

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, July 10, 2018**

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Matthew Smith, Scott Landry, Stephan Bunker and Michael Fogg. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Police Chief Jack Peck, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins, Board of Assessment Review member Dennis O’Neil, Planning Board member Lloyd Smith, 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 Authorize the Police Department to Accept the Following:**

- **A Transfer of Criminal Forfeiture Assets Consisting of \$1,108 in Currency as a Result of a drug Investigation**
- **\$1,000 from the Healthy Community Coalition to Conduct Underage Drinking Enforcement Details**
- **\$2,500 from Dirigo Safety to Conduct Underage Drinking Enforcement Details and Sales and Service Compliance Checks**
- **\$11,691.20 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to Participate in Operation Stonegarden**
- **\$3,300 from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Conduct ATV Patrols on the Whistlestop trail**

Chairman Bell read through the list of items the Police Department is requesting be authorized. Richard Davis referred to Police Chief Jack Peck’s memo dated July 10, 2018. Chief Peck was present and reviewed each of the requests. He also explained that, if approved, he has the paperwork from the Attorney General’s Office with him for the Selectmen to sign on the criminal forfeiture of \$1,108.

**Scott Landry moved to authorize the Police Department to accept the above listed funds; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

At the request of resident Elaine Graham, Chief Peck further explained Operation Stonegarden.

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
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Chairman Joshua Bell signed the forfeiture document.

**ITEM 3: To Award the bid for the Front Street Retaining Wall and Culvert Project**

Richard Davis pointed out several typographical errors on the bid tabulation for this project which was created by Dirigo Engineering. Mr. Davis stated that Ranger Contracting is the lowest of the three bids received at a cost of \$421,402.00. Mr. Davis further stated that this project accomplishes everything within Phase I, but the budget is very tight, even with taking some funding from the Public Works budget. Mr. Davis explained the budget funding to date. He further explained his request to take an additional \$22,000 from the Downtown TIF since it will be directly related to sidewalks and lighting. The Selectmen reviewed the bid tabulation, and briefly discussed the retaining wall and box culvert. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins was present and handed out and reviewed a bridge drawing from Dirigo Engineering. The Selectmen discussed the 5% local contractor bid preference, which Mr. Davis stated was formerly written into the Town's Purchasing Policy, and he explained why it was eliminated by the Board of Selectmen a number of years ago. The Selectmen also discussed the balance of the Downtown TIF. Mr. Davis pointed out that this project doesn't include decorative lighting, only bases and wiring for it. Mr. Hutchins added that Phase I is 80% of the entire project. He also pointed out that there will be no on-site inspector for this project, but Dirigo Engineering has agreed to do spot checks since they will be in town for the Farmington Water Department's reservoir project. At resident Dr. John Systma's inquiry, Chairman Bell explained where the retaining wall will be located. Resident Dennis O'Neil suggested, since there are concerns regarding awarding the bid to an unknown contractor, that the bid be awarded contingent upon favorable references being obtained for Ranger Contracting.

**Matthew Smith moved to award the bid for the Front Street Retaining Wall and Culvert Project to Ranger Contracting for the cost of \$421,402, subject to their being bonded and to obtaining as many favorable references as possible, as well as the guarantee from Dirigo Engineering that they will perform spot inspections; Scott Landry seconded.**

Richard Davis stated that he anticipates the project beginning by the end of July or beginning of August.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**Matthew Smith moved to appropriate \$22,000 from the Downtown TIF for this project; Scott Landry seconded.**

Joshua Bell pointed out that there is a Downtown TIF Committee meeting coming up but not in time for this decision. Mr. Davis stated that he will give the Committee an update, and hopefully they will be in agreement, but they are an advisory board and the Selectmen are the governing body that has the authority to appropriate the funds.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 4: To Determine the Board's Position with regard to the Removal of the Walton's Mill Pond Dam**

Richard Davis reviewed an email dated June 25, 2018 from John Burrows of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, which included a draft proposal. He also reviewed an email from Attorney Amanda Meader in response to the draft proposal, and notes from her for discussion only. In answer to the Selectmen's inquiry as to when this proposal should be presented to the public, Mr. Davis pointed out that the gubernatorial election and referendum vote in November will likely be when there will be the greatest turnout of voters, and therefore, a much broader representation of the electorate. His thought is to have a local written ballot question at that time for this proposal. In his opinion, a special Town Meeting vote would show a lower voter turnout and special interests. Mr. Davis further pointed out that the Conservation Commission is planning a series of three public informational meetings this fall before the referendum. The Selectmen discussed what options other than removal of the dam there may be, how the referendum question might be worded, and answered questions from residents Dr. and Mrs. Systma.

**Michael Fogg moved to support the proposal from the Atlantic Salmon Federation and to endorse the removal of the dam and upgrade of the park; Scott Landry seconded.**

**Michael Fogg and Scott Landry amended their motion and second to include the presentation of the proposal in referendum form at the November gubernatorial election.**

Joshua Bell generated a brief discussion regarding suggestions that former Attorney Frank Underkuffler had made regarding stipulations that should be included in the final contract.

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>OPPOSED</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(Matthew Smith)</b>		

**ITEM 5: To Execute Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for Foreclosed Properties sold at Auction on June 13, 2018**

Richard Davis reviewed the following six deeds: David Weeks, 1158 Farmington Falls Road; Hayjack Ventures, LLC, 471 Clover Mill Road; Freeman T. Chick and Freeman L. Chick, 434 Town Farm Road; Jeff A. Tibbetts, 106 Philbrick Street; Tim Bowen, 161 Marvel Street; and Frederick Barton, Skunk Hollow Road. Mr. Davis stated that the closing on these properties will take place on Thursday, July 12, 2018. The deeds will be held in escrow until all of the money is collected. Estimated property taxes for this year have been provided, which will be paid at the time of closing, if they have not already been paid. Mr. Davis stated that there is a list of properties and the amount they sold for available for anyone interested. He further stated that collectively \$22,000 of the \$37,000 in outstanding taxes on these properties has been recovered.

**ITEM 5: To Execute Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for Foreclosed Properties sold at Auction on June 13, 2018 (Cont.)**

**Matthew Smith moved to execute Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for David Weeks, 1158 Farmington Falls Road; Hayjack Ventures, LLC, 471 Clover Mill Road; Freeman T. Chick and Freeman L. Chick, 434 Town Farm Road; Jeff A. Tibbetts, 106 Philbrick Street; Tim Bowen, 161 Marvel Street; and Frederick Barton, Skunk Hollow Road; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

Stephan Bunker generated a brief discussion regarding whether or not the auctioning of these properties was beneficial.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen signed each of the six Quitclaim Deeds.

**ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of June 12 and 26, 2018**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of June 12 and 26, 2018; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business**

- A) Richard Davis informed the Selectmen that the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) chose not to act on the Walmart valuation appeal yesterday because it was not timely filed and there was not enough supporting evidence to indicate that the value on the property is manifestly wrong. Mr. Davis reviewed the supporting evidence. BAR member Dennis O'Neil joined in the conversation.
- B) Matthew Smith pointed out that, despite the intense heat, the downtown was full for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, and there was a good turnout for the fireworks as well.
- C) Scott Landry reviewed the meeting that took place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> between Tom Saviello, County Commissioner Terry Brann, and himself with Thorn Dickson and Jeff Marvels from Central Maine Power regarding a letter of approval for the power line bringing Hydro Quebec electricity down to Massachusetts. He stated that there will be a public meeting for further discussion of this matter at the Mt. Blue Campus on Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:44 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

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Michael J. Fogg - Secretary