

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

February 9, 2026

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Ron Bocash, Brian Dubie

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: NWATV, Greta Brunswick, Sorel Chaput, Chi Nguyen, Robin Yates, Emily Kloft

Meeting Called to order at 7:01pm

Tom made a motion to adjust the agenda to have the Roads Report first. Ron seconded. All in favor.

1. Moe says they are down two trucks. Not sure when they will be back from being fixed. Salt stock is low and there is limited availability to order- Fairfield has 4 loads on order. Someone broke into the fuel shed at night and vandalized the electrical, presumably stole fuel. Suggestion to shut the power off to the fuel shed at night.
2. Moe measured the guardrail replacements on North Rd. near Jack Callan's and Jay Paradee's properties, for safety grant. Cathy completed the grant for these guardrails, along with replacement parts for the Chester Arthur lights, which are not working properly. Quoted \$7400 to replace the batteries and sensor parts.
3. Cathy says the grader should be in 2 weeks from now so the financing paperwork will be signed next week. She said the McKenzie Road project permit requests have been submitted. Engineering plans will come to the next meeting.
4. Certification of compliance to Road and Bridge Standards, Certificate of Highway Mileage, Sherman Rd decision and hearing minutes, and VTrans annual financial plan signed- Cathy will submit to the state of VT.

Tom opened the public hearing for the zoning bylaws update.

Emily Kloft gave an overview and reviewed the changes to the zoning bylaws, resulting from a many-month's revision process, and how these changes comply with the Town Plan. There were no questions or public comments. The Selectboard decided to vote on the issue at their next meeting, when more Selectboard members are in attendance.

Tom made a motion to close the public hearing. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/26/26. Ron seconded. All in favor.

5. Cathy reports that the stormwater permit renewal for the garage is due and the engineer who originally designed it is the best suited to complete this work. Tyler Mumley has submitted his bid for this.
6. First quarter insurance renewal estimate came lower than expected (2% below last year), due to a large loss year that dropped off the ExMod.
7. We received \$7K of the Municipal Planning Grant for the Common School Working Group. More requisitions for expenses to this grant will take place in future months.

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

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8. Chi Ngyun, the architect from GVV, came to review the proposed architectural plans prepared for the Common School Working Group (CSWG), funded by a Municipal Planning Grant. Greta and Sorel, from the CSWG also discussed the plans. Chi shared an Overview, Exterior Improvements and Proposed Uses document, along with designs and showed these designs on the screen. The working group will have a table at Town Meeting to update the community on their progress. They are planning a public meeting to take place March 18th. The cost components and wastewater plans are not yet available. The Selectboard stressed the importance of feasibility and that taxpayers are already feeling squeezed due to increased school taxes. There are questions about whether or not to have the building on the Historic Registry, which Chi will look into. Chi, the Selectboard and Greta also discussed ways the designs have been attentive to codes, licensing, and preparing for grant fundability. The Selectboard thanked Chi for her work and presentation.
9. The Selectboard discussed the VOSHA citation and notification of penalty received at the end of last month, for the inspection from last August. Because the issue was “other-than-serious” and corrective action was already taken by the garage, there is an opportunity for a 30% reduced penalty (\$557.00 total) with no further visitation/work with VOSHA’s WorkSafe contractor, or a reduction or a 50% (\$160 less than the 30% option) with WorkSafe follow up requirements with garage staff. The Citation was for not having MSDS for the chemicals on site. Binders of information and a program for HazCom is now present with all information. PACIF worked with the town on risk prevention last year. SB opts for 30% fine reduction as they plan to continue working with PACIF to make sure we are on track.

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

Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron seconded. All in favor.