

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS--CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
SELECT BOARD
NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

Members Present: Christopher Cole, Bob Richards, Jeff Sheldon, Claire Stanley, Dave Ward

Others Present: Sadie Laramie, John Lulek, Bud Panoushek, Glen Roberts, Patrick Frazier, Francis Dechame, Richard Frazier, Christopher Stanton, Suzanne Dechame, Cindy Adams, John Adams. Larry Zidorsky, Town Manager Herb Durfee, Recorder Wilma DeSpain

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Chair Christopher Cole called the November 25, 2013 meeting of the Fair Haven Select Board to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked for everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RECESS FOR BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING

Select Board recess 7:03 p.m. Reconvened at 7:14 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Ward moved to add Cemetery Deed to the agenda. Second by Richards. All voted aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Stanley moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2013 as submitted. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Zidovsky, representing the Fair Haven Eagles, presented the Board with a proposal to swap a piece of land on Academy Street, adjacent to the Eagles building and owned by the Town, for a piece of land owned by the Eagles off Exit 1 of Rte 4. The original covenant left the Academy Street land to the town as long as it remained a ball field. Problems in connection with the ball field prompted the relocation of that program to the Recreation Fields behind the graded school. It was said the land off the exit would be well located for the town's salt and sand storage because of its location to the main highway. Discussion seemed to indicate this could be a favorable swap. However, it is necessary to conduct some analysis including legal steps.

RON SMITH, RHR SMITH & COMPANY

Smith was present to review the FYE 2013 audit and the management letter with the Select Board. Town Manager Durfee responded to a number of items noted in a letter from Smith. Several of them are "in the works". These include cross-training of the town

hall office employees and making changes in the money handling at the transfer station to make it easier to deal with and more fiscally responsible. He also mentioned the need to try and get rid of the Town's charge cards. Durfee indicated this move is just about taken care of. Smith cautioned the Board as they put the new budget together. A town really needs a surplus that in an emergency would carry the town 30 days. As the Board gets in to the budget process they need to be mindful of the fact we have only a 10-day coverage not a 30-day one.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

From DPW, Panoushek reported they completed the sewer flushing last week. They have been working on a sewer problem at Skyline. He assured the Board the town is ready for winter with the salt and sand situation.

Town Manager Durfee reported the River Street pump station is up and running. The Rural Development people have approved a generator for River Street. We also are hoping the USDA will approve our using grant fund surplus to purchase a truck bed mounted crane to be used to lift heavy pump equipment from the pump station, if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Deed

Sheldon moved to deed to Richard and Melissa Gay, Lot 27 South, Section 19 in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Second by Ward. All voted aye.

Annual Tax Map Maintenance

Durfee reported there is a \$200 increase in the 2014 tax map maintenance contract. He believes this is "more than justified". Motion by Richards to move forward with the tax map maintenance. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

Water Distribution

Durfee reported to the Board it is time to do an overall hydraulic assessment of the water system and, thereafter, some water system modeling to determine the priority of system maintenance and upgrade, as appropriate and applicable.

Status of Hydro Project

Durfee says it is premature to give a report at this time. However, three site visits have been made noting physical features, inspection of the dams, and obtaining 75 years of flow data. An overall report should be ready in December.

Health Insurance Reimbursement

The Town is dropping Choice Strategies as the administrator of the Town's HRA. Beginning January 1, 2014, reimbursements will go directly through a firm affiliated with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. They will handle all the finances, even for any employee that opts to select an MVP plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Any of the Old Business will be carried over to the next meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

Nothing for the Roundtable.

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS

The manager distributed finance reports for Board members to review.

Checkbook Balance

The checking account balance is \$616,527.18

WARRANT

Stanley made a motion to pay the Warrant as follows: Payroll--\$25,182.84; General Fund-- \$79,802.09. Second by Ward. All voted aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Stanley made a motion at 8:27 p.m. to go into Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss pending negotiations. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

Stanley made a motion to come out of Executive session at 8:51 p.m. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. No action taken.

Ward moved to go into Executive Session at 8:51 p.m. with Town Manager to discuss personnel grievance. Second by Stanley. All voted aye.

Ward moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:08 p.m., Sheldon moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma B. DeSpain



Claire Stanley, Clerk