

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

August 24, 2026

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Brian Dubie, Ron Bocash, Damian Branon, David Persons
Town Administrator/ Secretary Sub: Cathy Ainsworth
Town Clerk: Demetruis Bolduc
Road Foreman: Maurice Jettie
Visitors: NWATV

Meeting Called to order at 7:00pm

1. Agenda reviewed and approved with the addition of an executive session toward the end of the meeting, to discuss a personnel issue.
2. Maurice (Mo) reports Gerbode road culvert went in today and the project will continue with roadside seeding and gravel crowning of the road.
3. Brian praised the road crew's capabilities and teamwork, as he was in close proximity to the McKenzie road culvert replacement. He is proud of the crew's road construction results, which also save money for not having to bid out for these skills. Mo further acknowledged the teamwork with the Fire Department, with emergencies like the tree down on South road.
4. Selectboard members drove Hill road and talked to neighbors, after receiving a letter regarding its condition from a resident. They found that the roads are dry, compounded by the chloride shortage, but the road is not currently in bad condition for a dirt road. Cathy said the Town does improve the % of road required for the municipal roads general permit.
5. The Selectboard discussed the mower purchase. Tom said United Ag and Turf are holding the last mower for the Town, assuming the Selectboard will approve the purchase. David said he doesn't think the mower should be a priority and others said it should be replaced and will get more expensive each year that it's not. The selectboard reviewed funding options. Brian and Cathy made suggestions on how to fund the purchase. The Selectboard wants to hear the treasurer's recommendation for how to access previous years' fund balance and how much should remain before including the funding plan in a motion.

Ron made a motion to approve the mower purchase from United Ag and Turf. Brian seconded. Motion carried 4-1.

6. Cathy reports that Lafayette is planning to look at the Chester Arthur road lights- no news back yet, the striping of North Rd. is delayed until tomorrow, due to rain, and the Sweet Hollow Road paving by SD Ireland will take place soon.
7. Cathy updated the Selectboard about the US's newly implemented 50% tariffs on Canadian goods- this will be applied to winter salt imports, which will affect Fairfield. Vermont saw a salt shortage last winter, which will run into this winter, and the chloride shortage is also linked to Canadian relations. The state roads' salt contracts were reported at 15% more expensive this year. Cathy is waiting to hear back from Cargill for Fairfield's contract rate. Last year Fairfield budgeted \$60K but had to spend \$81K, this year is budgeted at \$70K.
8. Demetrius reports that the election requirements were achieved on time and it was a good experience, with a good team of volunteers. He will be on a call with the Secretary of State's

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office about possible updates to the next election, verifying citizenship on voter rolls, etc. He talked with the Selectboard about how the Board of Civil Authority can challenge names on the voter register, if someone shouldn't receive a ballot.

9. The Clerk's office is preparing to send tax bills next week. Demetrius said there was a correction to a veteran exemption status that was not synched with the town system previously. The Selectboard signed approval of this change.
10. David challenged that the \$17K invoice from AM Peisch should be paid after the audit comes, noting that last year the Selectboard paid and then waited for months afterward.

David made a motion to approve the Warrants with the exception of the AM Peisch invoice pending delivery of the final audit. Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ron made a motion to approve the minutes of 08/10/2026. Brian seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

11. Cathy reports that she is working on grant and projects reporting.
12. Selectboard members looked into the Fairfield Pond Beach concerns that were discussed at the last meeting. Brian thanked Cathy for providing beach ordinance examples. The Selectboard decided to table the ordinance discussion, as it is toward the end of the season and the immediate issues have resolved.
13. Cathy reports that she met with Shaun Coleman to review the Hazard Mitigation plan draft to date and he provided feedback on sections 1-5. They will discuss section 6 and attachments at a later date. Most feedback was in section 5, to make it more Fairfield-specific. He provided sites to find data and information. The Selectboard discussed the timeline of getting everything to FEMA.

Brian made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. David seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Brian made a motion to exit executive session. Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Executive session was discussion only. No action required.

Ron made a motion to adjourn. David seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.