

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

May 28, 2024

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

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: Linda Hodet

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Albert Menard, Dawn Menard, Lynda Ulrich, Emily Biron, Dan Pipes, Shawn Cheney, Sarah Toof, Rusty Branon, Rob Young, Chris Lavalette, David Peterson, Artie St. Onge, Stephanie Barrett, Josh Paquette

1. Vermont AOT public meeting for pre-closure information on the bridge deck replacement that will take place over the summer. They presented the plan and answered questions. Weekly updates to be supplied by AOT and put on FPF. Slides of this presentation will be available at the Town's website www.fairfieldvermont.us.
2. Regular meeting began at 7pm
3. Public comment: Dan Pipes spoke about a proposed town ordinance and how an ordinance should never target a single person or a specific group of people. Dan is in support of an ordinance banning public nudity. Sarah Toof also spoke in support of this ordinance and supplied a copy of a sample from another Vermont town.
4. Overweight permits signed.
5. Town Clerk: No report
6. Road Foreman says they have started work on Ryan Rd to include ditching and gravel in preparation for local traffic detour during the bridge closure. The grader sprung a leak which is an issue for chloride prep. The new truck had a light on, which was a pressure switch and was repaired under warranty. F550 didn't sell as the bidder backed out. Hayes was a second option. Moe to check to see if they still want it for \$35,000.
7. Discussion on Chester Arthur bridge. What sort of prep do we want to do in anticipation of extra traffic. Cathy to check with District 8 to see if we can borrow flashing caution lights.
8. 2 cherry trees near the old town clerk's office need to come down. Lynda Ulrich and Dan Pipes both recommend Gabe Parent.
9. Rusty Branon asks if there is any money for law enforcement during the bridge project. The Selectboard confirmed that the town has communicated with law enforcement who will be able to help through their Click it or Ticket grant funded program.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of 05/13/2024 as amended. David seconded. Emily Biron states that #20 is incorrect as Daniel Seff is not the legal counsel of 837LLC. Minutes amended to remove all of item 20. Cathy ratified that the motion of item 19 is correct in saying that the purchase is from the Village of Swanton. **All in favor as amended.**

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Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

10. Cathy received only one bid for the old town clerk building windows and doors replacement from Tony Gregoire for \$12,737.

Brian made a motion to accept the Gregoire bid. Ron seconded. All in favor.

11. Administrative hours on Juaire bridge project from the previous town administrator presented and signed by the Selectboard to provide to FEMA.
12. Okay to sign the Amcare contract at 4% per year for 10 years as was voted on last meeting.
13. Cathy followed up about what funding was planned for the NRPC contract. ARPA funds had not been planned for the NRPC contract because the Selectboard passed a motion on 1/22/23 so that the expected FEMA reimbursement for Juaire bridge project administration was budgeted as general fund revenue and a portion of this revenue would be used to pay for the NRPC contract expense. There are still some ARPA funds available that the Selectboard will assign this year.
14. Nance from the Meeting House in East Fairfield requested the benches on the green be fixed. Selectboard requests Cathy to reach out to contractors and move forward with the project.
15. Cathy explains the VT Childcare Contribution Act, a new tax on businesses of 0.44% of gross wages, and asks the SB if employees should contribute. SB says the town should pay and then discuss negotiations during budget building for the next year.

Ron makes a motion that the Town cover the new tax until the next round of salary negotiation. Tom seconds. All in favor.

16. Cathy explains that the Town cannot close the 2023 books because Peisch has not yet provided adjusting journal entries as part of their audit contract. Although a final invoice has been sent to the town by Peisch, no journal entries or draft of the audit has been provided. Selectboard says to hold payment until movement on this work by Peisch.
17. Brian opens discussion on the proposed ordinance about public indecency. Brian received 5 calls/emails over the weekend from people asking for an ordinance governing public indecency. He contacted multiple town leaders and law enforcement and brought a marked up copy of an ordinance for the Selectboard to consider.

Brian made a motion to pass an ordinance on public indecency. Ron seconded.

Further discussion included:

- Shawn Cheney, Swanton resident and camp owner on the Pond. Shawn described Swanton's experience and suggested that without one, we were opening up the possibility of vigilante behavior in some situations.
- David would like to see it run by the Town Attorney prior to passing. Concerned about enforcement.
- Lynda Ulrich, Rusty Branon would like to see the Town get the ball rolling.

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Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

- Melissa clarifies that there are multiple steps included in passing an ordinance such as this including public notices and opportunity for public comment.

Vote called on the motion: Ron, Brian and Tom in favor. David abstained. Motion carries.

18. Brian says the Vermont State Police told him that Vermonters should get a “no stalking order” if they feel threatened. Dan says you can also get a “no trespass” order. Discussion followed on whether the town can get a no trespass order on the public beach.

David made a motion to approve the warrants with the exception of the Peisch check being held until the next meeting. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session for discussion concerning town property. David seconded. All in favor. On exit, no decisions. Discussion only.

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