

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

October 24, 2022

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, Ronald Bocash and Brian Dubie

Road Foreman: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa

Visitors: NWATV, Sara Allerton, Laura Fulwiler, Peter Burns, Melissa Southwick for BNML, Bill Kimball for Maple Run

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes from 10/26. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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

1. Sara Allerton gave data snapshot of Bent Northrop Memorial Library (BNML) operations, as compared to other libraries in Franklin County, pointing out twice the average patron visits with lower staff hours than average/ median. Data shows they will have over 10K visits this year. Brian invited the Trustees to brief the Selectboard on the Schwab investment, work they have been doing on budgeting and their financial policy. Peter reviewed the anticipated increase in requested funds for next year. Increase based on need for more staff hours, increase in maintenance needs and fuel oil. He described multiple building improvements required, due to age, and their work on bidding. He reviewed decreases in the Charles Schwab investment portfolio. Laura described work being done to fortify a number of BNML policies (Donations, Financial, Investment, Facility Use). Discussion on how money moves between the Friends of BNML”, a separate, fundraising, non-profit organization, and the library. The Library and the “Friends” are working on an MOU between them to clarify that the partnership’s financial dynamics. Tom and Gavin said they would like to see that donations to the Library go directly to BNML. Discussion of an MOU between the SB and the Library. To start , the library will share with Cathy and the Selectboard samples of MOU’s currently used by other libraries and towns.
2. Bill Kimball, Superintendent of Maple Run came to introduce himself and answer questions. Some budget discussion, but it’s early yet. Their primary focus is on getting kids back into school post pandemic. Like everyone, they are dealing with staffing challenges. Bill invited the Selectboard members and Administrator to participate in a Government Officials listening Session he is hosting, on how to create equitable opportunities for students.
3. Moe reports that the new truck has arrived and everything is in order. The Lapland Grant has been completed and they did a great job.

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4. Salt bid came in at \$91/ton, with an estimate of 625 tons needed They are projecting a supply issue if the railroads are affected by a labor strike.

Tom made a motion fill the shed at \$91/ton from Cargill and then replenish as you use. Brian seconded. All in favor.

5. There will be a “Substantial Completion” walk through for Juaire Road project on 10/25/2022
6. Guardrail damage on the intersection of Rt36/South Rd has been repaired by the State.
7. We need to decide what to charge for plow/sand at the school. We haven’t changed our price since 2010 when we started charging them.
8. Cathy says changes are coming to the Municipal Roads General Permit which will change project requirements and how road status is being reported to the State. Town is handling more of the responsibility, as money for supporting this will not go directly from the state to NRPC as previous. NRPC can be utilized as a contractor moving forward.
9. Linda presented a “Declaration of Inclusion” that was requested to be adopted by the Town. Cathy thinks we may have similar language in another policy already. Brian requests to table.
10. The tax sale for the Soule property in East Fairfield is scheduled for December 21.
11. Linda says we should consider an outside assessor versus listers. Cost would probably be the same. The work does not get done, currently. The role of the lister has become more technical/ complicated and assessors have proven to be more effective in other towns. This has to be a warning item at town meeting as it’s a change to voting.
12. Cathy notes that the AP includes the final invoice from Ruggiano for Juaire Rd. Tyler wants to add a change order to include fees for construction oversight changes. No. Discussion of multiple disappointments with this engineering firm.
13. Lot striping price would double if we change the angle. Ron will have Randy Reed look to assess the safety of the current striping.
14. The paving budget is almost \$40K over. Should we take the overage from the paving cd?

Tom made a motion to take the overage from the paving CD. Brian seconded. All in favor.

15. Cathy asks that we extend the timeline for NRPC to manage the VCPD Grant for the Pavilion in East Fairfield. Numerous delays have extended the time to complete but the money has not changed.

Brian made a motion to extend the timeline for NRPC to manage the grant to 3/21/23. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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16. Two agreements signed for the water districts to complete their ARPA funded projects. District 2 for water meters and a generator. District 1 for the pre-engineering study for the roof on the water supply.
17. Budget work should start soon. Cathy presented a year-to-date and said we are in a good place. She asked everyone to look at it and then we can make a plan for a budget session.
18. We can't lock the Chester Arthur door from the outside because it is a fire exit. Molly Huff would like a key so she can access when Melissa isn't able to let her in. Melissa and Molly will communicate and if there becomes a time when a key is needed we will consider this
19. Lots of email communication from the Pond Association regarding the Star Wind Farm plan on Menard Road. The engineer would like to come to the SB meeting on November 14th.
20. Julie Wolcott invited the SB to hold their meetings at the Community Center a couple of times a year. She would like to show the SB the projects being completed. Maybe after the new year

Brian made a motion to approve \$5,169 from the Recreation Fund for the work on the backstop and allow Cathy to include in this AP. Ron seconded.. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Tom seconded. All in favor. No decisions. Information only.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a real estate issue. Tom seconded. All in favor. No decisions. Information only.

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