

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

July 27, 2026

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Brian Dubie, Ron Bocash, Damian Branon, and David Persons

Town Administrator: By Report

Town Clerk: Demetrius Bolduc

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Duane and Karla Messier, Paula Boomhower

Meeting Called to order at 7:01pm

1. Agenda reviewed and accepted.
2. Duane and Karla Messier of Bridge St came regarding a complaint of a fly issue with Paula Boomhower's chickens. Complaint was lodged with the Town Clerk last Monday, investigated by the Health Officer on Thursday. The Messiers describe an odor so intense and so many flies that they are unable to use their swimming pool and porch. They contend that Paula is running a business not a backyard bird operation. At the time of the HO visit, birds were clean, minimal smell or presence of flies noted and fly traps had been installed.
3. Paula Boomhower said that the meat birds (50) were processed a week late and it took them longer than necessary to clean up after. This contributed to smell and flies. SB and HO to follow up.
4. Maurice received a compliment for quick replacement of the missing 50MPH sign on South Rd. Moe has 3 mower bids. Concern is that they are not the same mower, so hard to compare. In Moe's opinion, the John Deere with the diamond mower is better for over the guardrails. Current one is 25 years old. Trade in value is \$25K or so. SB asks that Moe find out how long the price is good for from United in Highgate.
5. Brian reviewed Town Admin Report's notes regarding roads, in her absence.
6. Chloride was received today. No date for McKenzie Rd yet but should be early August.
7. Demetrius will be attending a tabulator class on Wednesday. Testing to be completed by August 1. JP nominations were received and will be on the ballot November 3rd. Does the SB approve of names for the JP to be on the general election ballot which the state will mail to all active voters?

Ron made a motion to have the local Justice of the Peace race on the Nov. 3rd General Election ballot. Damian seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. Municipal Tax rate to be set. 2025 rate was .4679, proposed for 2026 is .4755, which is a 1.62% increase. Note that the State sets the education tax rate. Homestead rate for 2026 is down from last year by 2.24%, while the non-homestead rate is up 3.99%. SB requests that Demetrius ask the State about this discrepancy, so we have an answer for it.

Tom made a motion to set the tax rate at .4755. Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

David made a motion to approve the minutes of 07/13/26. Ron seconded. All in favor.

9. Brian reviewed the remainder of the Town Admin report (attached). Signs to be placed on New St. with the 25MPH that is in the traffic ordinance.

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

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10. Hazard Mitigation Plan review is ongoing. NRPC full review set for October.
11. Sweet Hollow Road paving is scheduled to take place when Swanton paves their section, in August- dates TBA.

David made a motion to accept the warrants. Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

David 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. David seconded. All in favor.

Town Admin Report - SB Meeting 07.27.2026

1. I calculated the Tax Rate, Amanda reviewed and approved it, Demetrius reviewed it and is presenting it to the Selectboard to approve. This has always been a team effort, but Demetrius and I recognized that the process is not listed in our Financial Controls and Procedures document. He will update the document along with the Town Clerk Office's check deposit machine procedures. We will bring the revised document to the Selectboard to review and sign when it is ready.
2. Easements for McKenzie Rd. have been signed and recorded.
3. I asked for an extension for our road construction grants, by request of Road Crew (McKenzie and Gerbode/ ChesterAA). VTRANS is letting us get the final reporting paperwork in later, but the projects will need to be completely finished by September 30th, for us to be able to requisition for these grant funds.
4. Regarding funding for a Mower purchase the Selectboard can wait until there is more money in the bank, after the tax bills are sent or use CD fund balance funds, which can be replaced once taxes are raised: the Equipment Fund balance is currently \$172K, the Small Truck Equipment CD balance is \$79K. Additionally, the Capital Projects CD balance is \$240K and the Property Sales cd balance is \$157K.
5. Tom looked at New Street signage and said we should order two speed limit signs, one for each end of the road- I requested these be ordered via. James last week, while Mo was on Vaca. No need to change the Roads ordinance in order to put these up, as New St. is already listed as a 25 MPH road
6. Paving on North Rd invoice from Whitcomb is included in this AP split 65% grant and the rest is paid out of our Paving Project operating budget (7000 feet was approved by the state to be paved using grant funds, out of 10715 feet total paved = 65%). Once the payments have been cashed, I can process the grant requisition.
7. Regarding striping on North Rd., VTRANS says it will be done 14 days from the time I notify them that the middle line is marked (middle line was marked 7/17, so I estimate it to be done by the end of this month).
8. I processed the second of three Municipal Planning Grant requisitions for the Common School planning project. \$5,673 is expected. Will be working with Greta, after her Vacation this week, to complete the final report and submit the final requisition for this project, another \$5,672.
9. The Tax Anticipation note is secured/ paperwork is complete for \$175K- this, added to our current bank balance, covers this month and early next month's expenses.
10. Fairfield Community Center requests that the Selectboard members provide input in their strategic planning process. I emailed 4 of you a link to their survey and brought copies with me. Please complete this and return it to me or the Community Center, or complete it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FairfieldCommunityCenterFeedback>