

# **Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes**

March 13, 2023

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, David Persons, and Brian Dubie

Road Foreman: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: NWATV, David Howrigan, Tyler Billingsley, Diane Bell, Dennis Hendy, Shila Boomhower, Torrey Crossman, Dawn Menard, Albert Menard, Greg Pierce, Jason Day

1. Linda administered the oath to the newly elected Selectboard members.

**David made a motion to keep all board positions the same as previous. Brian seconded. All in favor.**

2. Moe says they are getting the grader ready for spring. No quote from Hayes.
3. Cathy reviewed the Structures grant and the in-kind match. Chester Arthur Rd really needs paving. Structures and Class 2 roads grants is due April 15.
4. Tyler Billingsley, East Engineering reviewed the North Road project including permitting and the technical process. The process will need to overlap in places so the grant doesn't run out. Goal is to go out to bid in April, if not sooner.
5. Cathy said we have received the last two reimbursements from VTRANS \$76K
6. Cathy shared that VTRANS extended great complements to the road crew on the work they did on Lapland Rd.
7. Jason Day and David Howrigan appeared to discuss the proposed Howrigan Wind Project. David presented some questions and advised that they got a 6-month extension with the PUC. He reviewed his concerns and requested that they be able to make a concise presentation at the next meeting. They would like to move forward in harmony with the Town before going to the PUC. Jason Day reviewed the process. David Persons said there needs to be a change in the project to get a change in response. Cathy reviewed what the town attorney did to make the opinion. David H. will supply additional questions prior to the next meeting. Dennis Hendy asks if a wind study has been done? Can the project be moved to reduce the visual impact?

**Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter with Shila Boomhower. Gavin seconded. All in favor. Brian made a motion to exit Executive Session. David seconded. All in favor. No action taken.**

**Brian made a motion to approve the minutes. David seconded. All in favor.**

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

8. Torrey Crossman, Albert Menard and Dawn Menard appeared to address issues they have with the Town Zoning Regulations and more specifically the proposed PUD on Church Road. Torrey says the proposed PUD shows the regs are lacking in the rules for AG district. He is concerned that this project may set an unintended precedent. He is concerned that that there is no site visit requirement. Says there is

**These minutes exist in draft form until approved by the Selectboard.**

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an issue with deeded public access acreage and is concerned that there is no benefit to the town because the conserved land is a wetland. Torrey would like a special meeting on this issue. Albert highlighted the typographical error in the regulations where a reference is made to 7.8 and it should be 7.9. SB thanks them for their input.

9. Steven True appeared via Zoom to review the proposed 3-month benchmarks for the grant writer position. Brian would like to add the Common School. Cathy coordinated with Steven to create the benchmarks. Steven will appear at every other SB meeting.
10. Cathy gave an update on insurance update. VLCT advised us to check to see if there is a penalty clause if we go less than 6 months. This will need to be considered in a price discussion. No quotes from VLCT yet.
11. Preliminary audit numbers received. ARPA numbers to be finalized 4/01.
12. Digital copies for Zoning have been requested by some people. Zoning administrator suggested in writing that she be able to provide digital documents when requested. Cathy says some towns do and some don't. Estimated that it would add about 2 hours per week to ZA job to include on the website even though it can handle the additional information. No action. Ask Melanie to come to a meeting to discuss.
13. Melissa updated the SB on the PUD application and asked for permission to get help from NRPC on the application.
14. Bridge 51 and Common School discussions tabled to next meeting.

**David made a motion to approve up to 20 hours of assistance from NRPC for Planning and Zoning. Gavin seconded. All in favor.**

**Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss an attorney/client issue Gavin seconded. All in favor. Brian made a motion to exit Executive Session. David seconded. All in favor. No action taken.**

**Gavin made a motion to adjourn. Brian seconded. All in favor.**