

# Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

June 13, 2022

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, David Persons, Ronald Bocash and Brian Dubie

Road Foreman: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Alison Spacik, Kent Henderson, Kirk Artus, Julie Wolcott, Jonathan DeLaBruere and CCTV

1. Kent Henderson and Alison Spacik came on behalf of the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain (FNLC) to discuss some plans for Fairfield Pond. There has been increased levels of phosphorus in the Pond for the last few years. FNLC have been looking for projects and grant money to improve water quality in the Missisquoi watershed through the Lake Watershed Action Plan. They already worked on Lake Elmore and Lake Eden. Their plan is to evaluate Fairfield Pond this summer and fall and will have a 30% action plan worked out by spring.
2. Julie Wolcott came on behalf of the Fairfield Community Center Association. She presented a list of potential projects that could be ARPA funded. SB asks that Julie get a few more details on costs and a list in priority order. Julie advised that James Guillmette won the bid for the pavilion.
3. Kirk Artus, Beauregard Equipment, came to discuss a backhoe/loader they have available for a good price. \$87K with \$24K for our trade. 2016 410L with 798 hours on it. \$63K serviced and delivered. Discussion re options.

**Tom made a motion to purchase the backhoe. Gavin seconded. All in favor.**

4. Next meeting, SB asked for a budget to date from Cathy. There are \$427K in unallocated ARPA funds. The grader is paid off. Salt shed will be paid off this summer. Cathy will bring all balances relevant to the backhoe purchase.

**Gavin made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian seconded. All in favor.**

5. Moe gave a roads update. An issue with sinking of a sidewalk at the library. Library asked if the Town would fix it. Not in the Town ROW. Town Summer projects are already scheduled. Not in our skill set. Should go out to bid. This should come out of the library budget, not the Town.
6. Cathy said the library is working on a financial management plan. Have the library come to an SB meeting when they are ready to discuss money/budgets.
7. Moe said Pike revised their scope of work for paving. There has been an increase of \$10K. (\$89.88 to \$94.38/ton). Cost of asphalt is expected to continue to increase, so the SB chose to lock-in. The contract was signed for New St., Mill St. and the apron on Lapland Rd.

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8. The North Road culvert 09, #5430 (near 1665 North Rd) is being replaced with a Better Roads Grant. A 60" culvert will replace the current 48" one. It's a poly coated steel culvert, 96' long for \$18K. We have a \$17K match requirement with the grant that can be in-kind work. Get the culvert ordered. Make sure to give lots of notice for the road closure.
9. SB asked about sand? We have around 2000 yards left in the shed. Need to buy 6K.
10. Linda said there is some interest in John Soule's building in East Fairfield. Our lawyer says we can't move forward with the tax sale without Soule signing the certified mail notice and making a specific motion. The taxes are in arrears.

**Tom made a motion to give Linda Hodet the authority to collect delinquent taxes using whatever means necessary, including hiring Tim Hawkins, for the purpose of Tax Sale of Delinquent Properties. Gavin seconded. All in favor.**

11. Linda said the tree at the corner of Pond/North Roads has been removed at the homeowner's expense. The homeowner had asked the Town to remove it due to blocked road visibility at the intersection; safety concerns with walnuts dropping in the road and it is in the Town ROW. Cost was \$1800. Will the Town contribute? Discussion followed.

**Tom made a motion to reimburse half the cost of removal of the Black Walnut Tree to the homeowner. Gavin seconded. Tom, Gavin, Brian in favor. David opposed. Ron sustained. Motion passed.**

12. Overweight permits signed.
13. Need a tax anticipation loan of \$600K. CY20 was \$400K at this time, CY21 was \$500K at this time. SB asks that next year, there should be more time for discussion and to look into a line of credit to just pay what we use. SB asks if there is a difference in interest rates.

**Brian made a motion to approve a tax anticipation loan of \$600K until November. Ron seconded. David and Tom wanted to know the terms. All in favor.**

14. Cathy asked how to proceed on a grant anticipation loan of \$600K. Will have rates for the next meeting. St. Oge to start construction in July. FEMA asking for upstream and downstream water levels and a 15 day Final Public Notice.
15. Cathy asked for approval for a specific amount for the ARPA funding for airpaks for the fire department. \$44,147

**Gavin moved to approve \$44,147 of ARPA funds for the airpaks for district one. Tom seconded All favor.**

16. Cathy asked for approval for a specific amount for the ARPA funding for water meters for the fire department \$26,313

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**Gavin made a motion to approve the Fire District 2 purchase of water meters for \$26,313, which includes a 10% match by the district. Tom seconds. All in favor.**

17. Common School discussion pushed to next meeting. Cathy presented a proposal for review.
18. The North Road culvert by Paradee Rd. is eligible for a Structures Grant. The State has \$175K available for the project which is estimated at \$348,395. VTRANS had this money available, which is \$25K less than expected. Do we want to accept it and drop on the priority list? Or don't accept it and gamble on fuller funding next year? Brian says "do it and use ARPA to pay the shortfall"

**Gavin made a motion to accept \$175K. David seconded. All in favor.**

19. Tom signed Grants in Aid Funding letter of intent to participate for Hydrologically Connected Roads. \$42K grant with \$10,500 local match. Stone lining and gravel on top are now allowable expenses in Grants-In-Aid projects. This summer, Juaire Road ditching is planned.
20. IRS Excise Tax issue has been cleared and all bills are zero.

**Gavin made a motion to approve the warrants. Ron seconded. All in favor.**

**Gavin made a motion to enter Executive Session with Jonathan and Cathy to discuss personnel. Ron seconded. All in favor.**

**Ron made a motion to come out of executive session. Brian seconded. All in favor.**

**Brian made a motion to continue working with Jonathan Delabruare from July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 for \$3,125.00. Ron seconded. All in favor.**

**Ron made a motion to increase the Town Administrator's salary by 10%, effective next payroll. Brian seconded. All in favor.**

**Motion to adjourn by David. Seconded by Tom. All in favor.**