

Town of Fairfield Select Board Minutes

November 28, 2016

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, Gene Archambault, and Norm Menard

Visitors: Jim Barlow, Maurice Jettie and Susan Magnan

Town Administrator: Amanda Forbes

Secretary: Melissa Manson

1. Jim Barlow an attorney, previously with VLCT and City of South Burlington working now independently for towns. Lots of municipal experience. Discussions re issues that towns typically face. Gavin made a motion to hire Jim Barlow to represent the Town of Fairfield. Tom seconded. All in favor.
2. Maurice said the new truck should be done in a couple of weeks. Make sure it says Town of Fairfield on it. Review of how the other vehicles are doing. No need to renew remote monitoring at \$135/yr. Issue with a couple of roadside mailboxes. Not a town issue. MM to advise Post Master.
3. Sue gave an update on the library and what's upcoming. Sarah is keeping up-to-date on professional development – recently attended a STEM for adults. Discussion followed re the status of the library as an entity. Opinions differ as to whether its status is as a municipal library. VLCT says no, if there was never a vote. Attorney Barlow said that if it has always been run that way, then it is a municipal library. Library wants the salaries paid by the town, not the library. Will be put to a vote at town meeting. If it passes, it was stated that library policies should be in line with the town and the town, not the library, should determine salaries. Amanda noted that by law, the library trustees are in control of salary.
4. Amanda says delinquent taxes are at \$142K. Health insurance increases 10% for BCBS, MVP up 8%. Opposite last year. Gavin made a motion to stay with BCBS. Gene seconded. All in favor.
5. Justice of the Peace – Republicans didn't put forth any nominations. There were two write-ins. Amanda is unsure of their political affiliation. Gene nominates James Cosentino and Jon Branon. Norm seconds. All in favor.
6. Amanda reviewed the contract proposed by the Town of Swanton to merge with them and St. Albans Town in the opposition to Swanton Wind. Jim Barlow to review. We may be an automatic party if we are within 49,900ft of the project. Swanton attorney to confirm. There will be a tri-board meeting on December 6th at 6pm in Swanton. We will spend up to \$10K and then re-evaluate. Amanda is authorized to sign the contract once Jim Barlow reviews it.
7. Grader payment is budgeted for 2016 but not due until 2017. Pay now and in January and then refinance.
8. Budget review meeting on December 12 at 6pm. This will be to review 2016 year to date. 2017 budget planning meeting Dec. 30 at 11am.
9. Gavin made a motion to approve the warrants and adjourn. Norm seconded. All in favor.

These minutes exist in draft form until approved by the Select Board.