

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith, Scott Landry and Michael Fogg. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins and Chief Mechanic/Shop Manager Jonathan Alexander, Wastewater Superintendent Stephen Millett, 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 an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.C to discuss Economic Development

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 6:34 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 7:10 P.M. and took a five minute break.

ITEM 3: To Proclaim September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Richard Davis explained that the proposed Proclamation came to him to be presented to the Selectmen. Resident Wendi Smith spoke about four children in this area who all have cancer of different types. Mrs. Smith introduced Hailey Steward, a young girl who has had cancer for six years, and also Trent Flanders, a young boy who is a cancer survivor from the age of four and whom those in attendance applauded. Matthew Smith, Selectman and husband of Wendi Smith, pointed out that Hailey was visited by Tom Brady and Barbara Bush, and it is her parents who are sponsoring this campaign to bring more awareness to childhood cancer.

Michael Fogg moved to proclaim September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Proclamation.

ITEM 4: To Consider a Request to Purchase a Portion of the Town-owned land at the north end of the Church Street Parking lot

Richard Davis explained that this request was discussed when the Town was first looking at developing a parking lot on the Church Street property. Mr. Davis introduced resident and parking lot abutter Pam Poisson, who reviewed the appraisal that she and her

ITEM 4: To Consider a Request to Purchase a Portion of the Town-owned land at the north end of the Church Street Parking lot (Cont.)

husband David commissioned of the portion of the Town-owned land that they would like to purchase. Mr. Davis stated that the estimated value of the land arrived at in the appraisal is \$500.00, which he feels is appropriate from a layman’s standpoint of a piece of property that small. He also pointed out that if the Selectmen are interested in advancing this, at some point it will have to go to a Town Meeting vote. After a brief discussion regarding payment of the appraisal and deed preparation fees if this request is approved, it was the consensus of the Selectmen that more information regarding the expenses of both parties is needed before a recommendation by them can be made for a Warrant item. It was pointed out that there is plenty of time to gather the required information, as there is no Special Town Meeting presently scheduled, and unless one is scheduled in the meantime this matter will not go to vote until the annual Town Meeting in March, 2018. Mr. Davis stated that he will gather the requested information and provide it to the Selectmen and Mrs. Poisson for further discussion before the matter goes to a Town Meeting vote.

ITEM 5: To Approve an Expenditure of \$19,250 from the Major Line Repair Reserve Account for Sewer Line Repairs

Richard Davis reviewed the project description provided in a memo from Wastewater Superintendent Steve Millett, as well as a detailed report from Utility Construction Manager Isaiah Bean of Ted Berry Company, Inc. Mr. Millett explained his intention of repaying the expenditure of \$19,250 plus an additional \$10,000 out of next year’s budget in order to sustain the funding of the sewer line repairs that will need to be accomplished over the next four years beyond this year’s start of the project. Mr. Millett further explained the environmental issue that has been created by the lines never being replaced in the 20-50 years they’ve been in the ground. Dave Beauchamp from Ted Berry showed the Selectmen a sample of the material used for a sleeve repair and explained its function. Mr. Beauchamp stated that a sleeve repair, which has a 50 year warranty, will fix 90% of the issues discovered thus far, while the remaining 10% of the issues will have to be looked at more closely to determine the course of action to be taken.

Matthew Smith moved to approve an expenditure of \$19,250 from the Major Line Repair Reserve account for sewer line repairs; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Award the bid for a new 10-Wheel Dump Truck

Richard Davis reviewed the tabulation of the four bids received. It was the recommendation of Public Works Director Philip Hutchins and Chief Mechanic/Shop Manager Jonathan Alexander that the bid be awarded to O’Connor Motor Company for a Western Star 4700 sf at a cost of \$177,693, which includes a five-year warranty, Everest body from H.P. Fairfield and plow gear, so will only require a decal and 2-way radio. Mr. Alexander stated that delivery of the truck is anticipated 60-90 days from the date of

ITEM 6: To Award the bid for a new 10-Wheel Dump Truck (Cont.)

order, with 2-3 weeks being for installation of the body, which he's not sure will be inclusive or additional. Mr. Davis pointed out that the budget for this truck was \$225,000 so there will be a \$47,307 savings in the Reserve account. Mr. Hutchins stated that the truck will be utilized on the Titcomb Hill plow route, which is the longest.

Stephan Bunker moved to award the bid for a new 10-wheel dump truck to O'Connor Motor Company at a cost of \$177,693; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Approve an Expenditure of \$3,999 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account for the Purchase of a Truck Mounted Shoulder box

Richard Davis reviewed the description of the proposed equipment purchase and the potential savings of its use, as well as savings in purchase versus rental. Philip Hutchins and Jonathan Alexander explained the function and justifications of this purchase.

Scott Landry moved to approve an expenditure of \$3,999 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve account for the purchase of a truck mounted shoulder box; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Town Manager and Selectmen commended Philip Hutchins and Jonathan Alexander on their research.

ITEM 8: To Award the bid for the Farmington Falls Road / Main Street Sidewalk Construction Project, Subject to MaineDOT Approval

Richard Davis reported that the six bids received on this project were opened on July 18th. MaineDOT has reviewed the low bid of \$129,132.53 submitted by J. Pratt Construction, Inc. of Hebron, Maine and found the quantities to be in line. Mr. Davis stated that he has recommended to MaineDOT that the bid be awarded to J. Pratt Construction, Inc., but the project is still in need of an inspector or resident on site. He reminded the Selectmen that they had previously approved Wright Pierce to do that work but has found that they are not on the MaineDOT's pre-qualification list so they are not qualified to do the work. Mr. Davis further stated that he is presently working with an individual from another engineering firm who is trying to line someone up, preferably within commuting distance, who can be the resident on this project, as the Town can sole source the work if it is under \$25,000. Mr. Davis reported that, according to the schedule, this will be an approximate six week project. He further reported that the Town has had favorable experience with the recommended bidder, and his references have all checked out very favorably, their "bread and butter" being sidewalks. Mr. Davis stated that the construction budget for this project is \$147,000 so it's coming in just under budget, and MaineDOT may have found some extra funding to put toward the resident on this project.

ITEM 8: To Award the bid for the Farmington Falls Road / Main Street Sidewalk Construction Project, Subject to MaineDOT Approval (Cont.)

Michael Fogg moved to award the bid for the Farmington Falls Road / Main Street Sidewalk Construction Project to J. Pratt Construction, Inc. of Hebron, Maine at a cost of \$129,132.53; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Accept the Highest bid on the Parks and Recreation Department's Surplus 2001 Chevrolet Pickup

Richard Davis reported that only one bid was received from Mark Day of Brownfield, Maine in the amount of \$351.00, and it was his recommendation that it be accepted.

Matthew Smith moved to accept the bid for the Parks and Recreation Department's surplus 2001 Chevrolet pickup from Mark Day of Brownfield, Maine for the amount of \$351.00; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Consider the Application of Wayne Kinney to Serve as an Alternate Member of both the Board of Appeals and the Budget Committee

Richard Davis stated that it is always nice to see somebody step up and volunteer to serve on these Boards and Committees, as the Town is always looking for good people. Wayne Kinney was present and reiterated that he is open to serving on whatever or whichever Board or Committee that he may be the most helpful.

Matthew Smith moved to appoint Wayne Kinney as an alternate member on both the Board of Appeals and the Budget Committee; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen and Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Kinney for volunteering his service. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Kinney to see the Town Clerk at his earliest convenience to get sworn in on both the Board of Appeals and the Budget Committee.

ITEM 11: To Consider an Expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the Fall Issue of Discover Maine Magazine, with Funding to come from the Special Projects Account

Richard Davis reviewed an email from Tim Maxfield of Discover Maine Magazine dated July 12, 2017. He stated that this is either the third or fourth time that the Town has purchased this ad, and the price has remained the same.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve an expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the Fall Issue of Discover Maine Magazine, with funding to come from the Special Projects account; Matthew Smith seconded.

ITEM 11: To Consider an Expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the Fall Issue of Discover Maine Magazine, with Funding to come from the Special Projects Account (Cont.)

In answer to Joshua Bell's question as to which location this issue is for, Mr. Davis stated that Town Secretary Linda Grant will research the question and get back to the Selectmen later this week.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 12: To Cast a Ballot for Maine Municipal Association Vice President and Executive Committee Members

Richard Davis reviewed a memo from the Maine Municipal Association dated July 11, 2017, as well as the biographies of the nominees, and the ballot, and explained that the Selectmen may vote independently or designate him to do that for them. Stephan Bunker, as the immediate Past President of the Association, explained that he had the privilege with three other members of chairing the nominating committee and so was able to interview all of the nominees and found them all to be highly regarded as public servants. He therefore recommended that the Selectmen cast a ballot for each of the four nominees.

Stephan Bunker moved to cast a favorable vote for the current slate on the voting ballot and designate the Town Manager to submit said ballot on the Selectmen's behalf; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Stephan Bunker stated that he is going off the Executive Committee this year and encouraged anyone who has the time and interest to consider participating on this Committee, as it is a great learning experience.

ITEM 13: To Approve two (2) Cemetery lot Conveyances

Richard Davis reported that both Cemetery Lot Conveyances for Carol A. Davis of New Sharon, and Jim and Michele Witt of Industry, are in Fairview Cemetery.

Matthew Smith moved to approve two Cemetery Lot Conveyances; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the two Conveyances.

ITEM 14: To Approve the Minutes of July 12, 2017

Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2017; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 15: To Discuss Other Business

- A)** Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen and those present that the RSU 9 budget meeting is tonight and the validation vote will take place next Thursday, August 3rd so the period for the absentee balloting process will be very limited. Presumably the district will get the ballots to Town Clerk Leanne Dickey so that they will be available tomorrow, but then will have to be returned three days before the vote, so they will only be available Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Mr. Davis stated that the latest article that he saw indicated an approximate \$8,000 decrease in Farmington's assessment from last year. By his calculations, however, because Farmington is still on a calendar year and therefore still experiencing a 6-month lag, Farmington will have an approximate \$36,000 decrease from last year. It is his understanding that, because of the \$344,000 in cuts that were made at the last meeting and the additional \$729,000 in funding being received from the State, the goal of holding the assessments to at least level has been realized.
- B)** Richard Davis reported that according to the July, 2017 Maine Townsman the Maine Municipal Association convention registration is now open. He reminded the Selectmen that the Town is in receipt of a free registration so if anyone is interested in utilizing it they need to let him know, otherwise he will use it himself. He pointed out that he is going anyway and planning to pay for his registration so it doesn't matter either way. Stephan Bunker pointed out that his registration will not factor in as his is free this year.
- C)** Scott Landry pointed out that Richard Davis' photo is in the Maine Townsman this month.
- D)** Scott Landry generated a brief discussion regarding a recent article he read on food sovereignty and how it may relate to the Town of Farmington. Richard Davis stated that he will look into it but it is his understanding that it's more of a protest against the large, controversial agri-businesses.
- E)** Stephan Bunker pointed out that congratulations are in order to Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster for his National Certification for Parks and Recreation Professionals. In answer to an inquiry, Richard Davis verified that Steve Shible did not attain this Certification during his tenure.
- F)** Stephan Bunker commended the remarkable SummerFest activities this past weekend and those individuals who did all of the planning, Susun Terese of Minikins being the driving force.
- G)** Michael Fogg questioned the washouts on the Porter Hill Road near the Town Farm Road. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins stated that he is aware of them and they are being taken care of.
- H)** Joshua Bell asked that an Executive Session be scheduled for the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss nominees for the Ethel Kelley Memorial award. Stephan Bunker suggested that it be made an annual part of the Selectmen's agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Stephan Bunker moved to adjourn at 8:02 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Michael J. Fogg – Secretary