

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

January 9, 2023

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, Ronald Bocash and Brian Dubie

Road Foreman: absent

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa

Visitors: NWATV, Joe McLean, esq., Sean Kio, Mary Kay Raymond, Tyler Magnan, Sarah Lunn, Brian Jerose

Gavin moved that the Selectboard make the specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Gavin made a motion to enter Executive Session for confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Selectboard, to include the Town Administrator. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Gavin made a motion to exit executive session. Ron seconded. All in favor.
Upon exit, information only. No decisions made.

Gavin moved that the Selectboard make the specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Gavin made a motion to enter Executive Session to negotiate real estate purchase or lease options, to include Sean Kio and Mary Kay Raymond from Northwest Fiberworx (Northwest Communications Union District). Brian seconded, to include the Town Administrator. All in favor.

Gavin made a motion to exit executive session. Ron seconded. All in favor.
Upon exit, information only. No decisions made.

Agenda change: Treasurer departed, reschedule discussion for next meeting.

1. Tyler Magnan discussed this spring's Sap Run during Maple Fest, with the Selectboard. Tyler would like the run to begin in Fairfield on Church Road. Course to include Church Rd, Barry Rd and French Hill. Start line by St. Patricks. They need a building with a bathroom for morning registration. Selectboard suggested the back parking lot at the Town Clerk's office. Participants would get bussed from St. Albans, so parking would be minimal. There would be 60-100 runners. Maybe look into porta-potties, but not at Town expense. We are good with the plan. Keep us posted.
2. Sarah Lunn and Brian Jerose came to talk about the Missisquoi River Basin Association and their watershed programs. Brian talked about the many tree

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plantings he participated in throughout our town. They asked if we have any storm water related projects that they could consider finding grant money to support. Their website is <https://www.mrbavt.com/>

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss employee agreements, labor, and to include Linda Hodet. Gavin Seconded. All in favor.
Upon exit, information only. No decisions made.

3. The Animal Control Officer is resigning. Clerk will call the SB to handle any animal calls. David Persons is the designated respondent.
4. NW Solid Waste has a bond vote coming up that they would like included in our town meeting warning.
5. Maple Run okayed the use of Fairfield School for Town Meeting.
6. Linda asks why the Water District land isn't taxed? Does it need to go on the warning as a tax-exempt property, same for the Church?
7. Budget discussion followed re how to balance the increases and whether to use ARPA funds to offset increase to the voters.

Brian made a motion to accept the budget increase which includes a 5.9% COLA and uses \$33K from ARPA to offset expenses increases due to inflation, keeping the tax increase at 5.9%. Ron Seconded. All in favor.

8. Cathy has a question from an employee regarding the use of comp time. Two ways of reading the current employee policy contradicts one another. Send pages of the policy to the SB for their review. Cathy has a proposal to correct. Table to the next meeting
9. Cathy has reviewed all the costs associated with the plowing of the school for Maple Run. Suggested annual rate including all administrative, equipment and employee costs is \$16K. Present to Maple Run.
10. Cathy presented a proposed change to Fairfield's Controls for Financial Management, to include online payments. Selectboard signed new version which includes this along with change made in previous meeting.
11. Molly Huff wants to have a key to do yoga in the Chet Arthur Room. Ok- keep track of this and update her room reservation form.
12. Library budget submitted, not to include any expected funds from Friends. This budget constitutes an 11.4% increase in property tax revenue from voters.
13. Treasurer's Report discussion. Ask the Treasurer to come to the 1/23/23 meeting.

Brian moved to approve the minutes from 12/12. Gavin seconded. All in favor.

Brian moved to approve the minutes from 12/20. Gavin seconded. All in favor.

Brian moved to approve the warrants. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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

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