

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS-CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Select Board Meeting
September 1, 2015**

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

Others Present: Police Chief William Humphries , Minute Taker Claire Stanley, Emily Cutts, Rutland Herald, John Lulek, Glen Roberts, Neil Robinson, Wayne Elliott, Rose Anne Van Lew.

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: Chairman Richards noted that this Board cannot act on agenda item 7.c. Request for Veteran's Exemption – Will go to Board of Abatement.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Sheldon moved to approve the minutes of the 8/18/2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and carried unanimously.

Five Minutes for Public Comment: Rose Anne Van Lew reported the Southwest Freedom Riders will participate in the National Ride for the Mount Sanai Hospital to raise funds for their Health for Heroes program. She requests a stop at the 9-11 Memorial from 9:30 to 10:10 a.m. on Sunday, September 13th. The consensus of the Board is to allow the stop; the group is asked to coordinate with the Police Department.

Mr. Lulek reported the Welcome to Fair Haven signs were replaced because of deterioration. He requests a letter of appreciation to Green Screen Graphics who did the work at no cost.

Mr. Robinson suggests the water / wastewater rate structure discussion be deferred to the Energy Committee. This Board's chair is a member of that committee and would represent the Select Board. Mr. Holzworth noted there is a need to follow the lengthy ordinance procedure that includes public meetings. This discussion is just beginning and all input is welcome and worth hearing.

Vermont RLF Step 1 Drinking Water Loan (Feasibility & Planning), Wayne Elliott, PE – Approve & Sign Application: Mr. Elliott reported the long range plan is finished; feasibility study information is to be ready for a March, 2016 vote. Mr. Elliott reviewed the details of the application that has changed. The total project cost is \$900,000; this application request from the Vermont Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is \$10,600; requires the signature of all Board members. Discussion followed. Mr. Holzworth made a motion to authorize the filing of the application;

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seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously. Mr. Holzworth **made a motion to appoint the Town Manager as the authorized representative of the Town for the purpose of furnishing information, data and documents pertaining to the project as required by the State;** seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sheldon **made a motion to approve a cemetery deed**, Cedar Grove Cemetery, Lot 137, Section 11, 2 Graves as requested by John & Judy Reed, Sr.; seconded by Mr. Frazier and passed unanimously.

Mr. Frazier **made a motion to approve a cemetery deed**, Cedar Grove Cemetery, Lot 78, Section 11, 2 Graves as requested by Gary Muzzy; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously.

Water/Wastewater Rate Structure Discussion: Members received a breakdown of t-gallon usage by customer; do not have list of costs allotted to base rate vs usage. Mr. Holzworth reviewed the suggested proposal (for residential customers only) that is based on changing from a mostly variable to base rate structure. The proposal would determine a flat rate that covers fixed costs; determine an average user volume and allow 120% usage before charges; annual meter reading. Lengthy discussion included past practice (the base rate was established to pay fixed costs); concerns re: conservation that results in low flow (freeze ups); bond payments; rate increases in each of the past several years; other options; effect on fixed income folks; how to better deal with freeze ups abatement requests. Further discussion to follow.

The Skyline building is being utilized. Rutland Regional Planning Commission has listings of Fair Haven properties available for business.

Ms. Van Lew asked is there an active effort searching for new business? There is a protocol and tax stabilization table

Vermont Structural Slate Legal Status – Executive Session with William Bloomer, Esq.: Mr. Sheldon moved the Board, Mr. Bloomer and Chief Humphries into **executive session** at 8:20 p.m. for a legal matter; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed unanimously.

Mr. Frazier moved the Board **out of executive session** at 8:40 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Sheldon and passed unanimously. No action was taken. This will be on the next agenda.

Department Heads & Committee Reports: Chief Humphries prepared a report – in members' packets.

Stellar Power requests to speak to the Board re: solar installation at the Air Park.

A Consent for Access to Fair Haven Village Green was awarded to the State to collect soil samples in response to recent legislation.

The auditors did their work here last week. Members received a pre-audit confirmation sheet.

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Board Roundtable Discussion: Mr. Holzworth's request for billing information from Poultney remains incomplete.

Mr. Holzworth was expecting a breakdown of water/sewer budget items that should be covered by base rate or usage rate. Also, will there be special meetings to expedite this matter.

Mr. Galvin stated the need to pre-register for the up-coming Incident Command System (ICS) workshop. Members noted they were unable to register on-line.

Mr. Galvin inquired the status of the response to the question about equitable billing for freeze-ups and requests a fact check by Town Manager and Public Works.

Mr. Richards inquired the status of the Town Plan. Does this Board need to approve.

The **Checkbook status** is \$550,205.48.

Mr. Sheldon made a motion to **approve payment of warrants:** Payroll, \$26,490.30; General Fund, \$69,313.94; seconded by Mr. Frazier and passed unanimously.

Mr. Frazier moved to **adjourn** at 9:00 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Galvin and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Stanley


Richard Frazier, Board Clerk