

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUO COMMISSIONERS-CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
SELECTBOARD SESSION
NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Members Present: Christopher Cole, Timothy Langlois, Jeff Sheldon, Claire Stanley, David Ward

Other Present: Bill Humphries, Dick Frazier, Michelle Murray, Judy Sheldon, George Stannard, Neil Robinson, Mary McNeil, Gary Boutin, John Reed, Glen Roberts, John Lulek

CALL TO ORDER – Board Chair Christopher Cole called the November 13, 2012 meeting of the Fair haven Select Board to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Town Manager Search Committee

C. Stanley made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. to include the interim Town Manager Bill Humphries and Detective Gary Boutin. D. Frasier seconded. So voted.

Mary McNeil made a motion to exit executive session at 6:54 p.m. Dick Frasier seconded. So voted.

Claire Stanley made a motion to authorize the Town manager to take appropriate action. Michelle Murray seconded. So voted.

Two minute break

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel

Tim Langlois made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. to include the Interim Town Manager Bill Humphries. Dave Ward seconded. So voted.

Interim Town Manager Bill Humphries read a letter of resignation from John Eaton, Jr. that was addressed to the Select board – resigning as public works supervisor, will take on position of foreman/equipment operator/laborer effective November 13, 2012. By the next select board meeting in two weeks, they will be looking to appoint an interim supervisor. The interim Town Manager will look internally to see if there is anyone interested in filling. Town Manager also explained to those present that the board had talked of restructuring the highway department and having the position overseeing water and sewer. Mr. Eaton is more than happy to be going to go over to the other job. Out of respect to Mr. Eaton, the board created another job and altered equipment operator positions. The board is supportive of him being foreman, and finding a new person for supervisor. Christopher Cole stated the board has accepted the resignation and Mr. Eaton has moved to other position effective today.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2013

Claire Stanley made motion to accept the minutes of October 30, 2012 as presented. Tim Langlois seconded. So voted.

Jeff Sheldon asked where they came out on the airport opening for hunting season, as the gate is still locked. Dave Ward stated that it had been stated that if it was wet and traffic would cause mud problems, it wouldn't be open.

APPOINTMENTS WITH INDIVIDUALS -

- a. John Reed – The Park. John Reed stated to the board that the contract for the park is over as of now. He has been mowing the park for 6 years and Mr. Reed reviewed the history of his mowing of the park and reminded the board of the many changes made in the park and how they affected the time and expense of mowing. The new marble posts, signs posts and picnic tables all increased the labor time a lot, but he has not ask for any increase. Mr. Reed further stated that he has charged \$125 for past few years, while everyone else's bid three years ago was much higher than that, but a contract is a contract. He would be willing to do another three years for \$180 per cut, which again is lower than what others bid before the recently expired three year contract was issued. He is not sure what the board plans on doing, has heard they plan on doing it themselves, but he wanted the board to know it takes him 4.5 hours himself with no breaks, just straight mowing. Board felt needed to talk to new incoming department head. Mr. Reed stated he'd like to know a time frame before spring, interim town manager felt within a month or month a half they should decide, as they would like to know for budget purposes. Mr. Reed stated he mows it an average of 27 times per year.
- b. Neil Robinson – Energy Update. Mr. Robinson gave the board an update on the beaver wood related things he has encountered. He attended a meeting recently in Rutland, which concentrated on solar wind and thermal energy. There was minimal mention of hydro or biomass. It had been stated by some at the meeting that it was assumed a biomass plant would be included in achieving their goal of energy conservation. Explained the things that were discussed at the meetings and what the result was. It has been mentioned in the past that Beaver wood had been looking to join forces with Hydroponic, an investment firm. They currently have three investors in New York and they are looking for another. There was further discussion that it seemed to look good for beaver wood at the legislative level.

Mr. Robinson stated that a few years ago there had been discussion about a banner for support of beaver wood but it was shot down because it was a private enterprise and there was some state law that prohibited it. Has wanted the board to know that he recently saw one for a hosiery factory in Cabot, and would like to investigate and see how they are getting away w/ it so it could become a possibility for Fair Haven and beaver wood. Claire Stanley stated that letters should be written by anyone that can write one and sent to the legislature regarding the energy conservation. John Lulek asked to also state that Benson has a windmill.

FIVE MINUTES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – John Lulek stated that he is glad Jack Eaton has the job he's got, it is important for the town. He also stated that there's a manhole by his house that has never gotten fixed. It was put in the budget, the pipe and cement blocks are in, and it never got done. Interim town manager stated he will ask on Monday when Jack Eaton is back in. John Lulek also stated that he dug out the other two near his house, and left dirt there so it could be seen and maybe picked up, but it is still there. Tim Langlois suggested Mr. Lulek make a call to have it picked up.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS, TOWN MANAGER, COMMITTEES –

Dave Ward, Fire Department - stated there was nothing to report other than they are working on the budget. They are in the process of going through all equipment to be sure operable before winter. Things have been quiet.

Police Chief/Town Manager Bill Humphries – Stated the police department has had 3-4 burglaries on Main Street in the past few days. They have a suspect, who has also been charged for an unrelated retail theft. They have blood evidence and have will be doing DNA testing.

As Town Manager Bill Humphries stated he would like to get some of budget to the board at the next meeting. They have received a request from residents near Troubles End for a no passing zone on that stretch of Vt Route 22A, and had sent a letter to the State requesting it which was denied, but there will be a south bound sign for a hidden driveway.

A water/sanitary system survey was done by State; there are numerous issues that need to be corrected. There are still 2010 survey results corrections that have not been done. One of the issues is the cross connection hazard for Green Mountain Mobile Home Park. There is a meter pit that needs to be addressed. A letter has been prepared for Mr. White, the park owner, and there may be a need for drainage to help correct the problem. Interim Town Manager suggests the town do it and bill Mr. White, as it is his pit. Serena Williams worked on this in years past and got no response from Mr. White, and it was never followed up on. Bill Humphries suggested to the board that he will hand deliver the letter to Mr. White and tell him if he doesn't correct it, the town will and come after him for the money. If it is not fixed, the town will be fined, even though Mr. White owns it, it is part of the town's system. There are others that will be addressed sooner than later. A violation was cited for a while ago from the state, and that will be taken care of soon, a notice will go in the water bills, on the web site and advertised in paper.

Interim Town Manager presented a Health Reimbursement Arrangement that either the board or he needs to sign. It has to do with choice care card. The board felt it was just an affirmation of the changes they had made previously. Interim Town Manager also stated they are looking into some 2011 issues that have not been cleared up. The town has paid for those expenses in the past for employees according to the plan, and he is sending letters with paychecks asking that the paperwork that is needed from a few regarding these expense be cleared up. The past town manager had overrode the card being shut off until the issues have been cleared up, so they are not being taken care of because the cards continue to work. It is a matter of paperwork that is needed, and letter indicated pay would be docked if the documentation is not taken care of.

Neil Robinson asked for an update on the State Police coming to town. Interim Town Manager explained that he had gotten a letter from Sovernet requesting authorization for the computer line to be put in, and he would not sign it until he had something from State Police. It appears it is in works, as they have started renovations at the Rutland barracks to prepare, but they have not set a date. It appears this is for the equipment to go in but there is nothing firm. They still need to discuss figures with State Police and the logistics of the plan, etc.

Interim town manager stated to Mr. Robinson there was a proposal for bid for the hydro study in Mike's mailbox, and asked if he would be picking up? Discussion on the process of the bid and it was decided that Christopher Cole will take care of it.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Trustee of Public Funds – Charlotte Capron**- Board received a request from Charlotte Capron, requesting she be appointed to fill Richard Duell's seat on the Trustee of Public Funds until the end of term in March.

Jeff Sheldon made a motion to appoint Charlotte Capron to fill the vacant seat of Richard Duell to fill out his term. Claire Stanley seconded. So voted.

It was that that because this is an appointment by the board, it will only last until the next election, not the end of the term.

- b. **Auditor – Glen Roberts** – Board received a letter of interest from Glen Roberts, requesting he be appointed to fill the opening on the board of Auditors.

Jeff Sheldon made a motion to appoint Glen Roberts to the Auditors position. Claire Stanley seconded. So voted. It was mentioned that there is an upcoming 8 hour training that the town will pay for Mr. Roberts to attend if he is interested.

Board took a three minute recess at this time. Back on the record at 8:14 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Depot Street Bridge** – Interim Town Manager stated he has talked to Steve Diglio, engineer for the Depot Street Bridge project, and they are still trying to get in contact with the railroad, they have not responded. The appraisals are done, they are waiting on the report, and have forwarded the map to Mr. Larson so he could finish. It will go out to bid today. Before the next board meeting they will have the bid opening, which will be November 27th. Once the appraisal is done, they will have to talk to property owners about rights of way, etc. Mr. Diglio would like to do the bid opening at 4 or 5 p.m. and be here for the meeting afterwards. Bill Humphries stated he has sent a letter requesting a temporary bridge for 12-18 months to VTrans and has not received a response.

REPORT OF BOARDS (AKA ROUND TABLE) Jeff Sheldon had nothing to report. Tim Langlois stated there is a street light out on Liberty Street. Interim Town Manager stated he can have the night patrol do a check on them all and get pole numbers and send them all at once. Claire Stanley and Dave Ward had nothing to report. Christopher Cole stated he took a drive down on River Street and it looks good.

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS – Interim Town manager stated the largest item on the expenses is the Depot Street Bridge. There was brief discussion on the progress of the project. There are many people and agencies involved. Jeff Sheldon stated he had heard the fire department can get a grant to give out smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. Dave Ward stated there are, they just need to be found. West Haven is working on one; it may be beneficial to work jointly with them.

- a. Expenditure/Revenue Reports
- b. Check Book status - The balance of the checkbook is currently \$617,412.61.

SIGNING OF WARRANTS Claire Stanley made a motion to sign warrants for payroll in the amount of \$25,749.84 and the general fund for \$45,343.43. Dave Ward seconded. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT Claire Stanley made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Tim Langlois seconded. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Harvey



Claire Stanley, Clerk