

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

January 13, 2025

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

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Absent

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Bill Kimball, Marianne Dubie MRUSD, Rusty Branon, NWATV

Tom Howrigan called the Selectboard to order.

1. Bill Kimball and Marianne Dubie MRUSD came to give an update on where they are now in terms of budget, performance and attendance. Seeing a lot of success in attendance and increases in performance. They plan to hold the budget to a 2% increase but as it is a state funded system, the overall increase will be dependent upon all state budgets. Brian asked for projections of the student population change in Fairfield. Brian states that the issue is the infrastructure was built for 120K students and we now have 90K. Rusty Branon says we are providing services that should be provided by social services not education department.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/30/2024. David seconded. All in favor.

2. Cathy read the Town Clerk's report. Thursday, Jan. 16 is the deadline for petitions for the Town Report. The warning has to be signed at the Selectboard's January 27 meeting. Auditors are coming this week.
3. Cathy reports on the new truck coming from Charlebois. Will be delivered in late spring. Early payment discount of \$5K if we pay before it goes into production. Total cost including trade is \$193,100. Chassis is what has to be paid to get the discount \$152,274. Equipment fund currently at \$292,455K. David asks the interest rate on that CD. It is .2%. Discussion followed about that rate. David asks for rates on all CD's. Plans to visit the bank. Also need to find out if the trade-in value is subject to change. David also asked for an equipment list so we know what might need replacing.
4. Moe says the transmission on the Ford 600 is shot because the pump went. Viking is trying to figure it out. It's going to have to go to St. J to have the transmission installed and we could be without it for a month. Warranty is active but there is discussion about who will be responsible – transmission people or pump people. Moe will ask Hayes if they have a used truck on the lot that we can use as a spare. Road crew has been using the grader for snow clean-up, which is expensive. Salt pile is low but deliveries are expected. Lights have been completed in the garage. Road crew will do the doors themselves.
5. Cathy has been working on budgets, accounting, year-end HR procedures and stuff for the auditors. There is a Land Conservation Project proposal from the State of VT. They'd like to come talk to SB at the next meeting.

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

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6. Municipal 2025 Budget reviewed line-by-line. The SB decided to include \$110,000 of previous year's surplus to offset the tax request to a 3.47% increase. Final numbers to be ready for the warning at next meeting.
7. SB supplied items they would like covered in the year-end letter.

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

David made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to exit executive session. Ron Seconded. All in favor. No binding decisions made. Cathy to meet with Ron, as a follow up, to discuss grant writing.

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