

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

August 25, 2025

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

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Cathy Ainsworth

Visitors: Julie Wolcott, NWATV

Brian made a motion to amend the agenda to add Discussion of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in New Business. Ron seconded. All in favor. Cathy asked whether the Selectboard wanted to address the Municipal Ethics Process, tabled at the previous meeting.

1. Julie and Cathy gave an update on the Common School Working Group's Village Trust Application. Gavin asked who the application is through and what is included. Julie said it is from the VT Council on Rural Development and the Preservation Trust of VT, with directed spending from Leahy's office. Cathy shared some of what the Trust would include. For the application, a letter of interest to lease the building to the Fairfield Community Center Association (FCCA), at a set price, for afterschool and summer programs is needed. The Selectboard reviewed and discussed the draft letter, rate and need for future conversations to draft a lease, if the Trust is approved.

Brian made a motion to approve the Non-Binding Letter of Interest to Lease as presented with the lease rate of "TBD =>\$1". Ron seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to endorse the FCCA and the Common School Working Group to pursue the Village Trust Initiative to support their efforts. Ron seconded. All in favor

2. Julie requested a letter of support for a Human Services Educational Facilities Grant to build a fence for the dumpsters, grade at the front of the main entrance and refurbish the ADA bathroom. She said the application's project is \$7000, which includes matching municipal funds. The Selectboard agreed to provide the letter and Tom signed it.
3. Two Soule Cemetery plots have been requested. Linda said the cost is \$500 each. The Selectboard agreed with the request. Tom signed and Cathy notarized.
4. Linda reported that tax bills were sent out and they included a pink sticker about current use. Tax collection has a strong start with over \$36,000 paid today.
5. Maurice reported that Matt Bouchard fixed an internet/ phone issue at the garage and suggests they purchase a new computer and get their own internet, vs. sharing. Dave says the Fire Station recently changed providers. James should get a quote from Matt.
6. Maurice gave an update on equipment and roads:
 - The 2017 freightliner trade-in is planned for after the lettering is done on the 2025 truck.
 - Chester Arthur rd. paving is taking place- almost ready to contact the state for lining.
 - The tractor tire is flat and needs to be fixed.
 - No news yet on the new grader. Expect to hear in October.

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

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 7.11.25. Ron seconded. All in favor.

7. Tax Anticipation Loan was deposited before Cathy was off for a few days.
8. Cathy reported that the Town did not get the plowing bid for Maple Run for Fairfield School and will find out about the other bidders. The Selectboard discussed benefits of freed up time for road work during the winter.
9. David said he and Eric Shoembs, from the Fairfield Fire Department, talked to Amcare. Amcare plans to return a shift that was removed Sundays and agreed to do training with the Fire Department. David says they now have a good start for mutual aid discussions.
10. Brian updated that Joe Flynn responded to his email regarding the road segment next to the Fairfield Pond beach. He referred the town to the VTRANS District 8 office, mentioned ANR permitting and referenced similar projects to look into in St. Albans and South Hero. Brian said it would be good for the Selectboard to re-discuss what road/ structure projects to prioritize.
11. Brian announced that the Town of Fairfield is initiating a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, which includes multiple steps, and the Town will be utilizing internal expertise to do this. He said a team will be designated, and part of each Selectboard meeting, for at least the next 5, will include this agenda item, addressing key points of the plan. He explained that some of the steps also include speaking with surrounding towns and getting community input. He stressed that Fairfield will be conducting this process by the book. The Selectboard discussed cost-savings from not contracting the work out. They also talked about the document's importance and the current work being done on drafting updates.

Brian made a motion to approve the warrants. Ron seconded. All in favor. David wondered what the calculation for the NRPC payment is. Gavin explained the per capita calculation and some of what the payment entitles Fairfield to.

12. Cathy distributed the draft process for Ethical Violations to Selectboard members who had not yet received it. Brian proposed the discussion take place at the next meeting and requested that Cathy ensure that Selectboard duties, recusals, and the investigation/ enforcement steps clearly reflect the State Municipal Code of Ethics- Act 171.

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

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