

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

August 10, 2026

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Brian Dubie, Ron Bocash, Damian Branon
Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth
Town Clerk: by report
Secretary: Melissa Manson
Visitors: NWATV

Meeting Called to order at 7:00pm

1. Agenda reviewed and amended to add Executive Session: Health Officer
2. Maurice reports that signage to advise of road closure for construction on McKenzie Rd will go up soon. Anticipated closure 8am-5pm.
3. Some washouts due to recent storms were addressed on Egypt and Pumpkin Village Rds. Grading and chloride were applied. Brian requests that pictures and updates of washouts/ flash flooding, etc. be provided to Cathy for Hazard mitigation documentation.
4. The Grants-in-Aid project will take place after McKenzie rd. This will include a culvert replacement on Gerbode Rd, where the old stone culvert is collapsing.
5. Review of tractor mower purchase. Tom called United Ag & Turf and reports there were only 2 left for the whole state at the quoted price- once gone the price will change. Cathy recapped funding options. Tom will call and confirm numbers tomorrow and tell them we are interested in one, if still available, and will check turnaround time from order to delivery. With confirmation of availability, timeline and clarity on funding sources, motion to be made at next meeting.
6. Ron says the Chester Arthur light isn't working and suggests it be removed. This was originally installed for road safety due to concerns that large farm trucks, turning onto North Rd. from a stop at that intersection, would not have time to get all the way without risk of being T-boned. Cathy says the state requested Fairfield remove this "lights fix" portion of the submitted safety grant because grant scope does not cover this type of improvement. Replacement of batteries and remotes could be up to \$12K. Cathy will ask Lafayette to diagnose and update the estimate of the cost to repair. If too much, we should consider removing it.
7. Cathy reports that the safety grant awards have not yet been announced. This grant would only replace some guardrails, now that it has been revised.
8. Town Clerk says he is ready for tomorrow's election.
9. The library applied for a malt beverage permit for "To Bid or Not to Bid" on September 28 from 6-9pm. Demetrius says the application is in order.

Damian made a motion to approve the liquor license request. Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ron made a motion to approve the minutes of 07/27/26. Damian seconded. All in favor.

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

10. Errors and Omissions report signed by the Selectboard.
11. Cathy says the requisition for the paving grant has been submitted for \$184K, after the Town's match requirement. Approximately 4-6 weeks until it's paid. Will need a cash infusion because of this timing. Amanda and Cathy recommend using some capital funds on a temporary basis- transfer from the CD, maturing on 8/13, and replace in a few weeks when taxes come in.

Tom made a motion to transfer \$50K from the Capital Fund CD into the checking account for operating expenses, renew the CD for only 4 weeks, and then return the funds when it matures in September. Damian seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

12. Brian notes that he likes the collaboration between the Treasurer and Town Administrator.
13. Cathy says the auditors requested paperwork on the 2025 property sales transfers and requested information about grant matching. The 2025 audit has not yet been completed. This is the last AM Peisch audit, so we will need to go out to bid again. Peisch is longer doing municipal audits.
14. Some updated river corridor maps received for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. NRPC review is next. Brian reviewed the edits and said he is feeling good about how it's looking. Brian thanks Cathy for all of her hard work on the plan.

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

15. Brian received a complaint about a man urinating next to the porta potty at the beach. This type of violation should be reported to the Vermont State Police and is in violation of Fairfield's Public Indecency Ordinance. Ron will check to see if the laminated ordinance is still posted at the beach. The Selectboard discussed whether there should be beach-use rules. Cathy says that the Town may want to consider drafting a Beach ordinance with rules included. Examples from other towns were presented. The Selectboard will review and revisit at the next meeting.

Brian made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter. Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Brian made a motion to exit executive session. Damian seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Executive session was discussion only. No action required.

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