

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

August 12, 2024

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, Brian Dubie and Ron Bocash

Roads: Absent

Town Clerk: Absent

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Julie Wolcott, Eleanor Wirts, CCTV.

1. Julie and Eleanor came to talk about the Community Center. Eleanor was introduced as FCCA's new Program and Event Manager. Black Creek Camp has the potential to grow, but they need another bathroom. Getting a quote. Needs to be done by February. Capacity of septic not known but Tom says a long time ago there was another bathroom. Need to check the wastewater permit. The west end ceiling has been repaired and they were very happy with the contractor. There is an issue with water not draining from the north of the ballfield access road. Selectboard says Max Rose is working up there now—ask if he could fix it if the Town guys will bring fill. Discussed possible solutions. Looking into the option of outside seasonal bathroom facilities with Little League. Julie is looking at grants for outdoor facilities- Better Place Grant, letter of support may be needed from Town. Discussed alternatives to paving the School Street entrance areas to cut back on dirt and rocks in the building. May paint signage on the west facing wall. Julie gave a Common School update. She is researching energy efficiency next steps.
2. Linda sends a reminder that the election is 8/13. Office is closed for vacation 8/14-21.
3. Paving to happen next week on Chester Arthur Rd.
4. For the Hazard Mitigation Grant, we need old pictures of damage and a repair history due to floods. Cathy is looking for the backup needed. Grant must be tied to flood hazards.
5. Review of availability of funds to participate in updating our Road Erosion Inventory (REI), possibly with the help of NRPC.

Brian made a motion to apply for the REI grant. Tom seconded. All in favor.

6. Municipal tax rate. Review of the increase. The Town's municipal tax rate has increased by less than 0.25%. Combined with the school rates, however, the Non-Homestead rate is now \$1.7361 (a 12.46% increase) and the Homestead rate is \$1.763 (a 15.41% increase). Due to state and education factors, there is nothing we can do locally to change these increases.

Tom made a motion to set the town tax rate at \$0.4623. Brian seconded. All in favor.

7. The Public Indecency Ordinance is now in effect. There was no opposition presented in the form of a petition.
8. Animal Control Ordinance discussion will be tabled until David can participate. Cathy to check with the person just hired in Fairfax to see if they want another town.

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

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9. The old Capital Plan draft provided in a previous meeting is a good place to start. Town Admin to begin updating using current information.
10. The Pond Association would like to conduct a Milfoil assessment to compare with 2019. This is in alignment with the 2020 Town plan's "maintain the pond's water quality" action step to "Preserve Fairfield's Natural Landscape". Could use ARPA funds to do this. The Association will get a cost estimate for and Cathy will reconcile the ARPA account with this year's expenditures to bring the balance to the next meeting.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 07/22. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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

11. The SB will now approve all driveway cuts, single family homes as well as subdivisions. MM to present them to the board as applications come in.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to exit Executive Session. Ron seconded. Discussion only. No decisions made.

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