

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

February 23, 2026

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, David Persons and Ron Bocash

Roads: Absent

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: NWATV

Meeting Called to order at 7:01pm

Ron made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/09. Tom seconded. All in favor.

1. Linda says we need a moderator for Town Meeting. Gavin suggests Vanessa Kittell. Does the SB have talking points for the meeting? David has talking points about the Town Clerk elected vs. appointed agenda item. Brian does a good job speaking- may want to include cost of salt, availability of salt.
2. Weight permits signed
3. One truck that was being fixed is back on the road as of today. New one appears to need a new motor. Salt shortage discussion – how to maintain adequate supply for the icy part of winter still up and coming. New grader arrived today.
4. Certificate of highway mileage, with Sherman Road mileage removed, signed.
5. Updated Town Road and Bridge Standards from the Agency of Transportation presented and signed. Changes to crossroad culverts and roads base/tops section.

Ron made a motion to approve the Town Road and Bridge Standards as updated. David seconded. All in favor.

6. Class 2 grant application received. Plan to apply for the North Rd. Culvert project, now that we have engineering, through the Structures grant. Need to plan paving for 2026, to apply for the Paving grant.
7. Easements for McKenzie Rd work will be drafted with legal counsel and will need to be signed.
8. Napa statements are now reconciled- there was some confusion over 3 missing invoices, which has been corrected.
9. Act 181 statewide land use revision has received negative feedback due to road restrictions and state-level future-land-use assumptions. The legislation would impose local development restrictions utilizing a state-level Act 250 review process. One big concern is Act 181's extension of Act 250 for road restrictions on new roads over 800ft and long driveways. Cathy to craft a letter on behalf of the SB stating that Fairfield does not support the parts of the legislation that could negatively affect Fairfield.

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

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

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Selectboard Minutes**

10. Melissa recapped the Zoning Bylaws revisions

Gavin made a motion to approve the zoning bylaws as amended. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Gavin made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Ron seconded. All in favor. On exit, no decisions made. Information only.

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