

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

April 14, 2025

In Attendance: Gavin Ryan, Ron Bocash and Brian Dubie

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Greta Brunswick, Julie Wolcott, Jeanne Hopkins, Bill Roberts NWATV

1. Common School Planning Group came to update the SB. Greta gave an update on grants. Village Trust Initiative was not awarded to us. Very competitive first round. Will need the Community Center to be in charge of the building in collaboration with the Town in order to be in better standing for the next round. Not an issue as can be a lease similar to the Community Center. Municipal Planning Grant was applied for, thanks to Cathy for helping. This would pay for renewing the ADA structural designs from 2019, with energy efficiency and current cost estimates, community engagement and a more comprehensive wastewater study. Should know about it soon. The planning group would like to begin planning a capital campaign for renovation expenses. Outside of the box ideas were brainstormed at a recent meeting, someone even suggesting constructing housing on the green. Gavin says that is the Town Common and would not be simple to convert it's use. The committee needs more participation. MPG will have space for outreach.
2. Maurice reports that chloride price is up to \$1.20 from \$1.18 last year. Go ahead given to order.
3. Brian received a thank you from the Library and Friends of the library to Moe and his crew for fixing the flagpole. They did a great job.
4. Freightliner went to Viking on Tuesday to have it's parts attached. The 2020 truck went in last week to have the computer issue fixed. All good now.
5. Discussion followed about blacktop. \$155K in the budget. There are 1.5 miles left to pave on Chester Arthur. Cathy will get bid docs in order. From each bidder, request what could be done for \$155K and what the entire 1.5 miles would cost. Should consider increasing the budget to \$200K
6. Brian asked Joe Flynn, Secretary of Transportation, to come look at bridge 51. Cathy notes that the VT transportation bill includes a sizeable reduction in funding for structures.
7. Moe only received grader quotes from John Deere so far. Trade in on ours offered at \$87.5K. John Deere 672 quoted at \$290.5K. John Deere 772 quoted at \$316.5K
8. North Road culvert engineering quote \$22K plus any extra hours for Tyler at \$125/hr.

Brian made a motion to accept. Ron seconded. All in favor.

9. Class 2 Road Grant submitted for the Chester Arthur Bridge hydrological study. Paradee bridge engineering cost \$354K. Tyler says we should expect the same for Chester Arthur. This

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Class 2 grant is only for hydraulic, not full engineering, so less than \$15k. Next year, may want to apply for a full class 2 grant at \$200K. Better Roads for McKenzie Road announcement should be coming as soon as the VT roads budget is passed.

10. Cathy says the capital fund has \$249K. Should she transfer \$17,259.35 from there for the match on the Paradee Bridge engineering?

Brian made a motion to transfer \$17,259.35 from the capital fund to pay for the match. Ron seconded. All in favor.

11. Letter of intent for our participation in FY26 Grants-In-Aid program for improving hydrologically connected road segments, \$32.5K. Gavin signed.
12. Linda says thank you to the town road crew for all their help moving furniture for the Town Clerk office floor replacement.
13. Linda asks about Green Up trash. Do we want bags dropped at the town garage? Yes, but we know that some people won't do that so road crew will cruise the roads also. Green Up day is not until May 3rd. No bags given out yet.
14. Linda needs to know who the tree wardens are? All of the SB as in previous years.
15. Linda advises that all the liquor licenses are online now so they will no longer be printed for signature. She will ask the Selectboard for approval if anyone other than Stones, Fairfield Market and West End ask for permits.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/24. Ron seconded. All in favor.

16. Cathy updated the discussion on CDs. She would like to review upcoming rates/renewals at the second meeting of each month.
17. Cathy reviewed year-to-date revenues and expenses. First quarter revenues are up some compared to last year first quarter, due to delinquent tax collections, and expenses are down, due to last year's increased construction expenses for weather-related damage. We are on track.
18. FEMA has completed the draft flood plain map update for Franklin County. Cathy has a very small window of time to review changes and comment. Working on computer issues on their end to grant her access. The SB would like to see the before and after maps, at a special meeting, to provide feedback. Brian would like a public meeting so anyone affected will know in advance.
19. Cathy says we still need a representative for Northwest Solid Waste. Publicize again.
20. Weight permits signed.

Brian made a motion to approve the revised purchasing policy. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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

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Brian made a motion to approve the updated Traffic Ordinance, to include a yield sign at Lapland Rd. (TH50) and Boot Hill/ Mill St. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to enter (and then exit) executive session to discuss a real estate issue. Ron seconded. All in favor. Discussion only. No action.

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