

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, August 28, 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, Deputy Police Chief Shane Cote, Assessor John O’Donnell, 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 Review the 2018 Tax Rate Scenarios

Assessor John O’Donnell was present and handed out and reviewed two spreadsheets which explained information regarding 2018 TIF tax choices, and tax rate history and the proposed rate for 2018. Discussion included: overlay scenarios, and use of overlay last year; TIF and unassigned fund balances; effects of valuation on the tax rate; State Revenue Sharing; increase in the Homestead Exemption; and Credit Enhancement Agreements. Richard Davis and John O’Donnell attempted to explain Credit Enhancement Agreements to resident Elaine Graham in answer to her questions regarding the Woodlands TIF. Resident Dennis O’Neil participated in the discussion.

Stephan Bunker moved to set the Downtown TIF appropriation at \$125,000; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Michael Fogg moved to set the overlay within the range of \$60,000;

Discussion included previous and future years’ overlays;

Scott Landry seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 2 OPPOSED 3 MOTION FAILED
(Bunker/Bell/Smith)**

Matthew Smith moved to set the overlay within the range of \$40,000; Stephan Bunker seconded.

Discussion continued.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 2 OPPOSED 3 MOTION FAILED
(Fogg/Landry/Bell)**

ITEM 2: To Review the 2018 Tax Rate Scenarios (Cont.)

Matthew Smith moved to set the overlay within the range of \$35,000; Stephan Bunker seconded.

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

John O'Donnell stated that he should be able to finish up within the next few days.

ITEM 3: To hear a Presentation regarding Community Outreach to Ascertain Interest in High Speed Broadband Internet (Kerem Durdag, Chief Operating Officer of GWI)

Kerem Durdag was present and explained the logistics of high speed Internet through GWI. He further explained that, in response to Farmington's desire to have access to high speed Internet, GWI intends to apply for a federal government loan to build a network in Farmington, at absolutely no expense to the Town. One of the requirements of the loan application is for GWI to complete a five-question survey of Farmington residents, which they plan to do by phone and by social media right after the Labor Day weekend. The survey will be completed by September 17th. Mr. Durdag stated that it is GWI's intent to make this offer to Chesterville and New Sharon as well, and if all goes well, the rest of Franklin County. He further stated that the anticipated time frame in applying for the loan and accomplishing this project is approximately one to two years. If GWI does not get the loan, however, it is still its intent to move forward piecemeal with this project, which will make the process much slower, but still at no expense to the Town. Joshua Bell pointed out to Mr. Durag that one way to reach out to business owners is through Executive Director Trisha Mosher of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Charlie Woodworth, Director of the Greater Franklin Development Council, who joined the meeting at 7:20 P.M., voiced his support of this project.

ITEM 4: To Consider the Recommendation of the Downtown TIF Advisory Committee to Provide Security Cameras in the Downtown

Richard Davis reviewed Deputy Police Chief Shane Cote's memo dated August 24, 2018, as well as the Downtown TIF Advisory Committee's recommendation to pursue this purchase. D.C. Cote was present and further explained the security benefits of and potential locations for the ten cameras, as well as the ability for another sixteen cameras to be added to this account at the owner's expense of purchasing the camera. He also pointed out that these cameras are power based and have no battery backup.

Michael Fogg moved to authorize the purchase of ten security cameras at a total cost of \$7,700 for the first year, with funding to come from the Downtown TIF; Stephan Bunker seconded.

Matthew Smith voiced his concerns regarding perceived privacy issues. Stephan Bunker confirmed with D.C. Cote that all the view of all of the cameras is in/of public places. He also confirmed that the annual contract fee of \$1,650 in future years will be paid from a

ITEM 4: To Consider the Recommendation of the Downtown TIF Advisory Committee to Provide Security Cameras in the Downtown (Cont.)

Police Department line item. D.C. Cote gave some background information on this project in answer to resident Elaine Graham's questions regarding who and how this idea was generated. Also discussed was the possibility of a router being installed by BeeLine Cable in the Meetinghouse Park gazebo so that a camera can be placed there.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen thanked D.C. Cote for his time and effort on this project.

ITEM 5: To Review the Walton's Mill Dam Article for the November 6, 2018 Referendum

Richard Davis reviewed the referendum question and two related email exchanges between him and Town Attorney Amanda Meader. Mr. Davis stated that John Burrows has contacted him with the news that a \$100,000 grant has been secured already toward the culvert replacements. Mr. Davis clarified the location of the proposed Walton's Mill Park pavilion for the Selectmen.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the Walton's Mill Dam article for the November 6, 2018 referendum; Michael Fogg seconded.

Stephan Bunker clarified that the ultimate vote on moving forward on this article is not that of the Selectmen, it's to place it before the voters for their vote.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 OPPOSED 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Matthew Smith)**

Richard Davis confirmed for the press that there is a press release coming out soon on the upcoming meetings on this proposal.

ITEM 6: To Consider the Application of Peter Roberts to Serve on the Downtown T.I.F. Advisory Committee

Richard Davis reviewed Mr. Roberts' application.

Matthew Smith moved to appoint Peter Roberts to the Downtown T.I.F. Advisory Committee; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of August 14, 2018

Michael Fogg moved to approve the minutes of August 14, 2018; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

