FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Andrew Buckland, Michael Fogg and Matthew Smith. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Treasurer Diana Young, Channel 11, and members of the press were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Joshua Bell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

To Consider a Request to use the Meetinghouse Park Gazebo for Musical Performances each Tuesday from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Beginning on June 7, 2016 and Continuing each Tuesday thereafter until the last Tuesday in August, 2016 (Jeff and Donna Wells, Sandy Waite-Haskell and Ric Haskell, and Linda Lee and Dona Whittemore)

Richard Davis stated that this is a perennial request, is the same format as in previous years and seems to be well received downtown.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve a request from Jeff and Donna Wells, Sandy Waite-Haskell and Ric Haskell, and Linda Lee and Dona Whittemore to use the Meetinghouse Park gazebo for musical performances each Tuesday from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. beginning on June 7, 2016 and continuing each Tuesday thereafter until the last Tuesday in August, 2016; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To Consider Delegating Authority for Authorizing Usage of Meetinghouse Park and the Gazebo therein to the Manager

Richard Davis explained that the Town receives a large number of requests, and since most of them are routine, he would like the Selectmen to delegate to him the authority to approve reservations, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Director. He assured the Selectmen that anything controversial will be brought before the Board. The types of prior reservations and the scheduling of them were discussed.

Stephan Bunker moved to delegate the authority for authorizing usage of Meetinghouse Park and the gazebo therein to the Town Manager; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Discuss Options for the Disposal of Tax-Acquired Property

Richard Davis reported that there are 43 properties that have been foreclosed on with a total in back taxes and costs of \$146,872.10. Mr. Davis stated that legal action must be taken before these properties can be put up for public sale or further payment arrangements can be made. Mr. Davis reviewed a spreadsheet and excerpts provided to them by Treasurer Diana Young. Ms. Young was present and explained the process that led to the foreclosure on these properties. Ms. Young recommended that she send a letter to the owners of the first 23 properties on the list because they are making an attempt, and have the Selectmen review them again in 2-3 months. She also recommended that a different letter be sent to the owners of those properties listed as 24-43. Hardship was discussed in regard to those properties that are primary residences. Mr. Davis pointed out that there is always the option of any of these owners to apply for a poverty abatement.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize the Treasurer to communicate with the parties listed with two variations of wording, depending on their status; Matthew Smith seconded.

Joshua Bell asked the Treasurer to provide the annual tax amount if she returns to the Selectmen about any of these accounts.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To Execute seven (7) Declarations of Action to be Brought in the Name of the Municipality

Richard Davis explained that this Item pertains to personal property taxes and reviewed his memo dated October 9, 2015.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize the Tax Collector, through the Town Attorney, to proceed to small claims court to collect delinquent personal property taxes owed by seven (7) businesses; Matthew Smith seconded.

There was further discussion regarding what happens if the small claims court collection attempt is unsuccessful.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the seven (7) Declarations of Action.

ITEM 6: To Accept a Donation of \$1,000 from the Napoli Group (McDonald's) for the Parks and Recreation Department

Richard Davis reported that there was a very successful opening event at the newly rebuilt McDonald's, at which this donation was presented to Director Matthew Foster. Mr.

ITEM 6: To Accept a Donation of \$1,000 from the Napoli Group (McDonald's) for the Parks and Recreation Department (Cont.)

Davis stated that Director Foster would like to use the donation to help re-develop the Beach Volleyball Court that is located at Hippach Field. Mr. Davis reviewed a memo from Matthew Foster dated September 23, 2015.

Matthew Smith moved to accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Napoli Group (McDonald's) for the Parks and Recreation Department and to approve that the funds be used toward the restoration of the Beach Volleyball Court; Andrew Buckland seconded.

There was further discussion regarding the Director's desired designation of the donation.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Approve a Municipal Quitclaim Deed

Richard Davis reported that this Quitclaim Deed is to release any interest the Town may have in property of Naomi Oliver, Charles Oliver and Lozenie Barker, 135 Dunham Road by virtue of undischarged tax liens.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve a Municipal Quitclaim Deed for Naomi Oliver, Charles Oliver and Lozenie Barker; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Quitclaim Deed.

ITEM 8: To Approve three (3) Cemetery lot Conveyances

Richard Davis reported that two of these Conveyances are for lots in Fairview Cemetery, and one is for a lot in Riverside Cemetery.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the three (3) cemetery lot conveyances for Dale Howard and Christine Sweetser, Jeffrey A. Wells Sr. and Donna R. Wells, and Misty Credicott on behalf of Anne Credicott; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the three (3) Conveyances.

ITEM 9: To Hear an Update on 112 Church Street

Richard Davis reported that the tenant is to be out of the 112 Church Street property by Monday, October 19th and another walk-through with the realtor is scheduled for that date at 10:00 A.M., with a closing to take place sometime later that week if everything is in order. Mr. Davis stated that the Town will not accept the property until it is clear of possessions. Mr. Davis also reported that from what was seen during the initial walk-through there appears to be some architectural salvage in the building that might have value. He would like to contact two or three salvagers and take them through the building to see what they would be willing to give for the items.

ITEM 10: To Hear an Update on the Public Works Director Search

Richard Davis reported that the Search Committee has interviewed seven (7) candidates for the position and narrowed it down to three (3). One of the three would have had to relocate and he cannot do that, so the Committee is down to two (2) candidates. Mr. Davis stated that he is trying to set up a second interview with the first choice of the two (2) remaining candidates for the end of this week or beginning of next.

ITEM 11: To Approve the Minutes of September 16 and 22, 2015

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of September 16 and 22, 2015; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 12: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis mentioned that he will be asking the Selectmen at the next meeting to consider cancelling or rescheduling the November 10th meeting as he will not be available to attend.
- B) Michael Fogg reported that Walmart has done an outstanding job with the renovations of the cemetery on the Red Schoolhouse Road and plans to continue that project. He stated that it was brought to his attention that there are some very old, valuable grave markers in that cemetery. Mr. Davis pointed out that immediate action should be taken on this matter due to the press and television reports that will be made. Mr. Fogg requested permission to remove these grave markers from the cemetery and present them to the Historical Society for display in order to preserve and protect them. He stated that the markers and flags will be replaced by the American Legion.

ITEM 12: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

B) (Cont.) Stephan Bunker moved to direct the Town Manager to acquire and safeguard said markers and contact the American Legion and Historical Society for a future presentation; Matthew Smith seconded.

Richard Davis stated that he will pick the markers up, and asked Matthew Smith to contact both organizations.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

C) Joshua Bell asked when the limb that came down in Fairview Cemetery recently will be removed. Richard Davis stated that he has contacted arborist Mark Ingrisano, but he has a heavy workload right now. He further stated that the cemetery crew removed what they were able to handle safely, but the remainder is at a dangerous angle. Matthew Smith volunteered to take the limb down to a safety level tomorrow night.

ITEM 13: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to Conduct the Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation

Andrew Buckland moved to go into Executive Session to conduct the Manager's annual performance evaluation at 7:45 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

No action was taken.

Stephan Bunker moved to adjourn; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Andrew R. Buckland - Secretary