

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

March 24, 2025

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

Roads: Maurice Jettie

Town Clerk: absent

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Tim Smith, Charles Tinker, NWATV

1. Tim Smith, Franklin County Industrial Development Corp came to update on closing of Perrigo, the Railroad Dispatch Center which accounts for almost 500 employee jobs lost. Last year, Kaytech closed in Richford because of inability to fill jobs. There are plenty of jobs available if people want to work. FCIDC is doing tours with high school students and the guidance counselors of Ben & Jerry, Barry Callebeault and Beta. Industrial tourism. Recent information shows 55% of teens are not college bound. Brian spoke about Beta and says he sees a lot of growth potential. Tim recommended VEDA as a possible infrastructure funding source for Bridge 51.
2. Charles Tinker says the culvert between the library and his home has failed and this has caused issues with his septic, his lawn and his barn. He had someone there working to do a diversion but someone from the town shut him down- not sure who did it. SB will investigate. Road crew will work on the culvert tomorrow.
3. Town Clerk forwards the Selectboard a request from Devin Lumbra, who is asking permission to hunt on the town property on Gerbode Rd. It is a public forest and is not restricted. Selectboard says, as a courtesy, he should let Gary Corey (who rents the land for tapping) know when he will be hunting.
4. Maurice says the Town Garage furnace has arrived but won't be installed until after sugaring. Moe also has some grader prices. Trade in value offered at \$87.5K Prices range from \$290K-\$378K which are pre-tariff prices. Tom will contact Beauregard Equipment for an estimate. Ron asks Moe to send a road crewman to the beach to rake up/ remove the windrow- now would be a good time.

Gavin made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Gavin made a motion to exit Executive Session. David seconded. All in favor. Discussion only.

David made a motion to approve the minutes from 03.10.2025. Ron seconded. All in favor.

David made a motion to approve the minutes from 03.12.2025. Ron seconded. All in favor.

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

5. Annual Financial Plan for Highways signed.

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

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6. Cathy has reached out for engineering bids on the North Rd. culvert. Response expected by next meeting.
7. Our Hazard Mitigation Plan expires this year and has to be redone to qualify for FEMA funding (pre or post emergency grant opportunities). Grants are available for the revision work, which includes community input, committee work and updated inventories. Gavin wonders about the future of FEMA. Hold off on working on this until the Zoning Bylaws revision process is complete. Put on June agenda.
8. Since 2018, FEMA has been updating Fairfield's Flood Hazard Maps, including an engineering analysis on several Fairfield rivers by the US Geological Survey. FEMA's Community Coordinator for this region invites the Selectboard and Town Administrator, etc. to a virtual meeting on April 8 at 9am to review the workshop.
9. Eleanor Wirts is resigning her position at the Community Center. Their lease is expiring at year end. David says copy/paste and change the dates. Give it to Julie Wolcott to get signed.
10. Cathy requests selectboard signatures for documents to go with the municipal planning grant application for the Common School Planning Group. The selectboard directed the group to work with Cathy on the grant at their previous meeting. Tom, Gavin, Ron, and Brian signed the Municipal Planning Grant Resolution and Melissa signed for Planning/Zoning. David questions whether the group has made progress that will show results. Ron has been attending meetings. Discussion followed on how to move forward- concern with the "heavy lift" that would be required by the Town to do anything to the building. Requests that the Committee come to the SB and tell the future plan for the sustainability of the building.
11. Purchasing Policy reviewed and numbers finalized for signature at the next meeting.
12. Property sales preparation reviewed. Still needs to be reviewed by the lawyer. Discussion about opening an account for the proceeds to address bridge corrections, to mitigate risk.
13. Weight permits signed.

Gavin makes a motion to adjourn. David seconds. All in favor.