

**Town of Fairfield
Select Board Minutes
September 26, 2011**

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, Gene Archambault and Greg Christie

Visitors: Albert Tetreault, Julie Wolcott, and Tim Corey

Town Administrator: Amanda Forbes Secretary: Melissa Manson

1. Tom opened the meeting at 7:30pm.
2. Julie and Albert came on behalf of the Library Trustees to discuss long-term budget planning. "Is the Town interested in purchasing the land at some point down the road?" Gavin expressed personal concern regarding the expense and placement of the building. "Will the Town do the snowplowing?" "What will the Town government contribute to the library annual expense?" Julie shared a comparative look at what other towns contribute to their libraries. Discussion followed regarding expenses, expenditures on the building, budget versus actual expenditure, and the library endowment. The library has added just about one person everyday since the library has been opened...nearing about 140. While the total registered patron count is a 1054 (54% of our population) it is important to remember that though we focus on serving Fairfield, we are also attracting patrons from Sheldon, Fletcher, Bakersfield, and Fairfax. Libraries know no political boundaries.
3. Tom said he thinks the Town can handle the snowplowing. Everyone was in agreement.
4. Julie discussed the planned High Tunnel behind the fire station. The land had been prepared but suffered some "Irene" washout. They need some topsoil and would like the Town trucks to move, dump, and spread. Albert said he would donate the topsoil, but that it may be difficult to get, as the land is wet. He suggested asking Lawrence Howrigan for some gravel, as the access to that is still dry. Town will give a few hours of trucks and staff, but it needs to be soon as the bridge job will take all of their time next week. Suggestion was made to lay gravel underneath for support and drainage and then add 6" of topsoil. Julie will check with Lawrence and then check in with Amanda/Rodney for town help.
5. Gavin made a motion to approve the minutes of Sept. 12. Greg seconded. Amended to include Gavin in attendance. Approved as amended.
6. Gavin made a motion to approve the minutes of Sept. 19th. Greg seconded. All in favor.
7. Tim Corey was invited to talk about the fire station. What does the fire department think about a new building? They haven't really discussed it as they have 30 more years on the lease at the current building. The trucks are parked in a way that takes time to get them out... not ideal for a fire station. The conditions of the building are not adequate for meetings or trainings. The roof leaks. The School would like to see them gone so they can make use of the building themselves. When the Town Garage was designed, Duggan drew plans for a 6-bay fire station with kitchen and office. The driveway access has been paved for trucks to exit onto Rt. 36. Tim said the Fire Department would be thrilled at the prospect of a new fire station. Discussion followed about how the Town had built and paid for a new town office and a town garage in the last 10 years. The final

- payment on the garage is due this fall. We should continue to set this capital fund aside and plan for a new fire station.
8. Amanda spoke with VLCT about the intersection of Pond and Sheldon Woods. They said that if we do it our own way, we should support it with a traffic study. Melissa will contact NWRPC and see if they can do this.
 9. The Stratton Road hydraulic study has been received. Questions about zoning permits have been forwarded to Melissa. She will discuss at next week's zoning meeting and communicate with Jim Allen.
 10. There is a Sidewalk meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7pm and another one on October 5th.
 11. Amanda said the school wants to know about plowing. They also want to know if there is an agreement about mowing the green. Can they trade mowing for plowing? The original agreement was that the school could use the green as long as they maintain it. We will not plow for free. They are welcome to contract out with someone other than the Town if they wish. If they no longer want to mow the green, we will offer its use to town residents to pasture or tether livestock.
 12. Review of town plan for signage replacement. MM to make a proposal for approval. Continue to replace signs as stolen. Continue to publicize the cost of replacement. So far, the letter has been sent to Front Porch Forum, town website and as a letter to the editor in the Messenger. MM to do letter home from school.
 13. Discussion regarding repair/replacement of trucks.
 14. MM was asked to do a letter to Ben Williams returning his check for \$90. The agreement was that he could hay the meadow as long as he brush-hogged or contracted to have it done.
 15. Gene made a motion to approve warrants. Gavin seconded. All in favor.
 16. Gene made a motion to approve warrants. Gavin seconded. All in favor.

These minutes exist in draft form until approved by the Select Board.

AMENDMENTS: Gavin Ryan was in attendance