

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT  
SELECT BOARD  
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS--LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS  
SELECT BOARD SESSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2015**

**Members Attending:** Chris Cole, Bob Richards, Jeff Sheldon, Dave Ward. Rod Holzworth arrived late.

**Others Attending:** Elected Auditor Glen Roberts, Town Manager Herb Durfee, Recorder Wilma DeSpain

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cole called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**FIVE MINUTES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appeal of the Town's "Certified Equalized Education Property Value (Effective 1/1/15)".** Durfee updated the Board on CLA and COD as it pertains to the grand list and property reappraisals. Lister Reed met with her District Supervisor. Both agree there were enough sales that either were or were not included as part of the determination for the Certified Equalized Education Property Value to move forward with an appeal. The deadline of 30 days to file an appeal is up fairly soon. A motion from the Board giving Chair Cole permission to sign the letter (copies provided in Board packets) that has been drafted by Reed to file the appeal is necessary. Once the evaluation process begins, Reed would have the option to withdraw the appeal. The hope is to stabilize the COD under the 20% threshold that triggers a mandated reappraisal. Sheldon made a **motion** to authorize Chair Cole to sign the letter as drafted by Reed to appeal the Certified Equalized Property Value. **Second** by Richards. **Motion carries 5-0-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**FYE 2016 Budget: Approve for Voter Consideration (Gen'l Fund/Highway ONLY).** Roberts notified the Board that the Elected Auditors met and recommend \$3,600 to 010-3000-10.00 Selectboard Salary, \$700 per member with an additional \$100 to the Chair. The Board reduced this amount by \$100 to \$3500. It is at the discretion of each member of the Board whether they take the stipend. Durfee reported that the budget stands at \$1,411,803 without appropriations after the last meeting. This includes the following changes: Street Lights down \$1,671, Security Lights up \$328, Park Lights up \$104, Playground Lights down \$83. \$2,000 will be moved from the Emergency Reserve fund to a new Park Restoration/Tree Replacement fund

which was approved in the FYE 2015 budget for establishment of the fund. This line will be removed from the Appropriations portion of the budget and increase the General Fund budget by \$2,000. Durfee answered questions regarding the effects of lower revenue on property taxes and the reasons for the decrease in revenue. He reviewed the charts included with the budget and what each represents as it pertains to the budget. Discussion followed as to how to present the allocation of the Fund balances. This should be addressed during Town Meeting. Discussion followed regarding PD revenue vs. expenses and justification of each balance. Revenue reduction was due to cancellation of the Benson contract. Clarification was made that the SRO and Special Services expense line is actually only SRO services. No changes to the proposed PD budget were made.

**Motion** by Sheldon to recommend for voter approval the combined General Fund and Highway proposed budget of \$1,887,534. **Second** by Holzworth. Board questioned Roberts as a member of the public and as an elected Auditor his thoughts of the budget. Roberts replied if explanation of budget breaks the increase down as to how it will affect them as individuals that would be most helpful to voters. **Motion carries 5-0-0.**

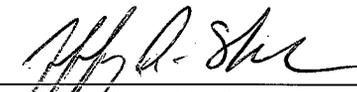
**Next Meeting:** Regular meeting on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Special Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The Board will prepare a questionnaire for residents to complete. It will cover upcoming projects/repairs/replacements and will direct the Board how the general public would like the Board to proceed. Board members will forward items they feel should be on the questionnaire to Durfee who will prepare the document.

**ADJOURN**

Sheldon **moved** to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. **Seconded** by Richards. **Motion carries 5-0-0.** Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Fedolfi, Substitute Recorder

  
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Jeff Sheldon, Clerk