

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

July 22, 2024

In Attendance: Gavin Ryan, Brian Dubie and Ron Bocash

Roads: Absent

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Chuck Verderber, CCTV.

1. Public Comment: Chuck Verderber reports that TAC discussed \$91M leftover in regional FEMA funding for Hazard Mitigation. If we are interested in applying for Chester A. Arthur bridge, we need a letter of intent by August 16th. Cathy to follow up.
2. Linda has received notification of the education tax rate from the State of Vermont. New rate is \$1.29 versus last year \$1.06, a significant increase. The Selectboard discussed the fact that they have no control over this rate, as the school budgets and State Education Tax is separate from municipal taxes and calculated at the state level. The municipal tax rate, which covers the Town budget, will be calculated before tax bills are generated at the end of August.
3. Linda has a question about a liquor license for Frost Beer who is looking to license an event at the Community Center. What is their insurance? What about a perimeter? Ok to license if both those conditions are satisfied.
4. Cathy reports on Grants-in-Aid for Pumpkin Village and Duffy Hill Rd. We can be reimbursed for up to \$31K of the project, but there is a 20% match (for the whole amount to be reimbursed, the project would need to cost be at least \$38,750, otherwise we receive less). James took pictures, sketched out the location and determined the plan for each segment of road to be improved – he did great. Based on this, we received approval from Vtrans to proceed with the project.
5. Policing is happening on the detour roads but there is still a lot of high-speed driving. St. Albans PD is looking into lending us a speed cart to place.
6. Old Town Clerk Building's new windows and doors completed. They look great.
7. Cathy pre-filed testimony to the PUC, on behalf of the Selectboard, regarding the Howrigan Wind Project. The PUC hearing has been pushed back 3 months at the request of Peggy and David Howrigan (the Certificate of Public Good petitioner).
8. The library finance policy was sent to the lawyer for review and a new approval process for library expense warrants is now in place in alignment to state statute. The library will approve and sign their warrants during the BNML Trustee Meetings and Cathy will update the SB on these expenses. She will process payments as is already done.
9. There is a payroll correction from July 1 in this week's warrants.
10. Cathy provided the VLCT model ordinance to the Selectboard to review for discussion at another meeting, when she also has animal control ordinances from other towns.

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

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11. 2009 Draft Capital Plan provided to the Selectboard to review for discussion at another meeting.
12. Barnard & Gervais report of Site Analysis for the Common School Wastewater was provided for review. Ron will forward it to the Common School Committee.
13. Cathy and the Town Treasurer met about how the municipality's Sweep account should be used. As a result, we don't need the current tax anticipation loan amount. Cathy recommends we pay off the current loan of \$230K, to avoid paying interest, but we may need to take out a new one at a later date.

Brian made a motion to pay off the full amount of the most recent 2024 tax anticipation loan. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to pay off \$150K of the first 2024 tax anticipation loan. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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

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

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