

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

July 14, 2025

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

Roads: Absent

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: NWATV, Lynda Ulrich

1. Lynda Ulrich came to update the SB on TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee). Lynda reports that nothing is happening with the group and prioritization is gone. No new bridge construction projects will be scheduled until 2030. Lynda says the primary reason is cost increases post pandemic. TAC meetings have gone from monthly to quarterly and may move to semi-annual. Lynda offers to contact legislators. Brian reports that Cathy and he met with Secretary of Transportation, Joe Flynn and went on a tour of Paradee bridge, Chester Arthur bridge and the pond beach to outline the Town's current priorities. Discussion followed on state funding procedures, potential repairs, potentially closing the Paradee bridge and any other options. Lynda will check in with house members. Cathy will provide most recent info from Joe Flynn meeting to Lynda.
2. Linda Hodet presented the education tax rate from the State. CLA or Common Level of Appraisal determines the educational tax rate for the State. It's a little lower than last year.
3. Linda fielded a question about a lot in the swamp. David explained "post lots". Everyone had a lot in the swamp where they could harvest fence posts from the cedar trees. Linda had a tax complaint and has proven ownership. No further action needed on the part of the Town.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 06/23/25. David seconded. All in favor.

4. Cathy presented possible funding options for the grader. People's Trust has a 3-year loan at 3.5%. State Equipment loan at 2.5% was due in April. Bond bank loans, for equipment or construction, have to be approved at Town Meeting. Vermont Infrastructure bank loans are currently 1% but are only for large construction projects. Cathy also reviewed current CDs.
5. Review of how to pay for the truck and grader and determine a schedule of payments.

David made a motion to liquefy the equipment CD when it matures so we have the downpayment for the grader. Brian seconded. All in favor.

6. Energy Efficiency VT reimbursement program gives 75% of the cost of a project up to \$5K. Has to be verified by an "in and out" test from an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor. Cathy made connections and Mo is following up.
7. Cathy reports on the end of the second quarter. She recently received Adjusting Journal Entries from the AM Peisch on the 2024 Audit and is working on these in NEMRC. Usually, once these AJEs are received, the audit from AM Peisch comes thereafter.
8. PACIF asked follow-up questions and Cathy provided additional information on our first annual workers comp audit with them. It is now complete, and we are awaiting 2024

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

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

adjustments. Three contractors were found to be without COIs even though they did submit Non-Employee Work Agreements which verified that they were not requesting Workers Comp coverage. Nonetheless, with our new insurance, independent contractors without certificates of insurance will go on our workers comp. Two were handcrafters for the library. Historically, BNML has not contributed payment to Worker's Comp insurance. Gavin suggests maybe they should. No cost estimate yet. SB asked Cathy to invite PACIF to come talk to the SB to recap first year.

9. Cathy scheduled a meeting with Friends of Lake Champlain next week to discuss working together to research how the town may be able to move the road at the beach. Discussion of unsafe segment of road next to beach due to traffic and pedestrians.
10. Zoning Administrator ads are still running. One possible candidate.
11. Next meeting we will unseal Barrywilde property bids. Deeds for the three other properties are being drafted to sign by bidders.
12. MM shared that she and another volunteer started a new "Fairfield Vermont Community Forum" Facebook page. She clarified that this page is not affiliated with the Town of Fairfield municipal operations, Selectboard or any Town Administration. It is a community page, managed by volunteers.
13. David expressed some concern about the AMCARE contract. Service has been great, personnel are great, but availability has been delayed/limited since change in ownership.

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

David made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Ron seconded. All in favor.

David made a motion to exit executive session. Ron seconded. Discussion only.

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