

## **Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Town of Fairfield, Vermont**

The inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield met at Veteran's Hall, Fairfield Center School, on March 6, 2018. Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator, made the announcements. The Robert's Rules of Order were explained. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. A moment of silence was held.

1. MODERATOR: Bridget Howrigan Rivet was nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased. The Clerk was asked to cast one ballot for Bridget Howrigan Rivet.
2. TO RECEIVE THE VARIOUS REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TOWN AS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT TOWN ANNUAL REPORT:

Laura Fulwiler and Sarah Montgomery spoke about the library including the books, magazines, e-books, snowshoes, computers and printers available to everyone. Laura thanked the employees, Trustees and Selectboard.

Julie asked why there was no Maple Run Union School District information or report in the book? Jane Williams asked if the Chair was there? Jim Farr was identified. Jane Williams stated that she was concerned that Fairfield only had one vote out of 10 on the board. Being no objections to him speaking, Jim Farr explained that every town elects every member, so we really have 10 votes. Jane Williams is concerned that the school is not part of the meeting now. Jim Farr said that there were Fairfield residents at the informational meeting. Jane Williams did not feel informed about the meeting. Jim Farr explained how the meeting was warned. Asked for suggestions for better communication. The Board wants to look out for the interest of all towns. More comments were made regarding the building purchase vote and not having the information needed to vote.

3. TO ELECT FROM THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID TOWN THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:
  - a. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 3 YEARS: Gene Archambault nominated by Melissa Manson and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Gene Archambault.
  - b. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 2 YEARS: Norman Menard nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Norman Menard.

- c. ONE AUDITOR FOR 3 YEARS: Mary Schreindorfer nominated by Gail Williams and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Mary Schreindorfer.
  - d. ONE LISTER FOR 3 YEARS: James Gregoire nominated by Daniel McCoy and seconded by Daniel Pipes. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for James Gregoire.
  - e. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 3 YEARS: Laura Bellstrom nominated by Laura Fulwiler and seconded by Peter Burns. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Laura Bellstrom.
  - f. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 2 YEARS: Susan Casavant Magnan nominated by Laura Fulwiler and seconded by Toby Fulwiler. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Susan Casavant Magnan.
  - g. A FIRST CONSTABLE FOR 1 YEAR: Linda Hodet nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet.
  - h. ONE OR MORE GRAND JURORS FOR 1 YEAR: Charles Thomas nominated by John Gorton and seconded by Gavin Ryan. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Charles Thomas.
  - i. A TOWN AGENT FOR 1 YEAR: Vanessa Kittell nominated by Gene Archambault and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell.
4. SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER? Motion made by John Schreindorfer and seconded by John Gorton.

A question regarding past installments was made by Joan Burnor. Amanda Forbes explained that there used to be a 4% discount for early payments which is no longer offered because the town voted to eliminate it. The cost to provide the discount was \$80,000 and no longer cost effective considering it is less expensive to borrow from the bank. Joan stated it was helpful to seniors to have the discount.

Motion passed by voice vote.

5. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE 2018 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES OF \$1,499,342, OF WHICH \$1,020,019 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$479,323 BY NON-TAX REVENUES?: Motion made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Daniel McCoy.

Gavin Ryan stated that he was grateful for the turnout. He explained that the increase in the budget is largely due to the library budget that was voted on last year to be included, rather than a separate article.

He asked everyone to turn to page 13 to see the year's projects. These include improvements to Swamp Rd., a newer Case loader which replaced a 22-year-old loader and other improvements. We borrow at 2.25% for equipment. There are 4 payments left on the grader. The Fire Station was paid in full this year and the library has 10 years left to be paid off. We are in the process of constructing a salt shed and we received a \$300,000 grant for that. The total cost is expected to be over \$500,000 when complete and includes the removal of the old salt shed. The new shed will have a storage area and the new salt shed will be scheduled to be paid off in 5 years.

He also added that work on the sidewalk project has started. There is a wetlands permit issue that needs to be resolved and completion of that project is unknown at this time. The salt shed will be completed by Fall.

More questions regarding the increase and the library budget last year at \$75,000 and this year at \$96,000. Gavin reminded everyone that the add-on articles, if passed, will be added on to that budget number. He discussed the AM Peisch audit and said the town is in good standing, and we do not hold a lot of debt.

Motion passed by voice vote.

6. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD APPROVE \$92,225 FOR SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, SAID APPROPRIATION TO BE PAID UPON CONDITION THAT THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN, BY NOVEMBER 1, 2018, A COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT BALANCE SHEET AND BANK STATEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE TOWN AUDITORS: Motion made by John Gorton and seconded by Tom Howrigan. Mary Schreindorfer asked if there was someone who could speak to the budget? Damian Boomhower responded that they kept the budget the same as last year. The two fire departments are now combined and upkeep to both buildings and equipment is needed. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$15,000 FOR THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION: Motion made by Bill Kittell and seconded by Dustin Tanner. Motion passed by voice vote.
8. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3,971 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC.: Motion made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Debra Hastings. Motion passed by voice vote.
9. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$2,500 FOR THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Motion made by Michael Malone and seconded by

Charles Thomas. Joan Burnor asked what the Outdoor Classroom is? Jaime Tibbets, Outdoor Classroom Coordinator, explained that the Outdoor Classroom teaches the rich history of the community, maple sugaring and gardening. This request funds supplies, seeds and high tunnel maintenance. There is a link to the blog in the Outdoor Classroom report. Motion passed by voice vote.

10. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$1,000 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL RESCUE: Motion made by Laura Fulwiler and seconded by Gail Williams. Gail Williams shared that after closing for some time, the rescue is up and running for mostly cats, and a few dogs. She also expects that the low cost spay and neuter program will be back in the future. She thanked the town for their support. Motion passed by voice vote.

11. SHALL THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF VERMONT AND THE AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION TO RECLAIM, REBUILD AND PAVE VERMONT ROUTE 36 IN 2018?

**Whereas**, Vermont Route 36 is a heavily used traffic corridor connecting northeastern Franklin County through the Town of Fairfield to St. Albans and Interstate 89, with 2900 vehicles passing through Fairfield Center daily, and

**Whereas**, Vermont Route 36 has been in deplorable and unsafe condition for years, and

**Whereas**, the residents of Fairfield have endured these conditions long enough, and

**Whereas**, the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation schedule calls for repaving a thin layer of pavement in the calendar year 2019, the residents of Fairfield do not feel this is a sufficient or timely fix to the issue,

**Be It Resolved**, that the residents of the Town of Fairfield urge the Vermont Legislature, the Governor, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation to fix the rapidly deteriorating Vermont Route 36 by reclaiming, rebuilding and paving it properly in 2018.

Motion made by Michael Malone and seconded by Damian Boomhower.

Michael Malone said this repair is long overdue. He lives on Rt. 36 and the shoulders are too narrow. There is no room for bikers or walkers and it is dangerous. The State should also look at the speed limits. This is an important resolution to consider.

John Baxter asked if the Selectboard was in communication with the State other than the thin layer. Why can't they fix Rt. 36 correctly?

Charles Thomas answered that the Selectboard is in communication with Dan Connor, our State Representative, to repair it correctly, not just to resurface with a thin layer. The extra traffic from the Rt.108 repair caused more damage to our road. Keep in mind that if it is corrected there will be delays and traffic problems. Dan Connor has been and will continue to advocate for us.

Charon True asked if other towns had this on their Warnings? It was answered that Bakersfield and Fletcher included the Resolution in their Warnings.

Christine Kubacz asked where the town lines were on Rt. 36? Gavin Ryan answered that Rt. 36 runs from Swanton along Maquam Shore to Bakersfield. The town line between Fairfield and St. Albans Town is by Steve Archambault's.

Loren Babb asked about the process if this passes to get the funding? Gavin Ryan answered Dan Connor will carry it back to the Legislature.

Alisha Larocque mentioned Regional Planning Grants.

Vanessa Kittell suggested hand delivering the resolution to Secretary of Transportation, Joe Flynn and Governor, Phil Scott or invite them to drive here.

Gavin Ryan stated the more complaints the better. Make calls, write letters.

Motion made by Roger Adkins and seconded by John Gorton to amend the article to include WHEREAS WE WOULD EXTEND AN INVITATION TO GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT AND SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOE FLYNN TO VISIT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD VIA RT. 36.

Amendment to the motion passed by voice vote. Amended resolution passed by voice vote.

12. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING:

Harry Goldhagen requested better microphones for next year's meeting.

Patrick Malone asked if changes in road frontage led to the 6 subdivisions this year? Alisha Larocque, Zoning Administrator, answered that the old road frontage is still in effect. The subdivisions were already in the works and complied with the frontage rules. Planning and Zoning are working on updating zoning bylaws. She encouraged public input.

Lori Niederer asked if in light of the recent school shootings if any pension funds had any plans to divest any interests in companies that make assault weapons? Gavin Ryan

explained that State is in charge of the Pension Plans. Michael Malone stated that the State is in charge of the School Pension Plans also.

Julie Wolcott asked if there could be an article in the Warning in the Town Report to discuss the School. Gene Archambault mentioned perhaps having a one-page report from Maple Run on the info table.

Amanda Forbes explained that the Town and MRUSD are 2 different entities. She pointed out that page 100 has the notice of availability of the MRUSD report at Catherine St and online. The informational meeting was in the MRUSD Warning, also in the Town Report. She stated that the town warning is for town related business, so a school article cannot be added because it is non-binding. However, it can be discussed under 'other business' as it has been.

Laura Fulwiler stated that page 102 informational meeting date had passed by the time she was aware of the date at Town Meeting.

John Dasaro gave a Recreation Committee update on activities. He is attending Rise VT meetings and is trying to develop a consolidated events calendar.

Dan Pipes extended thanks to Michael L'Esperance for his 12 years of service on the School Board.

Becky Cassel, Assistant Director of the Community Center thanked for the support of the Community Center programs, Bingo, Senior Meals, Yoga, Food Shelf.

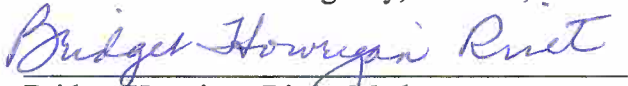
Erik Bushey, as a new resident of Fairfield, is grateful for keeping the Town Meeting tradition.


13. TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn was made by John Gorton and seconded by Patrick Winegar at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda L. Forbes, Clerk

To the best of my recollection, I attest that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the events of Town Meeting Day, March 6, 2018.

  
Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator

  
Tom Howrigan, Select Board Chair