

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

March 10, 2025

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Ron Bocash, Brian Dubie, David Persons

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Susan Casavant Magnan, Geoffrey Pac BNML, NWATV

Brian made a motion to appoint Tom Howrigan as Chair, Gavin Ryan as Vice-Chair and David Persons as Clerk of the Selectboard. Ron Seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to amend the agenda to include review of Town properties for sale. Ron seconded. All in favor.

1. For all future meetings, in order to avoid needing a motion to change the agenda, any additions to the agenda should be given to MM on Thursday prior.
2. Susan Casavant Magnan came on behalf of BNML Trustees to ask the SB to appoint Geoffrey Pac to the remainder of Peter Burns (resigned) term.

Brian made a motion to appoint Geoffrey Pac to the remainder of the vacant library trustee board term expiring in 2026. Ron seconded. All in favor.

3. Maurice Jettie reported on roads. Tim Bovat, John Deere salesperson looked at the Town's grader to provide an estimate on a trade/new one. Moe will look for a second quote. The Road Crew is working on firming up the soft spots as the thaw happens. Nothing will happen with the furnace installation until after sugaring.
4. Cathy reported that the District 8 Manager and Tyler Billingsley meeting needs to be in the daytime and offered possible dates/ times. Special meeting will be called Wednesday, March 12 at 10am.
5. Tom signed overweight permits.
6. Signs have been ordered for the parking lots to reflect the new traffic ordinance. No overnight parking during a snow event and No parking for more than 3 consecutive days. This addition to the ordinance is still in the required waiting period.
7. Linda brought the final Grand List and the minutes from Town Meeting for signatures- documents signed.
8. Linda shared Jaimie Tibbets resignation as the Town of Fairfield's Northwest Solid Waste District Board of Supervisors appointment. Cathy to get information and advertise the vacancy.
9. Linda got two quotes on flooring for the office. Newton \$9027. Sticks & Stuff \$12,016.62. Linda says these quotes do not include any moving of furniture and asked Moe if they have any time to help. Linda would like to go ahead with Newton. Ok.

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10. Tim Hawkins advised Linda that he will no longer be doing tax sales and he recommends Vaughn Comeau. Linda reviewed how tax sales work.
11. The second May meeting falls on Memorial Day and Cathy proposed it be changed to Tuesday, May 28. Ok. Cathy will be on vacation May 16-27.
12. Cathy is requesting an estimate from Tyler Billingsley for engineering of a North Road culvert.
13. Tim Smith FCIDC requested to be on the agenda for the next meeting.
14. Cathy presented Amanda's recommendation regarding CDs, to lock into higher monthly interest rates. Cathy also suggested that the Financial Controls document be updated to clarify the rates review process. The SB and Cathy agree this should be in her tasks. There are 10 CDs and the SB would like it done once a month, when the statements are received, and she should present updates/suggestions to the Selectboard.

Brian made a motion to move our checking, current sweep and all CD accounts into IntraFi. Ron seconded. All in favor.

15. Cathy presented her purchasing policy research and draft language of possible changes. Brian said it was great research and should be tabled to the next meeting to give the SB time to review the proposal. Ron agreed. Tabled.
16. Discussion about getting a second engineering estimate for the North Road culvert. Ok to go ahead. Selectboard would like to include a clause in the purchasing policy that allows a preferred professional to be maintained as our engineer.
17. MM gave an update on the Environmental Court proceeding. With mediation no longer an option, due to some of the parties, it will proceed to trial.
18. Discussion regarding the sale of 4 town properties to include 169 Sherman St., landlocked parcel on North Rd, 277 Barrywilde Rd, 1175 Romar Rd. All sales will be duly warned. Brian and Ron recommend that they be sold by sealed bid with the right to refuse. Decision made to proceed as follows: There will be 60 days-notice of sale. Properties will be sold by sealed bid of not less than 51% of the appraised value. 45 days to close with a 10% non-refundable deposit due within 7 days of purchase. Sale funds will go into escrow until we have full legal authorization. Cathy to check in with Robert Karmin to see how best to advertise.
19. Overweight permits signed.
20. The Common School committee would like to apply for a municipal planning grant to assist with their work. Planning and Zoning Board was not opposed. SB not opposed. Cathy will assist with the writing of the grant.

Brian makes a motion to approve the warrants. David seconds. All in favor.

Brian makes a motion to adjourn. Ron seconds. All in favor.

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