

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

**SELECT BOARD SESSION
DECEMBER 23, 2013**

Members present: Christopher Cole, Bob Richards, Jeff Sheldon, Claire Stanley, Dave Ward
Others present: Fred Capron, John Lulek, M. Murray, James Aldrich, Police Chief William Humphries, Marilyn Eaton Recorder Wilma DeSpain, Town Manager Herb Durfee

CALL TO ORDER

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

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Ward made a motion to amend the agenda with the addition of action on a request to approve a contract for mutual aid fire service for Hampton, NY. Second by Stanley. All voted aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ward moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2013 special Select Board meeting. Second by Sheldon. No discussion. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fred Capron--Concerts in the Park: Capron was very complimentary of the support he received for the program last summer and expects it will continue. He reported all contracts for the summer concert series have been signed. He says there is significant interest in doing a Christmas activity next year.

Rutland County RC Flyers: Speaking on behalf of the RC Flyers, Capron expressed appreciation for the use of the field at the Air Park. To say thank you, he noted the RC Flyers make a contribution to Fair Haven Concerned.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Humphries indicated things are relatively quiet. A new SRO officer should soon be announced.

Fire Chief Ward reported they transported Santa through the town giving candy canes to the children.

Town Manager Durfee commented on the Christmas decorations in the park, saying the Marble Mansion Inn donated the tree, the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce helped with donating lights, and Public Works employees were responsible for installing the decorations. He reported he is continuing to gather items to send to Slatington, PA in exchange for what they have sent to Fair Haven in celebration of their sesquicentennial. Items they have sent are on display in the town office. Regarding the Grand List, the state released the Town's CLA of around 117% and a COD of about 12%. Durfee noted he does not expect a reassessment for the near term. Lastly, he

near term. Lastly, he reported he is finalizing a list of delinquent tax properties that will be headed to tax sale.

NEW BUSINESS

Contract with Hampton, NY Fire Dept.: Sheldon made a motion to authorize Chair Cole to sign the contract with Hampton for our fire services in exchange for \$4,724. Second by Stanley. There was no discussion. The motion carried on a 4-0-1 vote with Ward (Fire Chief) abstaining.

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget:

Since some Recreation Committee members and the Police Chief were present, the board opted to continue its discussion on the draft FY 2014-15 budget beginning with their sections of the budget. The Recreation Committee members presented their recommendation for a new, 35+ hour staff person to build a year round program and their idea to establish playing fields at Air Park since the area is not in a floodplain (the current situation with the Recreation Fields behind the grade school). They indicated their preference is not to rebuild the building (housing the concession stand, bathrooms, and storage) at the Recreation Fields but, rather, use monies to construct needed facilities at Air Park instead. After much discussion, the board indicated some benefits cost information was needed before a final decision would be made on the Recreation Committee's new staff person request.

The board next discussed Police Department and Animal Control budget items with the Chief Humphries. Due to some confusion, Durfee noted he would amend the sheet related to 010-4110-10.00 full-time officer salaries. There was much discussion concerning whether the Town should continue to have four full-time officers. The root of the discussion focused on whether or not the board wanted to maintain the current level of coverage and the level of services the four officers provide. Some of the discussion involved whether to have part-time officers used more frequently to maintain the coverage/services. Eventually, there was a straw poll requested by Chair Cole. The poll indicated that Cole, Stanley, Sheldon and Ward did not wish to disrupt the current system of police services provided by the department while Richards indicated his preference to reduce the number of full time officers to three from four.

In other discussion, the board agreed to reduce the part-time officer line item (010-4110-10.01) from \$18,000 to \$16,000. For all other line items (010-4110-, 010-4130-, and 010-4180-) the board opted to go with the Manager's recommendations, including for Animal Control (010-6150-). The board did, however, leave open the full-time salary line item until Durfee can provide the board with updated figures.

After the Recreation and Police discussion, the board opted to continuing its discussion of other sections of the draft budget. Based on that discussion, the board made the following changes:

- 010-3000-10.00 reduce Selectboard stipend from \$3,500 to \$-0-.
- 010-3210-40.00 reduce Town Manager dues & meetings from \$3,900 to \$900.
- 010-3400-10.00 reduce Town Treasurer salary from \$5,100 to \$4,500.
- 010-3410-10.00 left open the possibility of increasing the number of hours for the Office Assistant from 35 to 40 hours (which would be about a \$3,100 increase).
- 010-3430-10.00 reduce the Lister salary line item from \$24,118 to \$18,000.
- All other line items in those budget categories the board opted to leave at the level recommended by the Town Manager.
- Also, overall, the board agreed that while they are reviewing the expense side of the budget they have to pay attention to the revenue side of the as applicable.

Utility abatement request: Sid Waite, 17 Grape Street, submitted a request for sewer/water abatement due to an unusually high utility bill. It remains unclear as to whether or not there is a water leak. Also, since the house is vacant and has been winterized with anti-freeze, it presently is problematic to conduct any leak assessment. The board agreed some time is needed to assess and locate the problem. Sheldon moved to waive payment of the November bill until the problem can be resolved but no later than May 1, 2014. Second by Ward. All voted aye.

Adopt VTrans Road & Bridge Standards: There are no changes in the 2013 road and bridge standards, therefore, Richards moved and Sheldon seconded to adopt the VTrans Road and Bridge Standards contained in the agency's new 2014-2016 manual. All voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft Credit/Charge Card Policy: Durfee indicated he provided an updated draft of the policy in the board's meeting packet. This will be on the January agenda for approval.

BOARD ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The Board generally indicated they would need more information from the Recreation Committee on their longer-term goals for the Town's recreation program. The Recreation Committee is meeting January 8 and representatives from the committee indicated they would be providing additional information during the board's January 13, 2014 session.

The board indicated that they would pick up where they left off in the budget for their January 6, 2014 meeting.

REVIEW OF FINANCE REPORTS

A question was raised regarding medical insurance coverage of retirees. Durfee said he is still looking into the issue raised previously. In the interim, Durfee suggested that the current request for reimbursement be paid. The Manager provided finance reports for the Board to review. The checkbook balance is \$243,449.39.

SIGNING OF WARRANTS

Stanley moved to pay the warrants as follows: General Fund--\$63,945.57; Payroll--\$25,864.50
Second by Sheldon. All voted aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

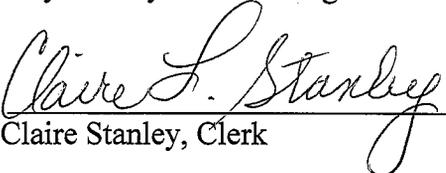
At 10:23 p.m., Richards moved to enter Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss the Union Contract-Pending Negotiations. Second by Stanley. All voted aye.

At 10:58 p.m., Richards moved to come out of Executive Session. Second by Sheldon. All voted aye. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:58 p.m. made by Ward and seconded by Stanley. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma B. DeSpain, Recorder


Claire Stanley, Clerk