

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of the Town of Fairfield, Vermont**

The inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield met at Veterans' Hall in the Village of Fairfield Center, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of March 2026. Brian Dubie called the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance was said. Brian Dubie asked for a round of applause for Bridget Howrigan Rivet to thank her for her years of service as Moderator.

1. **MODERATOR:** Vanessa Kittell was nominated by Brian Dubie and seconded by Jessica Gaudette. Nominations ceased. The Clerk was to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell.
2. **TO RECEIVE THE VARIOUS REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TOWN AS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT TOWN REPORT:** Motion made by Mary Schreindorfer and seconded by Dan Pipes. Brian Dubie spoke on behalf of the Selectboard. He thanked Gavin Ryan for his years of service on the Selectboard. He acknowledged the hard work of the Town's Road Crew as well as the staff of the Town Offices and Planning and Zoning. Brian went over the paving, ditching, and culvert projects completed in 2025. He went over the projects on the schedule for 2026. Motion carried.
3. **SHALL THE VOTERS AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO APPOINT A TOWN CLERK IN ACCORDANCE WITH 17 V.S.A. § 2651e:** Motion was made by Melissa Manson and seconded by Patricia Branon. David Persons explained the differences between an elected Town Clerk and an appointed one. Concerns were raised regarding whether the change would mean that the townspeople would be relinquishing control over who would be selected for the position.

Susan Magnan made a motion to amend the article to include: "With a Search Committee to include Townspeople as well as Selectboard members." The amendment was seconded by Julia Callan. A friendly amendment was suggested by Bill Roberts: "... with the number of Townspeople, (X), to be one less than the number of Selectboard members (Y) on the Search Committee (X=Y-1). Susan Magnan and Julia Callan approved the friendly amendment to their amendment. The amendment to the article passed by voice vote.

The moderator read the amended article "SHALL THE VOTERS AUTORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO APPOINT A TOWN CLERK IN ACCORDANCE WITH 17 V.S.A § 2651e, WITH A SEARCH COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE TOWNSPEOPLE AS WELL AS SELECTBOARD MEMBERS, WITH THE NUMBER OF TOWNSPEOPLE, (X), TO BE ONE LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF SELECTBOARD MEMBERS (Y) ON THE SEARCH COMMITTEE (X=Y-1). The amended article passed by voice vote.

4. **TO ELECT FROM THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID TOWN THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:**
 - a. **ONE TOWN CLERK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS BY BALLOT:** not needed due to passage of article 3.
 - b. **ONE TOWN TREASURER FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS:** Amanda Forbes was nominated by Brian Dubie and seconded by Paula Boomhower. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Amanda Forbes.
 - c. **ONE SELECTPERSON FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS BY BALLOT:** David Persons was nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Ron Bocash. Martha Manning

was nominated by Cathy Branon and seconded by Paula Boomhower. Nominations ceased. David Persons was elected by paper ballot 65 to 36 over Martha Manning.

d. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS BY BALLOT: Martha Manning was nominated by Damien Boomhower and seconded by John Bouchard. Damian Branon was nominated by Melissa Manson and seconded by Rusty Branon. Nominations ceased. Damian Branon was elected by paper ballot 53 to 49 over Martha Manning.

e. ONE AUDITOR FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS BY BALLOT: Jeanne Persons was nominated by Mary Schreindorfer and seconded by Linda Hodet. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Jeanne Persons.

f. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS: Geoffrey Pac was nominated by Sorel Chaput and seconded by Susan Magnan. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Geoffrey Pac.

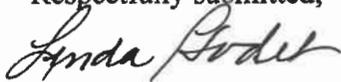
g. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS: Sorel Chaput was nominated by Mary Alice Elbaum and seconded by Sylvia Lazarnick. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Sorel Chaput.

h. A FIRST CONSTABLE FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR: James Consentino was nominated by Damien Boomhower and seconded by Paula Boomhower, Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for James Consentino.

5. SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER: Motion made by Chuck Verderber and seconded by Jeanne Hopkins. Motion passed by voice vote.
6. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE THE 2026 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES OF \$1,910,615 OF WHICH \$1,250,565 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$660,050 BY NON-TAX REVENUES: Motion made by Larry Steeneck and seconded by Damien Boomhower. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. SHALL THE VOTERS 2026 EXPENDITURES OF \$218,982 FOR THE BENT NORTHROP MEMORIAL LIBRARY, \$140,000 OF WHICH SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$78,982 BY NON-TAX REVENUES: Motion made by Phil Higgins and seconded by Kristen Runyon-Hughes. Motion to suspend the rules in order for Sarah Allerton to speak about the library was made by Charon True and seconded by Melissa Manson. Sarah reports that the library usage is up 10% again this year. There are many well attended programs offered including a weekly story hour, afterschool programs, lectures, clubs and classes. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE \$120,000 FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, SAID APPROPRIATION ONLY TO BE PAID ON THE CONDITION THAT THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN, BY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026, A COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT BALANCE SHEET AND BANK STATEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE TOWN AUDITORS: Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Sarah Toof. Motion carried by voice vote.
9. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE \$18,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION: Motion made by Jeanne Hopkins and seconded by Susan Magnan. Paula Boomhower spoke on behalf of the Community Center. On Tuesday's it's a Senior meal site as well as a food shelf. It houses the MRUSD Preschool. There are vacation schools and after school programs. Rental space is available for events. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. SHALL THE TOWN EXEMPT FROM TAXATION REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE MEETING HOUSE ON THE GREEN FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 32 V.S.A. § 3840: Motion made by Brian Jerose and seconded by Paula Boomhower. Discussion included a question regarding the amount of taxes that would be lost for 10 years. It has always been a tax-exempt property so that info is not available. The property is now privately owned by not-for-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS. Motion carried by voice vote.
11. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3,971 FOR THE VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION: Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Linda Hodet. Motion carried by voice vote.
12. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3,000 FOR THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Motion made by Charles Mudgett and seconded by Damien Boomhower. The outdoor classroom activities were explained. Motion passed by voice vote.
13. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE A DONATION OF \$600 FOR CAT CRUSADERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY INC: Motion made by Ethan Kramer and seconded by Linda Hodet. Services provided by Cat Crusaders was explained. Motion passed by voice vote.
14. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER NON-BINDING BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING: Mary Schriendorfer spoke on behalf of the Common School Working Group. Brian Dubie stated that the Select Board had drafted a letter to the legislative delegation regarding proposed Act 181 and the impact upon properties in the Town of Fairfield.
15. TO ADJOURN: Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Chuck Verderber.

Respectfully submitted,

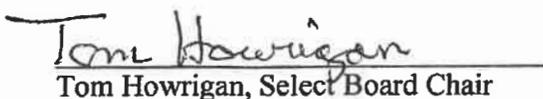


Linda Hodet, Clerk

To the best of my recollection, I attest that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the events of Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2026.



Vanessa Kittell, Moderator



Tom Howrigan, Select Board Chair