

**Minutes of the 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 4, 2025. Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator, went over Robert's Rules of Order. The meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. A moment of silence was held. The 2025 warning was read.

1. MODERATOR: Bridget Howrigan Rivet was nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Brian Dubie. 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 REPORT: Motion made by Susan Casavant Magnan and seconded by Sarah Toof. No discussion. Motion carried.
3. TO ELECT FROM THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID TOWN THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:
 - a. ONE SELECTPERSON 3 YEARS: Tom Howrigan was nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Damien Boomhower. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Tom Howrigan.
 - b. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 2 YEARS: Brian Dubie was nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Ron Bocash. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Brian Dubie.
 - c. ONE AUDITOR FOR 3 YEARS: Diane Tracy was nominated by Jeanne Persons and seconded by Mary Schreindorfer. Nominations ceased, moved to one ballot for Diane Tracy.
 - d. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 3 YEARS: Larry Edelson was nominated by Susan Casavant Magnan and seconded by Charon True. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Larry Edelson.
 - e. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 2 YEARS: Susan Casavant Magnan was nominated by Sorel Chaput and seconded by Larry Edelson. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Susan Casavant Magnan.
 - f. A FIRST CONSTABLE FOR 1 YEAR: James Consentino was nominated by Damien Boomhower and seconded by Charles Mudgett. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for James Consentino.
4. SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER: Motion moved by Susan Casavant Magnan and seconded by Dan Pipes. Motion passed by voice vote.
5. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE THE 2025 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES OF \$1,919,685 OF WHICH \$1,214,445 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$705,240 BY NON-TAX REVENUES: Motion moved by Paula Boomhower and seconded by Vanessa Kittell. Brian Dubie spoke on behalf of the Selectboard. He recognized the road crew for all their hard work and dedication. He also thanked the Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Library Director for their service to the town. The budget increase of 3.2% is mainly to the rise in healthcare and the cost of living for town employees. The remaining budget covers the maintenance of the town roads,

equipment and buildings. New dog and public nudity ordinances were adopted. There properties at 169 Sheman St, 277 Barrywilde Rd, 4142 North Rd, and 1176 Romar Rd will be offered for sale this year. Martha Manning asked if any federal funds that would be expiring are included in non-tax revenues. Non-tax revenues do not include any federal funds. Motion passed by voice vote.

6. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE THE 2025 EXPENDITURES OF \$193,037 FOR THE BENT NORTHROP MEMORIAL LIBRARY, \$136,159 OF WHICH SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$56,878 BY NON-TAX REVENUES: Motion moved by Martha Manning and seconded by Julie Wolcott. Roberts Rules was suspended to allow Sarah Allerton to speak. The library experienced another fantastic year, and a third staff member was added. The overall budget has increased by 9.3%, however the funds to be raised by taxes remained level due to the use of investment earnings. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE \$120,000 FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, SAID APPROPRIATION ONLY TO BE PAID BY THE TOWN UPON CONDITION THAT THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN, BY NOVEMBER 1, 2025, A COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT BALANCE SHEET AND BANK STATEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE TOWN AUDITORS: Motion moved by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Paula Boomhower. Mary Schreindorfer thanked the Fire Department for the hard work and dedication to educating and servicing the Town. Motion passed by voice vote.
8. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE \$18,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION: Motion moved by Paula Boomhower and seconded by Jeanne Hopkins. Paula Boomhower spoke about the meals available every Tuesday for a minimal donation, and the food shelf. Diana Bailey questioned the article which asks for level funding whether it's enough. It was explained that the Community Center gets various donations throughout the year, and they are able to make it work. Debbie Paradee pointed out that the Community Center has many volunteers that keep in running. Motion passed by voice vote.
9. SHALL THE TOWN EXEMPT FROM TAXATION REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER AND COMMONLY KNOW AS THE "MEETING HOUSE ON THE GREEN" FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 32 V.S.A. § 3840: Motion moved by Jeanne Hopkins and seconded by Charon True. Motion passed by voice vote.
10. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3,971 FOR THE VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHERN REGION? (FORMERLY FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME HEALTH AGENCY) (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$3,971): Motion moved by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Amber Fisher. It was pointed out that it's the Southwest Region not the Southern Region. Motion passed by voice vote.
11. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE A DONATION OF \$600 FOR CAT CRUSADERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY INC: Motion moved by Charles Mudgett and seconded by Cathy Branon. Mary Schreindorfer asked what the Cat Crusaders do. Linda Hodet spoke about the services they provide which includes the trapping of feral cats to get them spayed and neutered, rescuing and rehoming abandoned cats. Motion passed by voice vote.

12. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER NON-BINDING BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING: Motion moved by Susan Casavant Magnan and seconded by Jeanne Hopkins. No discussion.

13. TO AGJOURN: Motion moved by Damien Boomhower and seconded by Charles Verderber at 11:04am.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Hodet, 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 4, 2025.



Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator



Tom Howrigan, Select Board Chair