

# **Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes**

November 12, 2024

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

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Eleanor Wirts, Lynda Ulrich, Alex Barkley

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

1. Eleanor Wirts, Fairfield Community Center, reports that they received the grant to add another bathroom, which will increase the number of kids they can have for summer camp. Eleanor came to update and to thank the Town for it's support!
2. Linda says that the quote for printing of the town report is \$1915 for 3 years. She gave her opinion on the issue of employee health care and asked that it stay the same.

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

3. Alex Barkley came to discuss the potential of his services as a contract grant writer. He doesn't have availability until the new year. He outlined what he has done and the SB shared their goals. He said his normal hourly rate is \$80/hour, but he may be able to negotiate based on Fairfield's needs. Further discussion after budget talks.
4. Cathy discussed the need for road reclassification on Menard Road. Cathy discussed state statute for road reclassification, which includes a site visit, notifying neighbors and having a public hearing. Cathy will look into scheduling a site visit prior to the budget meeting on December 16.
5. Maurice said he doesn't have quotes yet on furnace or lights, but they are coming this week. Tim Kane and Aaron Forbes to quote on lights. Larry Westcom to quote on furnace. Pressure washer should come this week. Brian comments that Shelburne Lime #2 black is holding really well. Cathy reports that a Better Roads grant from VTrans is open again and she and Maurice have discussed applying for the McKenzie Rd culvert.
6. Lynda Ulrich reported on the latest TAC meeting. She's feeling like she can't influence much. Seems that things are planned very far in advance. Let her know if there is anything specific, she should be pushing. Chester Arthur Bridge is the priority. Cathy also added that the Municipal roads' construction funding mechanism could be improved.
7. Cathy updated on the Hazard Mitigation Grant for the Chester Arthur bridge. We are in the preapplication process for the next round. Brian asked if we should schedule a meeting with legislators to discuss priorities, including municipal roads funding. Consensus was yes.

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

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**Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/23/24. Ron seconded. All in favor.**

**Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/28/24. Ron seconded. All in favor.**

8. Cathy briefed that the Library Trustees are discussing how to adhere to the Department of Labor's new exempt employee minimum salary requirements, for the Library Director position. The dialogue is whether to change to an hourly employee, even though the position meets the duties test, or increase the salary. Change to the DOL rule may take place, with the new federal administration.
9. Cathy gave a health insurance options comparison overview. Municipal insurance is projected to increase 21%. Discussion tabled for Executive Session.
10. Budget planning session needs to include information on Animal Control Officer, Facilities Manager, current expenditures versus budget and Capital Planning. Special Budget planning meeting to be scheduled for December 18 at 9am.

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

11. Regular Selectboard meetings will take place December 9 and 30 (instead of the 23rd). Invite legislators to the December 9 meeting. They can attend in person or via Zoom.

**Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Ron seconded. All in favor. Brian made a motion to exit. Ron seconded. All in favor. Discussion only.**

**David made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Brian seconded. All in favor. Discussion only.**