FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Andrew Buckland, Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith and Michael Fogg. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, 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.

To Hold a Public Hearing on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application under the Housing Assistance (HA) Program for the "82 High Street Phase 3" Project in the amount of \$500,000

Richard Davis reviewed the Warrant Article and the Statement of Fact as it will appear on the Town Meeting Warrant, which explains this request and how the funds will be leveraged. Mr. Davis welcomed numerous members of the 82 High Street Board of Directors, and stated that this Public Hearing is a requirement of the CDBG Program.

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 p.m.

Board members of 82 High Street, including William Crandall, Roger Condit, and Janet Smith all voiced their support of this project, as well as Board member and property abutter Janice David. Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser was present and reviewed the application process. He also shared a diagram of the proposed building sites. Board member and community resident Caitlin Carson-Gabrielle spoke on the activities of the "82 High Street community". Board member and community resident Peggy Mayette praised the changes that have transpired in the last 30 years since she was first acquainted with this community. Site general contractors Joey and Randy Cousineau reviewed the construction of the project's proposed modular homes. Board member Rachel Jackson-Hodsdon spoke on the community's population and housing affordability, as well as the accommodations being made during this project to ensure that no one will have to seek alternate housing.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:45 p.m.

Richard Davis stated that there is no formal action required by the Selectmen, as the Article will appear on the March 28th Town Meeting Warrant for resident vote. Mr. Davis expressed his hope that the voters will support this very worthy project as it will be a good improvement for the Town and for the community residents. Michael Fogg praised the 82 High Street Board and expressed his pride in being able to represent the Town of Farmington on that Board.

ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing on Amendments to the <u>Town of Farmington Shoreland Zoning Ordinance</u>

Richard Davis reviewed the Warrant Article and the Statement of Fact as it will appear on the Town Meeting Warrant, which explains the required changes to this Ordinance.

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:48 p.m.

Steve Kaiser further reviewed the synopsis that he had compiled of the required changes. He stated that the changes address the areas that have caused the most confusion over the last twenty years, which he feels will be very helpful in terms of enforcement and answering questions that staff routinely receive three to four times per week. Mr. Kaiser also stated that routine updates of this Ordinance occur every five to six years.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:53 p.m.

Stephen Bunker generated a discussion regarding possible opposition to the changes in the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance or the Comprehensive Plan, for which Mr. Kaiser did not feel there would be any reason.

ITEM 4: To Hold a Public Hearing on Amendments to the <u>Town of Farmington</u> Comprehensive Plan

Richard Davis reviewed the Warrant Article and the Statement of Fact as it will appear on the Town Meeting Warrant, as well as a letter dated November 18, 2015 from Phil Carey, Senior Planner from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser explained that there are no new initiatives or changes in terms of goals, policies or strategies - it just pulls the information into a better format that's easier for the user to read.

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Kaiser expressed his pleasure in working with Phil Carey of the DACF. Resident William Crandall complimented Mr. Kaiser on all of the work that he does, which sentiment Mr. Davis and the Selectmen echoed.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 4 at 7:02 p.m.

Stephan Bunker thanked Mr. Kaiser for the information that he had given the Selectmen but asked if it would be possible for a copy of the Comprehensive Plan to be provided with the language that is being deleted lined out and the new language underlined. Mr. Kaiser agreed to provide the Comprehensive Plan in that format.

ITEM 5: To Consider an Expenditure of up to \$1,000 from the Special Projects Account for the Hippach Field Centennial Celebration Event

Richard Davis explained that no specific amount has been requested, so Selectmen can consider whatever amount they're comfortable with. Mr. Davis reviewed events planned thus far for the elaborate celebration of the 100^{th} Anniversary of Hippach Field scheduled for June 18^{th} . He stated that Roger Spear has taken the lead on organizing the events, with assistance from Paul Mills, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster, and him. He further stated that they are hoping to fund the event through donations but there is a possibility that they may need funding assistance from the Town. Mr. Davis asked the Selectmen to consider authorizing an expenditure from the Special Projects account in case funding is needed. It was suggested that there may be grant funding available through the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Matthew Smith moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$1,000 from the Special Projects Account for the Hippach Field Centennial Celebration Event; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Consider a Request for a Donation to Support the 2016 Summer Fest

Richard Davis reviewed a letter of request from Susun Terese, Summer Fest Committee Chair, dated January 22, 2016. Mr. Davis stated that 2015 was the first time that the Town had been solicited for funding of this event, which the Selectmen voted to fund at the \$250 level. The Selectmen discussed annual funding, proper use of Special Projects account funds, and setting of precedent relative to future solicitations by this organization and that of any other organizations. Mr. Davis pointed out that the Town is not purchasing an ad from Paper Talks magazine this year, so the Selectmen can also lower the donation amount.

Andrew Buckland moved to not authorize a donation for the 2016 Summer Fest; Matthew Smith seconded.

Andrew Buckland encouraged all businesses, if so inclined, to donate what they can.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Award the bid for Printing the 2015 Annual Report

Richard Davis reviewed the bid summary of three vendors and recommended that the bid be awarded to Skowhegan Press as the low bidder for the amount of \$1,798. Mr. Davis stated that since \$3,000 was budgeted, the excess will allow for the addition of color photos to the cover or inside the report.

ITEM 7: To Award the bid for Printing the 2015 Annual Report (Cont.)

Matthew Smith moved to award the bid for printing the 2015 Annual Report to Skowhegan Press for the amount of \$1,798; Stephan Bunker seconded.

The Selectmen had further discussion regarding the addition of color photos to the report.

Matthew Smith and Stephan Bunker amended their motion and second to add the allowance of color prints within budget limits.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Authorize the Installation of a 250 watt flood light on CMP pole #1 at Narrow Gauge Square

Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen that the Town of Farmington and the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) are parties to a 99 year lease of a parking lot on Front Street owned by John Moore. He stated that part of the lease obligations are to make sure that it is properly lighted, drained, striped and maintained, etc. He pointed out that the Front Street drainage project this year includes re-paving of the parking lot, and that there are two flood lights on Front Street that are pointed in the direction of the parking lot, but Mr. Moore would still like to see more lighting. Mr. Davis stated that there is an opportunity to add another 250 watt flood light on a pole that was recently installed at the entrance to Prescott Field. He suggested that the Town install a light at a cost of \$17.49 per month which will greatly enhance the lighting and thereby deter any vandalism.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the installation of a 250 watt flood light on CMP pole #1 at Narrow Gauge Square; Andrew Buckland seconded.

Richard Davis explained the process for installation of the light and stated that he will be meeting with UMF this week to discuss the paving of the parking lot, and will ask that they pay for half of the cost of the paving.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of January 12 and 26, 2016

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016 and table the minutes of January 26, 2016; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis pointed out that the caucus for the County Budget Committee is Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m., and there are openings in all three districts. Stephan Bunker stated that he will not be available to attend and encouraged his fellow Selectmen to attend to support the candidates.
- B) Andrew Buckland reported that, at Joshua Bell's request regarding who might be willing to perform the National Anthem at the annual Town Meeting, he approached Steve Muise and the Franklin County Fiddlers. They have agreed to perform but cannot commit until closer to that date to see what the weather is going to be like because March 28th is the snow date for a concert that is to occur the previous week. Mr. Buckland encouraged other suggestions in the event the Fiddlers are unable to perform and will let the Town Manager know once there is someone lined up.

ITEM 11: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §841.2.E to Consider an Application for Abatement of Property taxes based on Infirmity or Poverty

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:24 p.m.

Andrew Buckland moved to abate the oldest year of outstanding property taxes on the subject property based on infirmity or poverty; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business to come before the Board, Andrew Buckland moved to adjourn; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Andrew R. Buckland - Secretary