officer. Second by Ray Bunker. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Concerts in the Park/Sign/Sandwich Boards - Serena shared with the Board drawings that Fred Capon has asked her to bring to the Planning Commission of the sign and sandwich boards that the committee would like to use for the Concerts in the Park. The posts are permanent and the sign is removable. The sign will only be up for the seven weeks during the concerts. The sandwich boards are \$775 and the sign is \$1,050.

Probate Proposal - The board received a letter from Probate Court regarding the Probate Court having to have a presence in the area for at least a half day or a full day each week. They would like to rent a room after January 31, 2011 through June 30, 2011 for one day each week.

Claire Stanley made a motion to rent a room to Probate Court for one day each week, beginning after January 31, 2011 through June 30, 2011 for \$250 each month, subject to renewal. The funds are to be put into the Municipal Building's Reserve Account. Second by Jeff Sheldon. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Transfer Station - Tire Prices

Claire Stanley made a motion to table the tire prices at the transfer station until the November 2nd meeting. Second by Julie Ellis. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Park Ordinance

Claire Stanley made a motion to table the park ordinance until the November 2nd meeting. Second by Julie Ellis. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Executive Session/Union Contract - postponed for later in the meeting

OLD BUSINESS - No old business

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS

Finance Reports were provided for Board members for their review. The checking account balance is \$82,087.

REPORT OF BOARDS

Town Manager Serena Williams - Board was provided with a copy of the Energy Audit on the Municipal Building to review.

The board agreed to start their meeting on November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. with the Energy Audit presentation to be the first item on the agenda.

By the next meeting they should have drafts of budgets.

The Select Board/Town Manger Report for the Town Report is due December 10th.

Board should start thinking about whom to dedicate the Town Report.

Serena is taking November 22-24 off.

The Morrill house is appealing the decision to the Supreme Court.

Claire Stanley went to the Town Fair and was informed that the Leagues of Cities and Towns did not have the names and addresses of our elected auditors. She brought back information regarding a workshop that is being held on November 16th for auditors. She asked that the information and a letter offering to pay the \$55.00 fee for the workshop be sent to the elected auditors. The Board agreed to send the information and letter. Mrs. Stanley would like the Board to look at/review ordinances.

Ray Bunker would like to meet with Chief Humphries regarding the gun ordinance in town. He was told that there was an ordinance at one time.

Julie Ellis asked if they had developed a better system at the transfer station for collecting cash.

Serena responded that they were to move the cash register next to the window and give receipts to everyone who gave them cash. The board consensus was that a receipt should be produced for every cash transaction, whether someone wanted it or not, so the cash total will be the same as the cash register total at the end of the day. No one is accusing anyone of anything and this practice makes it clean and transparent. Serena will spend a few hours at the transfer station on Thursday.

Julie Ellis mentioned that ATV's were entering the Air Park by going around the fence. Mr. Adams stated that a gate was put up today so they can no longer get through.

By the National Guard

Chair Ron Adams informed the other Board members that he will be submitting the same Selectman's budget as last year. Serena added that minimum wage will be going up in January to \$8.15 an hour.

SIGNING OF WARRANT

Claire Stanley made a motion to pay the warrant as follows: Payroll - \$25,199.47; General Fund - \$121,440.52. Second by Jeff Sheldon. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Executive Session/Union Contract

Jeff Sheldon mad a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. with the Town Manager for an update on Union Contracts. Second by Ray Bunker. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Claire Stanley made a motion to return to open session at 11:00 p.m. Second by Julie Ellis. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Claire Stanley made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. Second by Ray Bunker. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Close


Claire Stanley, Clerk