

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith, Scott Landry and Michael Fogg. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser, Planning Assistant Cindy Gelin, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins, 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 and vote on the Following Renewal Applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permits:

- **Farmington Motel, located at 489 Farmington Falls Road, owned and operated by Jaynti Patel**
- **Mount Blue Motel, located at 454 Wilton Road and Colonial Valley Motel, located at 593 Wilton Road, both owned and operated by Rick Collins**
- **RJ’s Hot Dogs, owned and operated by Richard Joseph Sr.**
- **Grantlee’s Mobile, owned and operated by Bernard Bates**
- **El Toro, owned and operated by Garnet Keim and Anne Holloway**

Richard Davis stated that these are renewals of the same applicants as last year and referred to the applications provided to the Selectmen in their informational packet.

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:32 P.M.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:33 P.M.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the Innkeeper applications for Farmington Motel and Mount Blue Motel, and the Lunch Wagon Permit applications for RJ’s Hot Dogs, Grantlee’s Mobile, and El Toro ; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen executed a single signature page for all five applications.

ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing on a Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program Application for *Origin Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, LLC*

Richard Davis stated that owner Peter Roberts is applying for this grant to assist his business to move into the former Skane building at 125 High Street. He further stated that Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser and Planning Assistant Cindy Gelin

ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing on a Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program Application for *Origin Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, LLC* (Cont.)

have been working with Mr. Roberts on the application. This part of the process requires a public hearing and the adoption by the Selectmen of a Resolution, a draft copy of which was provided to them in their meeting packet.

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:34 P.M.

Owner Peter Roberts was present and further explained his manufacturing business and the matching grant that he is applying for, which is based on job creation. Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser explained that the application for this Economic Development Grant (CDBG) through the Department of Economic and Community Development is in the amount of \$500,000 and is expected to be submitted on Friday, May 26th. It will be matched by \$600,000 in bank financing and equity injection, with the total budget being \$1,105,495. This budget will go toward building acquisition, equipment, working capital, and training, with approximately eighteen jobs created and more to come in the future. Mr. Kaiser highly complimented Mr. Roberts on the drafting of the narrative for this application. The contents and former use of the building were discussed.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:39 P.M.

Scott Landry moved to approve the adoption of a Resolution in support of the CDBG application; Matthew Smith seconded.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Roberts for bringing manufacturing back into town. Mr. Roberts stated that he is hoping to hold a grand opening sometime in August.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Resolution.

ITEM 4: To Award the bid for Street Striping

Richard Davis reviewed the bid tabulation, of which the low bidder was Lucas Striping, LLC of Sidney, Maine for the amount of \$21,012.50. Mr. Davis stated that the Town has done business with this vendor before. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins was present and explained that the painting of 77 crosswalks was added to the bid packet this year, which will be a savings in time and cost. Glass bead injection was discussed.

Matthew Smith moved to award the bid for Street Striping to Lucas Striping, LLC of Sidney, Maine for the amount of \$21,012.50; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

In response to resident Jonathan Cohen's inquiry as to how he might make a suggestion for another crosswalk, Richard Davis suggested that he call him sometime during the day.

ITEM 5: To take a Position on the Proposed Franklin County Budget as it Pertains to Program Grants

Richard Davis stated that this Item is on the agenda at the request of a few citizens, initially by Fenwick Fowler, a copy of whose letter had been provided to the Selectmen along with a copy of the County's budget request summary. Mr. Davis pointed out that the County has not as yet acted upon these requests. Stephan Bunker handed out and reviewed a list of seven bullet points related to this issue, as well as a copy of the County's budget request on Program Grants. Mr. Bunker expressed his concerns with ramifications of what he sees as a changing trend in how the Towns and Counties have provided funds for organizations in the past. He explained his role in past years in steering those organizations with a county-wide mission toward County rather than Town funding, and how the philosophy has changed with the change in Commissioners and Budget Committee members. County Commissioner Charles Webster was present and explained how the Commissioners derived their budget recommendations. The following residents spoke against the proposed cuts to Program Grants and asked the Selectmen to direct Joshua Bell to vote their combined feelings on this budget, not just that of the County Budget Committee members: Lisa Lisius, Betty Jespersen, John Rosenwald, Vickie Cohen, and Jonathan Cohen. In response to Scott Landry's question of the County's plans for economic development, Commissioner Webster explained the efforts of the Commissioners towards a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program in the northern unorganized territories of the county. Resident and Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC) member Ed David spoke on the benefits of the GFDC, and pointed out that if the GFDC ceases operation due to lack of County funding, Franklin County will be only county in the State of Maine to not be participating in economic development. He also pointed out that the \$60,000 funding request from the GFDC is actually only \$30,000 as the other \$30,000 will come from the TIF. Joshua Bell clarified that he does not represent just the Board of Selectmen or just the Town of Farmington; he also represents the Towns of Chesterville and New Sharon as a member of the 2nd District of Franklin County. Liz Kuhlman, former Director of the Children's Task Force, explained that the word "match" that has been used several times is actually demonstration of local support for programs, and she further explained the process. Scott Landry and Matthew Smith encouraged further public input through email or phone, addresses and numbers of which are on the Town's website. Michael Fogg encouraged Joshua Bell to listen to the public's request that these cuts not be made, of which he is in agreement. Resident Ann Marie Wolfe questioned whether anything has been done to address what the economic impact of the budget cuts may be, and if so, will be information be made available to the public. Joshua Bell recommended that she contact Julie Magoon at the County Commissioner's Office. Mr. Bell verified that the Public Hearing on the County Budget will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. Richard Davis suggested that it would be helpful if this same kind of discussion were to be held at the Board of Selectmen level in the Towns of Chesterville and New Sharon as well so that their County Budget Committee members can get input from their community members. Joshua Bell explained the County budget process, noting that final deliberations by the County Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

ITEM 6: To Accept James Kiernan’s Resignation from the Parking Ordinance Committee

Matthew Smith moved to accept the resignation of James Kiernan from the Parking Ordinance Committee; Michael Fogg seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 OPPOSED 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Scott Landry)**

ITEM 7: To Countersign the Warrants for the RSU #9 Budget Validation and Bond Authorization Referendum on June 13, 2017

Richard Davis stated that there are two sets of Warrants. The Selectmen signed ten copies of each of the two sets of Warrants. Richard Davis reported that the referendum vote will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

ITEM 8: To Approve Municipal Quitclaim Deeds

Richard Davis reviewed two Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for John L. Metcalf, Jr. and Vicky Lydon.

Matthew Smith moved to approve one Municipal Quitclaim Deed each for John L. Metcalf, Jr. and Vicky Lydon; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of April 25 and May 9, 2017

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of April 25 and May 9, 2017; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

A) Richard Davis reported, in answer to a question from the May 9th meeting, that the Maine Tourism Association enhanced kiosk fee is \$60.00, which gets the Town’s information on the touch screen.

Matthew Smith moved to pay the Maine Tourism Association \$60.00 enhanced kiosk fee, with funds to come from the Special Projects account; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

B) Richard Davis reported that he will be on vacation starting Wednesday, May 24th through next week, and he can be reached through Town Secretary Linda Grant.

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- C) In response to Joshua Bell’s inquiry, on behalf of two friends who are BeeLine Cable customer, as to what the Town of Farmington might do to increase broadband service, Richard Davis reported that he spoke with George Allen of BeeLine Cable today and was told that there are faster options coming in the near future. Mr. Davis pointed out that the Franchise Agreement with BeeLine Cable is for cable television only, as the Internet cannot be regulated through a Franchise Agreement. He stated that the Franchise Agreement actually expires this month but he will be coming to the Selectmen for renewal soon. The Community Access channel was discussed.

- D) As a member of the 82 High Street Board of Directors, Michael Fogg reported on its recent open house, as well as the successful completion of its most recent project. He further reported that there is more work to be done, but this particular phase is complete.

ITEM 11: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to discuss a Personnel Matter in the Public Works Department

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 8:22 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:37 P.M.

Matthew Smith moved to promote Scott Bouchard to Foreman of the Public Works Department and increase his wage by \$2.00 per hour to \$17.32; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 12: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.C to discuss the Disposition of Publicly Held Property

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 8:41 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:53 P.M.

Matthew Smith moved to accept the offer of \$8,000 on the outstanding taxes; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Michael Fogg moved to adjourn at 8:55 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Michael J. Fogg – Secretary