

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS-CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Select Board Meeting
June 9, 2015**

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Robert Richards, Sean Galvin, Dick Frazier, Jeff Sheldon.

Members Absent: Rod Holzworth, II.

Others Present: Town Manager Herb Durfee, Minute Taker Claire Stanley, John Lulek, Emily Cutts, Rutland Herald, Glen Roberts, Stephen Diglio, KAS, Inc., Fred Capron, Dennis Barrett, Bea Wells, Bill Wells, Ann Pelkey, Marty Irons, Tim Langlois, Lorraine Brown, Police Chief William Humphries, Greg R. Marcy, Traci Mattison, Paul Jardine, Peter M. Laramie.

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments to the Agenda: Mr. Sheldon moved to delete **Property Tax Late Fee Waiver Request** from the agenda; seconded by Mr. Frazier. Board members believe the item is for the Board of Civil Authority. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sheldon moved to table **Peddler/Itinerant Vendor Ordinance**; seconded by Mr. Frazier. Manager Durfee needs more time to make the required changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Frazier moved to approve the minutes of the 5/26/2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Galvin; carried unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Fred Capron reported all is ready for the first CONCERT IN THE PARK on Thursday evening. Mr. Capron presented a Sponsor Plaque to the Town for display with apologies that it was not presented at an earlier date.

Public Hearing – Adams Street Bridge engineering Study, Final Draft: Chairman Richards read the ad for tonight's Public Hearing. Manager Durfee noted that the Board hired KAS Engineer Steve Diglio who completed the study and presented a summary to Board members. This hearing is to review the study with interested members of the public. Mr. Diglio gave a brief history noting that this is one half of a bridge that was originally on River Street – moved to its present location. No significant maintenance was done since the 1960's and now the bridge deck has failed. Some sort of bridge needs to exist to accommodate at least the utility conduits (water & sewer). There followed discussion with folks noting the importance of the bridge (especially for "south side" residents as the 22A/4A intersection is dangerous; past accidents/near misses at the intersection; types of grants available for such projects; cost

of rehab vs. replacement; making it a covered bridge to attract tourism (this makes the bridge a building, with different dynamics); placing a traffic light or other traffic calming measuring on 22A near the railroad.

There was a Cost Comparison of Alternatives (1 – 5), and the Board consensus, at this time, is option 4 noting that the goal of the Board at this time is to replace the bridge with a new, cement one that provides access for vehicular traffic, subject to available financing including any funding applied for.

Tracy Adams, 6 Washington Street, Sewer Abatement Request: Mr. Sheldon made a **motion to abate \$643.06 (sewer portion)** as recommended by staff; seconded by Mr. Frazier and passed unanimously.

Cindy (& Jack) Seamans, 39 Academy St., Water/Sewer Abatement Request: Mr. Frazier made a **motion to abate \$222.41 sewer/\$126.04 water** as requested and recommended by staff; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Vacant, Full-Time Police Officer Position – Decide Whether to Fill Position: Mr. Galvin noted that this is a funded, budget approved position and should be kept citing most recent number of service calls (432 year to date). Mr. Richards stated that money does not have to be spent and feels a fourth officer is not needed. The Board consensus is to keep the position – 10 applications have been received. Durfee indicated he and Chief Humphries would be proceeding with the hiring process.

Dog Concerns – Charles Doty, Sr., 02/17/15 Board Decision/Protective Order & New Dog Bite: Manager Durfee reviewed the history of this matter since the 02/17/15 protective order; police activity; no appeal has been filed; new complaints. Mr. Galvin made a **motion that since it is past the 30 day deadline of the protective order, the Town Manager is directed to prepare a seize order for police action;** seconded by Mr. Frazier. It is noted that Mr. Doty is not present. The motion carried unanimously.

Water Bill Amount Protest – Steven & Tammy Howard: A meter company representative stated that a frozen water meter cannot jump forward to show higher reading; Greg Marcy tested the meter that showed a correct, actual (not remote) one gallon reading. Formal testing has not been requested. Mr. Sheldon made a **motion to deny the request to abate \$744.59** as recommended by the Town Manager who noted there is not sufficient evidence to grant the request; seconded by Mr. Galvin. The motion carried unanimously.

FYE 2016 Water & Sewer Budget: Peter Laramie stated there are no surprises in his proposed budget, except a reduction of line 020-6390-22.00, repair and maintenance to \$5,300. The two aerator propellers were purchased with this year's budget. The new hire is terrific, doing a super job.

Greg Marcy explained the line 020-6383-83.00 increase to \$12,900 is due to his running out of spare parts.

Manager Durfee discussed administration increase of 2.5% per contract. This budget report assumes the same base rates as FYE 2015, water, \$31.20; sewer, \$16.30 subject to change after further budget work. There will be more detail at Tuesday's special meeting.

Board Roundtable Discussion: Mr. Frazier inquired re: receipt of the water bill on the due date. There was an anomaly involving weekend dates. Durfee explained the Board's policy.

Mr. Galvin inquired, can water billing be done via "Code Red"? Not sure the computer program can do it.

Mr. Sheldon inquired can we enforce removal of yard sale signs, staples, etc. from poles? What was the \$417 debit from Emergency Reserve Fund? Mr. Durfee will find out.

Town Manager Durfee reports:

- Letter from lawyer to Vermont Structural Slate in members' packets.
- June 23rd public meeting – intent to apply for VTrans bike & pedestrian funding.
- List of delinquent tax properties; list of some possibly heading for tax sale.
- Expect to have free water leakage detection done by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources – at 20%, Fair Haven is below the national average of 30%.
- Soliciting for this building's custodial services.
- VLCT President Steve Jeffreys has retired.
- On June 27th, 10:00 to 3:00, Habitat for Humanity will break ground for 30 West Street house rehabilitation.
- The destroyed stone pillar at Cedar Grove Cemetery is not covered by insurance as it is considered "contents". The person who did the damage has been found; his insurance is being billed for the repair cost.
- All department heads have been directed to update their list of contents.
- There is a list of meetings discussing State Police dispatching center changes.
- There has been no response from Recreation Committee members or chair since the Board sent their letter. Mr. Richards reports an off the cuff conversation with a Rec Committee member that was not positive.

Mr. Richards expounded on the Faith based Habitat for Humanity project noting they are looking for volunteers; the very involved process to find an occupant; it is an interest free loan.

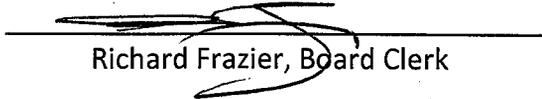
Mr. Richards requests a key to the Municipal Building and office; feels elected officials should not be locked out. Mr. Galvin stated Board members should take an Incident Command System (ICS) course if they take on heightened emergency responsibilities.

The **Checkbook Status:** \$512,142.26

Mr. Frazier made a **motion to sign warrants:** Payroll, \$30,371.41; General Fund, \$78,763.91; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sheldon moved to **adjourn** at 9:04 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Frazier and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire L. Stanley


Richard Frazier, Board Clerk