

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

May 26, 2026

In Attendance: Brian Dubie (Zoom), Ron Bocash, Damian Branon, and David Persons

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Administrator/ Secretary: Cathy Ainsworth

Visitors: Josh Sherpe (Friends Of Northern Lake Champlain [FNLC]), David Davio (Pike Industries), Shayne Bocash, NWATV

Meeting Called to order at 7:03pm

1. Ron Bocash recused himself from the Public To Be Heard item on the agenda. Shayne Bocash reports that an individual told him a rock dinged her car when he was mowing at the beach. She provided him with two estimates, the lower one is just over \$900. He requests the Selectboard contribute to covering this expense. The Selectboard discussed the issue and stressed their gratitude for Shayne's valuable in-kind services, helping to keep the beach clean and accessible. They agreed to pay the full amount of the car repair up to \$1000, and for Shayne to Coordinate with Cathy on this.
2. Josh Sherpe reviewed the steps FNLC has completed with the Town since January 2025 for the watershed action plan's Fairfield Pond Beach and Boat Launch projects. A preliminary design is complete, and FNLC has received grant funding for final design and construction. Josh outlined the next steps, including hiring a design engineer, creating opportunities for stakeholder input, and following a timeline through fall 2027. He noted that the Selectboard will have opportunities to provide input before the design is finalized. Ron Bocash agreed to attend site visits with FNLC and participate in discussions on behalf of the Selectboard's behalf. Dave Persons recommended making only limited changes to the boat launch to avoid impacting kayakers.
3. Cathy confirmed that the two lowest bids for 2026 paving were very close, with Whitcomb coming in \$0.46 per ton lower and \$7,611 less overall than Pike. David Davio suggested that, next year, the Town work with an estimator to provide bidders the total tonnage expected for the project. The Selectboard thanked him for the suggestion.

David made a motion to accept the low bidder, Whitcomb, for Fairfield's 2026 paving. Damian seconded. All in favor.

4. Maurice said the International truck is still with Allegiance for repairs. The road crew started mowing the roadsides and worked on a Metcalf Pond Rd. ditch. He said they are spreading chloride, but it is hard to get this year.
5. David requests that Cathy bring the budget status report to the next meeting, so they can review materials budget lines. He suggests that the road crew stock up gravel, and that Mo get bids for the winter sand stockpile.
6. David requests Cathy bid out for fuel (including expected use per year of DEF & heating fuel at the # of locations currently served by Blouin).
7. Cathy asked whether Fidium responded to the follow up request about their low line by the garage. Mo said they visited but did not fix it yet. The Selectboard requests that Cathy write a letter on behalf of the Selectboard regarding the urgency of this matter.

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8. David gave a training opportunity taking place in Sheldon to Mo saying that, as with any roads trainings, it is not required but may be good if they can fit it in.
9. Cathy reports, from the Town Clerk, that the Selectboard should plan to attend the Board of Civil Authority meeting he will be scheduling for 6:30 before the next Selectboard meeting on June 8.

Ron made a motion to approve the minutes of 5/11/2026. David seconded. All in favor.

10. Cathy reviewed the 26-week CDs scheduled to mature at a rate of 3.5%, down from 3.75%. She says she requested a higher rate, but this is firm and is reflective of overall rate trends. She asked whether the Selectboard would like to renew at 3.5% or look for better rates at other banks. The Selectboard wants to renew at this rate for the same terms. Cathy clarified that the next renewal dates for these CDs will be November 25.
11. Cathy provided a copy of the Selectboard's equipment rotation schedule and a revenue over expenses chart that includes the equipment rotation, road projects, and potential funding sources over time. The Selectboard will review these to discuss during the budget review at the next meeting.
12. Brian reports that he reviewed the Town Office generator maintenance report after the last meeting. He acknowledged its advancing age. The Selectboard discussed the benefits of replacing and fixing the generator parts vs. replacing the whole thing. They asked Cathy to get a quote, from Milton Cat, for the cost of replacing the leaking radiator to review at the next meeting.
13. Cathy says the updated Local Emergency Management Plan is being reviewed by Tim Corey and she requested that its adoption be tabled for the next meeting. The Selectboard agreed.
14. Cathy said she has almost finished formatting Section Four of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and was going to double-check the risk assessment dates and numbers. Brian says he is confident that the numbers are correct, suggesting that she not spend much time on them at this point, but continue with the formatting so the next sections can be reviewed at the next meeting.

Damian made a motion to accept the warrants. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Ron made a motion to adjourn. David seconded. All in favor.

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