

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Andrew Buckland, Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith and Stephan Bunker. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Parks & Rec Director Matthew Foster and Assistant Director Seth Noonkester, Police Chief Jack Peck, Channel 11, and members of the press and public 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.

ITEM 2: To Hear a Presentation by Lon and Matthew Walters regarding the Potential Construction of a Memory Care Center in Farmington

Richard Davis reviewed an article that he had provided the Selectmen regarding the Woodlands Memory Care Center that has recently been developed and opened in Lewiston by the Walters family. Mr. Davis stated that he believes the Walters family is interested in developing a similar facility here in Farmington and turned the meeting over to developers Matthew and Lon Walters for their presentation. Matthew Walters handed out to the Selectmen a packet of information regarding their company and the twelve facilities that they currently operate. He also shared with those present two different display boards showing the setup and design of the recently developed Memory Care Center in Lewiston. Both gentlemen reviewed the proposed \$4M project, which included design, funding/reimbursement/financing, the process of securing suitable land on Routes 2 and 4/Wilton Road, the acquisition of which is not included in the projected \$4M project cost, the projected time frame of approximately one (1) year from the time ground is broken to moving in, and their hopes of adding another residential and assisted living apartments facility in the near future. The gentlemen also advised the Selectmen that in order to make this project viable they will be looking for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for a shorter period of time than usual, ie. front-loaded at 100% and declining over five to ten (5-10) years. The Selectmen thanked both gentlemen for considering Farmington for their proposed project and encouraged them to return with a more concrete proposal. Richard Davis pointed out that at some point the Selectmen will have to discuss any negotiations in Executive Session.

ITEM 3: To Consider Accepting a Grant of Approximately \$10,000 from the Healthy Community Coalition (HCC) for the Installation of a Climbing Wall at the Community Center (Laurie Soucy, HCC Physical Education Program Grant Director)

Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster passed out and reviewed information relative to this proposal. He explained that the updated Wingspeed Adventures proposal cost is \$13,682.50, and apologized for not having received the update in time to bring with him tonight. Mr. Foster reviewed the logistics and location of the proposed climbing/traverse wall in the Community Center, as well as inspections, safety precautions and insurance coverage. He explained that the grant is for grades K-12 but they're hoping to be able to serve 3-4 year olds with one-on-one supervision. HCC Physical Education Program Grant Director Laurie Soucy explained the 3-year \$1.8M grant that the HCC received, and reported that the HCC has the ability to fund the entire cost of the wall, including training. Mr. Foster reported that the batting tunnel will remain but the wall and tunnel are not able to be used simultaneously.

Michael Fogg moved to accept a grant in the approximate amount of \$13,682.50 from the Healthy Community Coalition for the installation of a climbing wall at the Community Center; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Appoint an Interim RSU 9 Director

Richard Davis reported that five (5) applications have been received for this position. He stated that it has been suggested that the voting on these applications be conducted by secret ballot, and it was his suggestion, in order to save time, that a rank vote be incorporated into the secret ballot. Michael Fogg explained why he is not comfortable with making an appointment by motion. Applicants Judith Murphy and Rebekah Collins were present and introduced themselves, each giving a brief overview of their experience, knowledge and perspective.

Andrew Buckland moved to use the rank voting option for the appointment of an interim RSU 9 Director; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen voted and then moved on to Item 5 while Town Secretary Linda Grant tallied the votes.

ITEM 5: To Consider an Expenditure of \$480 from the Special Projects Account to Reimburse Charles Bennett for Lettering on the Veterans' Memorial in Meetinghouse Park

Richard Davis reviewed the invoice for lettering of the ending dates for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars on the newest War Memorial at Meetinghouse Park for which Charles Bennett is asking reimbursement from the Town. Charles Bennett was present and explained the fund raising that took place for the initial installation of the monument. He also explained the end dates of the first Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and the names of the new United States operations in these countries.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve an expenditure of \$480 from the Special Projects account to reimburse Charles Bennett for lettering on the Veterans' Memorial in Meetinghouse Park; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 OPPOSED 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 4: To Appoint an Interim RSU 9 Director (Cont.)

Richard Davis reported that Nancy Porter received three votes and Douglas Dunlap received two votes. Nancy Porter having received the majority of the votes, he declared her as being the appointed interim Director. The Selectmen reminded the applicants and listening audience that this position will be voted on again in conjunction with the annual Town Meeting in March, 2016

ITEM 6: To Approve the Fourth Quarter 2015 Sewer Commitment

Richard Davis reported that the rates remained the same as the third quarter of 2015:
Residential/Rental and Commercial Rate = \$7.285 / 100 cubic feet
Residential/Rental and Commercial Minimum = \$36.43 / 500 cubic feet

Michael Fogg moved and Matthew Smith seconded, as Sewer Commissioners, to approve the fourth quarter 2015 Sewer Commitment.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen, acting as Sewer Commissioners, signed the Commitment.

ITEM 7: To Accept and Allocate the Final Disbursement of Residual Assets of the Sandy River Recycling Association in the Amount of \$16,697.79

Richard Davis explained that the \$16,697.79 is the amount of money that has been distributed to the Town of Farmington as a result of the final sale of assets of Sandy River Recycling Association upon its dissolution. Mr. Davis reviewed the options for use of

ITEM 7: To Accept and Allocate the Final Disbursement of Residual Assets of the Sandy River Recycling Association in the Amount of \$16,697.79 (Cont.)

these funds, which included adding it to the Unassigned Fund Balance or the Landfill Equipment Reserve account, which currently has a balance of approximately \$22,000. Mr. Davis stated that there is a need for two of the roll off containers to be rebuilt or purchased new, and the questionable replacement of the roll off truck, which will be discussed during the upcoming budget process. Mr. Davis further stated that the Landfill Equipment Reserve receives an annual allocation of \$4,000. The Selectmen discussed the Landfill Equipment Reserve account, as well as whether to split the amount or allocate it to just one account.

Matthew Smith moved to allocate the \$16,697.79 from the final disbursement of residual assets of the Sandy River Recycling Association to the Landfill Equipment Reserve account; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Grant Blanket Approval to the Roderick-Crosby Post 28 American Legion for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Matthew Smith explained what the application covers, and stated that he will be abstaining from the vote since he is in charge of submitting the application.

Michael Fogg moved to grant Blanket Approval to the Roderick-Crosby Post 28 American Legion for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a period of one year, from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016; Andrew Buckland seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSTAINED 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Matthew Smith)**

The Selectmen signed the Blanket Approval.

ITEM 9: To Grant Blanket Approval to Farmington Lodge #2430 BPOE for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Matthew Smith moved to grant Blanket Approval to Farmington Lodge #2430 BPOE for Beano/ Bingo and Games of Chance for a period of one year, from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Blanket Approval.

ITEM 10: To Approve an Application for a License to Operate Beano/Bingo or a Game of Chance at the West Farmington Elks Lodge on March 13, 2016 for the Farmington Emblem Club #460

Richard Davis explained that this application is for a one-time event.

Michael Fogg moved to approve an Application for a License to Operate Beano/Bingo or a Game of Chance at the West Farmington Elks Lodge on March 13, 2016 for the Farmington Emblem Club #460; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the application.

ITEM 11: To Accept Betty Jespersen’s Resignation from the Budget Committee

Richard Davis read an email from Betty Jespersen in which she resigned from her position on the Budget Committee due to unavailability for meetings on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Michael Fogg moved, with regret, to accept Betty Jespersen’s resignation from the Budget Committee; Matthew Smith seconded.

Matthew Smith stated that he had the opportunity to serve on the Budget Committee with Mrs. Jespersen, of which she was a very good member. Richard Davis stated that he will send her a letter of appreciation.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 12: To Consider Holding a Special Meeting on January 5, 2016 to Review the 2016 Departmental Budget Requests

Richard Davis stated that the purpose of this meeting is for the Selectmen to have the opportunity to look at and discuss the 2016 budget before the Budget Committee begins their review on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

Matthew Smith moved to hold a special meeting on January 5, 2016 to review the 2016 departmental budget requests; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 13: To Approve the Minutes of December 8, 2015

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2015; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 14: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Chief Jack Peck reported that a family, who wishes to remain anonymous, has made a very generous donation to the Farmington Police Department in memory of late Police Chief Richard Caton. They asked that the donation be the start of a program fund titled “Remembering Every Christmas, or REC” which is also Chief Caton’s initials. The Police Department purchased “Chamber Bucks” gift cards with the donation and started randomly handing them out between now and Christmas. As a result of the media reports today about this donation and program, the Police Department has received a \$1,000 anonymous cash donation from a friend of the late Chief Caton, and the anonymous family has also donated an additional \$275. He stated that the Police Department Benevolent Association also contributed to the program. Chief Peck asked the Selectmen for permission to accept these two donations and any anticipated donations, all of which will be exchanged for “Chamber Bucks” gift cards. He stated that, if for some reason all of the gift cards are not given out, the family and Police Department Benevolent Association would like to carry them over to next year, making this an annual event.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept said donations for said purposes; Matthew Smith seconded.

Michael Fogg asked for and received confirmation that the motion includes any future donations for this program.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

- B) Richard Davis distributed booklets on behalf of Fire Chief Terry Bell containing information on what the fire service is faced with these days in terms of building materials and furnishings that they encounter in newer structures. He stated that Chief Bell has asked that the booklets be returned to him once they have finished reading it.
- C) Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen and listening audience that the Town Office will be closing at 12:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve, with the staff using vacation time in order to be with their families. Mr. Davis wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ITEM 14: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- D)** Andrew Buckland announced for those with any energy left this evening that there is a Homecoming Christmas Concert tonight at North Church featuring Steve Muise's Franklin County Fiddlers and its alumni, with all proceeds after expenses going to the Ecumenical Heat Project.
- E)** Stephan Bunker pointed out two articles of particular interest on Pages 5 and 15 of the December issue of the Maine Townsman.
- F)** In response to Michael Fogg's request for clarification of the January, 2016 meeting dates, Richard Davis stated that there will be an additional meeting on January 5th besides the regularly scheduled meetings on January 12th and 26th.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Andrew Buckland moved to adjourn at 8:00 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Andrew R. Buckland - Secretary