

# Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

July 8, 2024

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

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Absent

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Christian Hallstrom, CCTV.

No public comment.

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

1. Christian Hallstrom came to discuss an issue with loose dogs on an adjoining property and his frustration at the inability to get help either locally or through Vermont State Police. We have a long-term issue with Animal Control and need to find a solution. Discussion followed on our lack of a dog ordinance and reliance on State Statute. Cathy to check other towns of similar size to see their ordinances for suggestions on how to create ours.
2. Maurice says we have no chloride because the shipment is on a train stuck in transport. Discussion followed on the issues with dust and speed on Ryan Rd, Chester Arthur Rd and others being used for Rt. 36 local detours. Day 1 already had challenges and complaints. All concerns should be forwarded to Stephanie Barrett, project coordinator for VTRANS.
3. Sand bid from Wrights \$17.50/yard. B&T is \$9.50.

**David made a motion to fill the sand shed from B&T. Brian seconded. Gavin, David, Ron and Brian in favor. Tom abstains. Motion passes.**

4. Cathy has been training James Monette on using GPS, Agency of Natural Resources Atlas and phone to document hydrologically connected segments for the Grants-in-Aid projects.
5. Cathy attended the quarterly Emergency Management meeting. We will need to update our Hazard Mitigation Plan next year. Bruso may qualify for a new round of Hazard Mitigation Grants. Cathy says the National Emergency Preparedness Dept. may begin requiring emergency plan admins to prove proficiency in order for the emergency plans to be valid.
6. Old Town Clerk new doors and disability ramp completed. Windows to be done this week.
7. The Open Meeting Law has been revised by Vermont legislature so now it requires meeting recordings to be available and municipal websites to provide information about open meetings. Selectboard meetings are on CCTV. Library and P&Z must record and there could be a cost to store meetings on Zoom
8. Cathy has been working on HR issues: health insurance, retirement, childcare tax, etc. and updating NEMRC to reflect related changes.

**These minutes exist in draft form until approved by the Selectboard.**

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9. Friends of the Library donated \$30K to the Bent Northrop Memorial Library's Endowment Fund.
10. Application to form a community trust for the Common School, through the VT Council on Rural Development, was denied. Very competitive field.
11. We should look at a Capital Plan. Has not been reviewed since 2008, Brian would like to see a sample so we know what we have to do. VT Council on Rural Development has a Municipal Technical Assistance Program that may be able to help.
12. Bernard & Gervais have some recommendations for the Common School septic. Should have details by next meeting.
13. Municipal budget spending to date is on track for the end of the second quarter. Copies of Budget Status Report to date distributed and reviewed.
14. Land transfer with Swanton pending Swanton's notice posting timeline for public comment. Once complete Swanton will provide a deed.

**Gavin made a motion to approve the warrants of 07/07/24. David seconded. All in favor.**

**Gavin made a motion to approve the warrants of 06/24/24. David seconded. All in favor.**

15. Melissa says routine surveillance found a rabies-positive raccoon in Fairfield. Information about this is posted on Town Facebook page.
16. Second case of measles reported in Vermont.
17. Information from the Dept. of Health about the Poison Parsnip is also shared on the Fairfield Facebook page.
18. No update on the Bradley Road property.

**Brian made a motion to adjourn. Gavin seconded. All in favor.**