

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Andrew Hufnagel, Dennis Pike, Joshua Bell and Jessica Berry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Police Chief Jack Peck, Police Officer applicant Derrick Doucette, Assessor Mark Caldwell, Channel 11, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Ryan Morgan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Discuss Options for Replacing the Assessor upon his Retirement

Richard Davis explained that a plan needs to be made for replacing Assessor Mark Caldwell, who has notified him that he will be retiring at the end of this year. The two options to be considered are hiring another full-time certified Assessor or contract for the service. Mr. Davis reviewed the survey he conducted of what other municipalities within Farmington's population range are doing. Assessor Mark Caldwell was present and contributed to the discussion, which included: the current salary and what the starting rate would be for a full-time assessor, what services a contractor would provide and which of those services the Town would require, inspections, and what the frequency and cost of a revaluation might be without an in-house assessor. Mr. Davis suggested that he and Mr. Caldwell compile a Request for Proposal (RFP) for contractors to submit estimates in order to help determine which option would be more economical for the Town. The Selectmen also asked Mr. Davis to provide them with the most current Maine Municipal Association salary survey for the Assessor position.

ITEM 3: To Award the bid for a new Police Cruiser

Richard Davis reviewed Chief Jack Peck's memo dated February 25, 2014 regarding the three bids received. Chief Peck explained that he is coming before the Board sooner than usual with this bid because he has learned that if he does not place an order for the 2014 model vehicle he would like to purchase before February 28th he will have to bid on a 2015, which will not even be available to order until August. With a potential 12-week delivery period and two to three months' vehicle preparation time, the vehicle would not be on the road until the beginning of 2015. He pointed out that the Department still hasn't received the Detective's truck that the Selectmen approved back in November, 2013. Chief Peck also pointed out that the 2014 Interceptor sedan is actually \$887.00 less expensive than the same vehicle purchased two years ago. He reported that the bid packet was sent to nine dealers but only three bids were received from two dealers, with Quirk

ITEM 3: To Award the bid for a new Police Cruiser (Cont.)

Ford being the lowest bid. Mr. Davis verified that Farmington Ford's bid does not meet the local business 5% preference cost comparison. Chief Peck reviewed his vehicle replacement schedule, particularly as it pertains to the transfer of each vehicle's equipment.

Dennis Pike moved to award the bid for a 2014 Ford Interceptor 4-door sedan Police cruiser to Quirk Ford for the amount of \$21,989; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Confirm the Employment of Derrick Doucette as a Farmington Police Officer

Richard Davis reviewed Chief Jack Peck's memo dated February 25, 2014. Derrick Doucette was present and further reviewed his background and reasons for applying for this employment position.

Dennis Pike moved to confirm the employment of Derrick Doucette as a Farmington Police Officer; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Chief Peck stated that between giving a two week notice and starting the FTO Program, it will be a while before Officer Doucette is actually on patrol duty.

ITEM 5: To Hear an Update on Planning for the Regional Fire Service Meeting

Richard Davis reported that the Bass Room at Franklin Memorial Hospital (FMH) has been reserved for this meeting on April 30th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. He also reported that Maine Municipal Association is going to send out a notification to all of the Franklin County municipal officers through their email messaging system, and Chief Bell has notified all of the Chiefs. Mr. Davis stated that the meeting is going to be facilitated by Bill Guindon, who is the Director of the Maine Fire Service Institute, and has experience with regional efforts in the fire service. The anticipated attendance is currently at 100, and RSVP's will be going directly to Chief Bell. Mr. Davis further stated that they would like to serve light refreshments and are currently checking on prices for catering by FMH or an FMH-approved outside caterer, ie. Aramark. With Chief Bell's offer for the Fire Department's Benevolent Association to pay for half of the cost of the refreshments, Mr. Davis asked the Selectmen if they would be willing to fund the remainder of the cost from their discretionary fund.

Ryan Morgan moved to fund up to \$250 for refreshments for the Regional Fire Service meeting from the Selectmen's discretionary fund; Jessica Berry seconded.

ITEM 5: To Hear an Update on Planning for the Regional Fire Service Meeting (Cont.)

Andrew Hufnagel asked if the Selectmen should totally fund the cost of the refreshments, since the Benevolent Association's funds come from fundraising rather than Town appropriation, but Mr. Davis stated that the offer came directly from Chief Bell.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Consider Purchasing an ad in the 51st Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Yearbook

Richard Davis explained that the Benevolent Association is soliciting ads from businesses for sponsorship of the yearbook for the convention. He asked the Selectmen if they would be interested in purchasing an ad for the Town since Farmington is hosting the convention this year. The Selectmen discussed the size and funding of an ad.

Andrew Hufnagel moved to purchase an inside front cover 7.5”X10” color ad in the 51st Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Yearbook for the amount of \$650, and funded from the Special Projects account; Ryan Morgan seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Accept the Resignation of Andrew Hufnagel from the Board of Selectmen

Richard Davis reported, with regret, that he is in receipt of Andrew Hufnagel's letter of resignation. Ryan Morgan stated that this letter is necessary in order to accomplish the nomination process for election of a Selectman to fill this seat at the June 10th primary election.

Dennis Pike moved, with regret, to accept the resignation of Andrew Hufnagel from the Board of Selectmen, effective March 26, 2014; Joshua Bell seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSTAINED 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Hufnagel)**

Ryan Morgan pointed out that it is crucial that all four Selectmen are available to sign the Warrants, etc. from March 26th to June 10th. He also reminded the Selectmen that there is a Warrant ready tonight to be signed.

ITEM 8: To Consider the Applications of Niki Haggan to serve on both the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee

Richard Davis reviewed both applications and what vacancies there are on each Committee.

ITEM 8: To Consider the Applications of Niki Haggan to serve on both the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee (Cont.)

Dennis Pike moved to appoint Niki Haggan to a 2014 Associate Member one-year term vacancy on the Conservation Commission, and to a 2015 three-year term vacancy on the Recreation Committee; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of January 28, February 5 and February 11, 2014

Dennis Pike moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2014, and table the minutes of February 5 and February 11, 2014 as they are not yet available; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

- A)** Richard Davis reported that Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell is now certified as a Chief Fire Officer, Level I, which demonstrates his commitment to training and public service. Mr. Davis stated that he has sent Chief Bell a letter of congratulations.
- B)** Richard Davis reported that the Franklin County Commissioners have set the date of March 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse for the Town caucus for the County Budget Committee. There is one vacancy in Farmington's District II. Ryan Morgan, Andrew Hufnagel, and Joshua Bell indicated that they will be present, with Ryan Morgan running again, and Joshua Bell running to fill Mr. Hufnagel's seat. Ryan Morgan asked Mr. Davis to notify the Commissioners of Mr. Hufnagel's resignation. He also encouraged all of the Selectmen to attend. Jessica Berry stated that she is unable to attend due to a meeting that has already been rescheduled twice.
- C)** Richard Davis reported that Darin Gilbert was named the Officer of the Year by the Farmington Police Department.
- D)** Dennis Pike reported as he has a list of street light outages. Linda Grant stated she was provided with a list by the Police Department recently and will compare lists with Mr. Pike before sending in an outage report to Central Maine Power Co.

