

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS-CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Select Board Meeting
July 21, 2015**

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

Others Present: Minute Taker Claire Stanley, John Lulek, Steve Howard, Tammy Howard, Emily Cutts, Rutland Herald, Bud Panoushek, Glen Roberts, Faith Lemnotis, Steve Ostermann, Police Chief William Humphries.

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 made a **motion to add, New Business, Southwest Freedom Riders – Use of Air Park**; seconded by Mr. Galvin and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sheldon made a **motion to amend the agenda to accommodate guests**; seconded by Mr. Frazier and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Sheldon **moved to approve the July 7, 2015 minutes as presented**. Mr. Galvin seconded the motion. There was no other discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: None

Department Head & Committee Reports: Public Works Superintendent Bud Panoushek reported there was a service line water leak on Prospect Street. Line was shut off and repaired on Monday.

The Roadside mower is dead! Waiting for parts – maybe not available. Approximately \$1400 for a gear box – no motors are available. It was purchased in 1988. Discussion included possibly contracting out the work; renting a mower.

Police Chief Humphries reported on the search for a missing juvenile who was last seen on Adams Street; his bicycle has been found. Search and rescue included canines; canoed the river; helicopter search; Fire Department did door to door; the search included responders from New Hampshire; trying to confirm and investigate all leads and sightings.

The municipal office copier is failing; maintenance agreement has lapsed; repair is \$1000 with no guarantee; it is 6 or 7 years old; usage is approximately 83000/year. New purchase is \$6300;

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can lease \$128/month for 60 months; or lease for one year with option to buy. It is the consensus of the Board to solicit three bids (per purchase ordinance) for next meeting and hold off on the repair.

Chief Humphries read a letter from Fair Haven Grade School Principal Cooke to Carol Scott of Fair Haven Free Library thanking her for the many hours working with the school and its students for Story Hour and other enrichment activities.

TDI Clean Power is in the permitting process.

Appeal Decision of 6/9/15; Steven & Tammy Howard: Mr. Howard asked how the Board could make a decision without them present. Members expressed surprise that they were not in attendance. Mr. Howard said they were not notified their case would be on the agenda. There was no evidence of a leak; tenants stated water was not running; the meter was checked; company representative stated the meter could not “jump” to a higher reading. The Howard’s choose not to have the meter sent away for testing. They will make a payment plan within a reasonable amount of time; no interest or late charges apply.

Park Trees: Steve Ostermann commented favorably on the beauty and care of Fair Haven’s park and that this is a great community. He has a background with parks and recreation and offers his assistance in broadening park use. Is there a park master plan, if not why not. When asked, he said he would consider being part of a Recreation Committee. He will work with the Town Manager and Planning Commission.

Mr. Panoushek noted that two trees were removed from the park yesterday. There followed discussion including putting checker boards in the park and planting trees on streets.

K – 9 Dog Training Update: An unsolicited donation of \$950 was received for the bullet proof vest. The dog is trained for tracking and drug detection – not patrol. \$1200 was paid by Poultney. The Board asks that in future, clearer accounting is shown for billing/payment.

Southwest Freedom Riders – use of Air Park: Mr. Frazier made a **motion to waive the Air Park rental fee** as requested by the Southwest Freedom Riders; seconded by Mr. Sheldon. August 16th is their Peaches and Cream Run raising funds for Ladies First Health Screening Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Sign: Peddler/Itinerant Vendor Ordinance: Members signed the previously approved document.

2016/2017 Water & Sewer Budget Proposal: Rate Calculation/Methodology Discussion: Mr. Holzworth expounded on the proposal he prepared and previously gave to members for perusal. Defining a different schedule of water & sewer charges requires the ordinance process. His example would define the average home consumption and allow everyone 120% usage. Rate payers would be billed a flat rate with no additional charges unless they exceed the 120% of average home consumption usage. Meters would be read only once a year, saving man hours.

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Sewer charges would be the same concept with appropriate calculation. This example applies to residences, not commercial accounts. There is a need to educate the changes and explain the concept of responsibility to mitigate Town cost containment. Discussion included making inquiries of VLCT, other Towns and Aldrich & Elliot engineers. Members feel the need to further study and critique the proposal, but continue the conversation at the next meeting.

Board Roundtable Discussion: At Mr. Frazier's inquiry, there are no properties going up for tax sale. Two properties are currently up for auction.

Mr. Galvin asked re: research that abatements were equitable. An e-mail was sent to members – approximately \$19,000 was abated.

Mr. Galvin commended Chief Humphries on an outstanding job today directing the many people and agencies that worked on the juvenile search. Members noted pride in the Police Department.

The River Street shoulders are being worked on; vacations are a consideration.

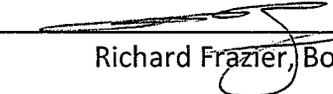
Sign Warrants: Mr. Sheldon made a **motion to sign Warrants:** Payroll, \$32,454.80; General Fund, \$685,895.98; seconded by Mr. Frazier. Chief Humphries explained the one very large salary check. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Holzworth moved the Board and Chief Humphries into **executive session** at 9:10 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Frazier motioned **out of executive session** at 9:45; seconded by Mr. Holzworth. No action was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to **adjourn** by Mr. Sheldon at 9:45 p.m.; second by Mr. Frazier and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Stanley


Richard Frazier, Board Clerk