

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

September 14, 2026

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

Meeting Called to order at 7:00pm

1. Agenda reviewed amended to move the executive session for personnel moved earlier in the meeting so Moe can be there and move the Health Officer/Zoning update into an executive session to discuss a public safety issue.

Tom made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. David seconded. All in favor.

2. Craig Lumbra appeared to request the Selectboard add the East Fairfield Lamoille Valley Rail Trail “pause place” to the Town’s mowing contract. He says the State only weedwacks it about 3 times per season. Craig started mowing, because he says it needs more than the state provides, although he has since found that they do not want him to be maintaining it. He would like the Town to reconsider entering a lease agreement with the State, which would allow them to contract a service to keep it mowed. The Selectboard says that previous discussions about this location were complicated and the Selectboard had wanted to avoid new expenses imposed on the Town by the state. Craig detailed the state’s work on the site since then- demo and removal of grain building, landscaping of the area, installation of benches and historical landmarks signs. The Selectboard says they will look into the state’s offer of a “zero fee lease” and determine specific conditions, including liability, ensuring it would be only mowing that they would be obligated to (not buildings, signs, benches, etc. upkeep) and any other pertinent information to inform further discussion on the issue.
3. Moe says all the trucks are being inspected at Vaillancourts. They got a new load of chloride and it’s holding up well. Mower purchase to be finalized tonight. Price came down \$10K.
4. Cathy says the salt bid from Cargill is up 7% over last year. \$103.50/ton increased to \$111.25/ton. No other options for different companies at this point in the year. Some discussion that there is a new company selling salt and looking for customers. Maybe Ormond Bushey. Selectboard authorizes Cathy to sign and return the agreement to Cargill.
5. Cathy reports that the Town Treasurer, Amanda, recommends spending the full cost of the Mower from the summer equipment budget line. She reminds the Selectboard that they will need to fully expend this year’s operating budget in order to access the previous year’s surplus if they want to spend surplus money on this purchase. The mower invoice is included in the AP warrant.

Ron made a motion to pay the full amount of the mower purchase from summer equipment budget line. Damian seconded. All in favor.

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

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David made a motion to exit executive session. Ron seconded. All in favor. Discussion only.

6. Brian says the Gerbode road project looks great!
7. Demetrius says taxes have started coming in. They are due November 6th. State will start mailing ballots to all active, registered voters starting September 21. All ballots mailed within 10 days of September 21 for the November 3rd election. Our ballot does include the Justice of the Peace election as requested by the Town.
8. Demetrius presents 2 liquor license applications, 9/26 for the Community Center and 10/10 for the Brick Store. He says they seem administratively complete for the Selectboard's consideration.

Tom made a motion to approve. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Ron made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/24. Damian seconded. All in favor.

9. Cathy reports \$50K returned to the Capital Fund CD. Septic for Chesters and the Town Office pumped and mound jetted. Generator has been fixed. She asks if the Selectboard has any priorities for spending the Municipal Office Building's Capital improvement budget and suggests power washing the outside, replacing the Town Administrators carpet, or sealing the parking lot. They discussed whether this budget line is for maintenance or building improvements and suggested Cathy get estimates for what she thinks should be done.
10. Cathy reports no new work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan during her vacation time, but she still plans to get it out the door before budget season.
11. Cathy provides the contract agreement for the audit services with Peisch to the Selectboard and reports that Amanda recommends paying what has been done to date on the invoice they have submitted to the Selectboard. Chris (Peisch) told Cathy that the trial balance will come on Wednesday. The selectboard discussed contracted work completed by Peisch versus concerns with paying full invoice prior to delivery of the final audit.

Ron made a motion to pay for what is due to Peisch. Tom seconded. Tom, Brian, Ron and Damian in favor. David abstained. Motion carried.

12. Brian thanks the Treasurer for her input and the Town Administrator for her work.

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

Ron made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a health officer/zoning update. Damian seconded. All in favor.

David made a motion to exit executive session. Ron seconded. All in favor. Discussion only.

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