

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

April 22, 2024

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, David Persons, Brian Dubie and Ron Bocash
Roads: Maurice Jettie
Town Clerk: Linda Hodet
Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth
Secretary: Cathy Ainsworth
Visitors: Sarah Allerton, Emily Biron, Peter Burns, Susan Magnan, Lynda Ulrich, Liesl Ulrich-Verderber, Chuck Verderber and CCVTV.

1. Public Comments: Emily Biron requested that the Selectboard provide criteria for their NRPC appointment of the previous meeting. They said they'd discussed candidates' backgrounds, board experience and potential conflicts of interest.
2. Sarah Allerton and Library Trustees, Susan Magnan and Peter Burns, presented the library's draft financial and investment policies and said the next step is for legal review, then adoption. The financial policy can provide a roadmap for future board members and the investment policy was developed with help from their investment advisor. The Selectboard verified that the policies are in alignment with the Town's financial policy and controls. Cathy suggested that, under the operations section of the financial policy, the current auditors be changed to "duly appointed auditors by contract with the Selectboard". The Selectboard had no suggestions or revisions to the policies.
3. Linda reported that she was updating municipal roles with the Selectboard for NRPC. She distributed a letter from the Meeting House on the Green. She said the Town Office's server crashed, which Matt from BH&OS addressed. His solution would require higher speed internet. Cathy to look into costs for higher speed internet. Linda said she needs a new computer, due to its age. Matt priced a replacement to be \$2185. Her old computer would be used elsewhere in the office. These unexpected costs were not originally calculated in the 2024 budget and the Selectboard wants to use money from another fund for this. Cathy will propose possible solutions.
4. Maurice reports that deliveries of Chloride have begun. The garage will be replacing tires and the blade on the grader. The Selectboard requested information on the F550.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session for a contract issue because premature general public knowledge would place them at a disadvantage. Gavin seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to exit the Executive Session, Ron seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion that the Town have a bidding competition for the F550 town truck sale with a minimum of \$40,000 and to take action on the sale at the next meeting. Tom seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to approve the Minutes of 04/10/2024. Gavin Seconded. Emily Biron requested that item #2 state "planning to participate in" instead of "prepared to support the" and that her name be removed from the second sentence of item #7 to instead state "The previous meeting's discussion had requested that...". **The selectboard accepted the revisions and made a friendly amendment to the motion to include "as amended". All in favor.**

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5. Cathy asked whether the Selectboard would move their second meeting in May from Monday the 27th (Memorial Day) to the 28th or 29th. They said they would move it to Tuesday the 28th.
6. 2025 Grants-In-Aid Letter of intent signed.

Gavin made a motion to certify the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways for 2024. Ron Seconded. All in favor. Certification signed.

7. Cathy submitted a VTrans Structures Grant to replace a South Rd. culvert an almost \$200K project, and a \$25K engineering grant for a North Rd. culvert. McKenzie road culvert replacement will be in a Grant that comes out in December because the cost of this project is higher than the current \$31K grant that can be used for other rd. segments.
8. Cathy submitted the ARPA money report to the federal government submitted for 2023.
9. The cost of doing a hydraulic study for a small bridge on South Rd, before Buck Hollow Rd., will be expensive through an engineer or take a while through the State. Selectboard would like Cathy to request the state conduct one.
10. VTrans would like to hold a public meeting at a Selectboard meeting about this Summer's road closure of Route 36 for their bridge replacement. The Selectboard suggests May 28th and starting the meeting early for them to go beforehand.
11. Public comments: Chuck wonders about the Town's plans for the Rte. 36 road closure, based on the Town meeting discussion. Road foreman was planning to work on this. Leslie suggests people check if their class 4 roads are correct on google maps. Lynda reports that NRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee meeting did not meet last month. Other than bridges, what issues should she advocate on? Cathy suggests shorter turnarounds for hydraulic studies from the state because now we are paying private firms to do them, when before we could get them done quickly, for free by the state.
12. Insurance claim on the Community Center was submitted, an inspector was scheduled, and they will determine how much it should cost to fix.
13. Community Comment: the Common school group met and wondered about what is needed for the Septic system. The selectboard is working on this. The group is considering whether to form a Community Trust.
14. Cathy suggested that the Selectboard choose the low bidder for 2024 Paving, as the application was complete.

Brian made a motion to choose Whitcomb's bid for 2024 Paving. Ron seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

Brian made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contracts, real estate and legal matters. Ron Seconded. All in favor. Discussion only.

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

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