

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.

ITEM 2: 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 Town of Farmington Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

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 Town of Farmington 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 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

