

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

August 26, 2024

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, David Persons and Brian Dubie

Roads: Absent

Town Clerk: Absent

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: NWATV.

1. Meeting opened at 7:22pm.
2. Brian spoke for the Fairfield Pond Association. At their last meeting, the Pond Association had a discussion about Eurasian Milfoil, which was last inventoried in 2019. Conducting a new inventory will prepare them for next steps for efforts that can deal with this invasive species, including grant writing. The selectboard had discussed the alignment of this with the Town Plan, in the previous meeting. The Pond association then requested a quote from Arrowhead Environmental that would comply with State requirements, which came in at \$6360. Will the TOF match or pay for the study, as it aligns with the Town Plan?
3. **David made a motion to do a 75%/25% share of the quoted cost of the study, using ARPA funds. Tom seconded.** MM suggested Brian considers whether to recuse himself from the vote as the President of the Pond Association. Brian said he doesn't feel there is a conflict of interest. **All in favor.**
4. ARPA funds remaining \$34,274 all of which must be spent by the end of February. We spent less on chloride from ARPA than was anticipated on the bridge bypass. "After" pictures of the Chet Arthur bridge to be taken this week.
5. Hazard Mitigation Grant to upsize the Chester Arthur bridge may qualify, but not in a prioritized category. Although we don't have a formal estimate on a project cost to do this project, St. Onge said that the Juaire bridge cost would be 25% increase from 2 years ago, which would be about a million dollars. The pre-application will be submitted this week
6. Paving is complete.
7. Cathy is working on updating the Capital Plan. We should start looking at software for tracking road crew and admin hours on projects, to help measure achievement of plan elements. Brian says this is a long-standing issue and suggests there are easy tools to help. Encourages Cathy to see what's available.
8. Dog Ordinance discussion. Key problem is enforcement. We need a job description and amount to fund the position. Great if we could team up with Sheldon or Bakersfield, if possible. Cathy to consolidate and simplify the surrounding town's ordinances and propose a draft to the Selectboard at the next meeting.
9. Brian saw the old town office and says it looks great. Town crew is working on the flagpole at the new town office.

Approved, as revised, by the Selectboard 09.09.2024.

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Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/12/24. Tom seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to approve the warrants. David Seconded. All in favor. David asked why the library warrants are now only for review. Cathy explained that the Library Trustees now sign their own warrants which is in line with state statute and within the parameters of an instrumentality of a municipality.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal issue. David seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to exit Executive Session. David seconded. Discussion only. No decisions made.

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