

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

August 11, 2025

In Attendance: Gavin Ryan, Ron Bocash, Brian Dubie

Roads: Absent

Town Clerk: Absent

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: NWATV

Brian made a motion to amend the agenda to remove PACIF from the agenda. Ron seconded. All in favor. It will be rescheduled to September 8th.

1. Municipal Tax rate in FY25, with the state's homestead tax rate, was 1.7563. In FY26 (Nov. 2025 taxes), it is 1.7069, which is a 2.81%% drop.

Ron made a motion to set the municipal tax rate at 0.4679. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 7.28.25 as amended to include "and David" after "Brian" in item 16. Ron seconded. All in favor.

2. Weight permit signed.
3. 2025 truck is ready \$41,278 included in Accounts Payable is the outstanding final payment. Brian asks what led us to pay in advance for a truck that took almost 2 years to arrive. Cathy explains that the selectboard chose to pay the bulk in advance to take advantage of a discount by paying upfront. Cathy points out that, also in AP, is the final 2023 Truck financed payment, which is due.
4. Cathy reviewed the grader payment plan. The 2025 truck payment will come from the 2025 budget's amount to be transferred to the Equipment Fund. When the Grader comes due, therefore, the SB may want to use a combination of funding sources.
5. Plowing bid for Maple Run has been submitted.
6. Cathy asks to move the documents from the Common School Committee to their own tab on the website under "Boards and Committees". All good.
7. Quit claim deeds on the properties we had up for bid have been signed and the closings and funds from these sales are expected soon.
8. Grants In Aid agreement for next summer's projects signed with VTRANS (\$42K). The other grant (\$60k Better Roads) is still going through an Environmental Review before they the conditions of this grant will be finalized. The current year's Grants-in-Aid project is complete (Lapland rd.) and close-out can take place in the next few weeks, after all invoices are paid.
9. Cathy will help write the Common School Village Trust application, which needs to include an agreement with the Community Center to be able to use space in the building, this time. The Common School Planning group is also revisiting the septic, has an RFP out for engineering services, and is notw both written into their current grant.

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

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10. Tax Anticipation Loan of \$75,500K needed for the period between August 12 and November. Cathy reviewed expected revenues versus expenses for this period.

Brian made a motion to approve a tax anticipation loan of \$75,500. Ron seconded. All in favor.

11. Brian said that the state of VT has enacted a new state statute regarding municipal ethics, which expects increased work on the part of the Towns. Cathy presented a draft Ethics Investigation and Enforcement process. We are required to have a policy, process or ordinance posted on the website. Our legal counsel made suggestions and Cathy researched other towns. Suggested process presented.

Brian made a motion to table the discussion until a full board is present. Ron seconded. All in favor.

12. MM gave a zoning update. The board was deadlocked on a vote to delay the finalization of the bylaw review for 30 days.

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

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