FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Andrew Hufnagel, Dennis Pike, Joshua Bell and Jessica Berry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser, Police Chief Jack Peck, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Deputy Chiefs Clyde Ross and Tim Hardy, and Lt. Tim Hardy, Assessor Mark Caldwell, Treasurer Diana Young, Parks and Recreation Director Steve Shible, Public Works Director Denis Castonguay and Shop Manager Greg Soule, Budget Committee members Clyde Ross and Betty Jespersen, Channel 11, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Ryan Morgan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing on a Renewal Liquor License for Front Street Tavern, Inc.

Richard Davis reviewed the renewal application. Owners Bruce Hanson and Jeffery Marcotte were present to answer any questions the Selectmen or public may have. Mr. Hanson pointed out that Charles Williams is no longer an owner of this establishment.

Chairman Ryan Morgan opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:35 P.M.

There were no questions or concerns.

Chairman Ryan Morgan closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:35 P.M.

Attorney Paul Mills pointed out that Front Street Tavern, Inc. is still the same corporation, but with Mr. Hanson now being the majority owner. Police Chief Jack Peck expressed his confidence that the line of communication that was opened last year, as well as the change in ownership, have made a positive impact on this establishment.

Dennis Pike moved to approve the renewal liquor license for Front Street Tavern, Inc.; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the application.

ITEM 3: To hold a Hearing to Determine whether the Structure Located at 1158 Farmington Falls Road is Dangerous or a Nuisance within the Meaning of 17 M.R.S. §2851

Richard Davis reviewed Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser's memo dated January 24, 2014, and background information. Mr. Davis stated, and Mr. Kaiser confirmed, that there has been no tangible move by the owner of this property toward compliance. Andrew Hufnagel reviewed information he obtained from Mr. Kaiser relative to the property owner's rights to rebuild, in the event the current structure undergoes demolition.

Chairman Ryan Morgan opened the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:40 P.M.

Property abutters Jodie Craig and son Elijah, and Paul and Pamela Brown, expressed their concerns with the condition of the structure, especially in light of the number of children in the area. Mr. Brown expressed his appreciation for the professionalism with which CEO Steve Kaiser has handled this process.

Chairman Ryan Morgan closed the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:43 P.M.

It was CEO Steve Kaiser's recommendation, considering the lack of salvation of the structure, to start by drafting a consent agreement for demolition, with a time limit for compliance. He stated that the only safe alternative to demolition, in his opinion, would be to install a fence around the structure. In answer to a question regarding the status of past and present real estate tax payment, Treasurer Diana Young stated that neither the owner nor the property ring a bell as being on any delinquent list.

Dennis Pike moved to declare the structure located at 1158 Farmington Falls Road a danger or nuisance, and to authorize CEO Steve Kaiser to proceed with the proper legal procedure for demolition; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2014 Departmental Budgets:

Richard Davis reported that the Budget Committee completed its 2014 budget review on Wednesday, January 22nd and recommended all budgets as presented, except for the Farmington Public Library, which the majority of the Committee voted be increased by \$5,000 more than requested. Mr. Davis explained the Committee's reasons for this increase.

A) Treasurer / Clerk

Dennis Pike moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$235,225 for the 2014 Treasurer/Clerk budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$8,266; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
		•	

B) Cemeteries

Dennis Pike moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$73,293 for the 2014 Cemeteries budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$5,036; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------------------	---	-----------------------

C) General Assistance

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$23,000 for the 2014 General Assistance budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$2,000; Dennis Pike seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED

R) **T.A.N.**

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$3,000 for the 2014 T.A.N. budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$300; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------	-------------	---	-----------------------

Diana Young left the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

D) Assessing

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$126,604 for the 2014 Assessing budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$3,204; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------	-------------	---	----------------

Mark Caldwell left the meeting at 6:55 P.M.

E) Code Enforcement

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$152,530 for the 2014 Code Enforcement budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$1,841; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

F) Police

Joshua Bell generated a discussion regarding the potential savings in the Police budget by not filling the patrolman position that has been vacant since 2009. Chief Jack Peck participated in the discussion. Ryan Morgan expressed his concerns with Farmington sending an officer to MDEA. Andrew Hufnagel shared his experiences with the MDEA officers, as well as the labor and monetary misconceptions of that position, and the benefits to the Town. Chief Peck pointed out a recent article on The Daily Bulldog regarding the expanding drug problems in this area, and recommended that it be read.

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$1,193,565 for the 2014 Police budget, which is an increase over 2013 of \$19,437; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

(Morgan/Bell)

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 OPPOSED 2 MOTION CARRIED

G) Fire Rescue

Joshua Bell proposed filling only one more per diem position, and opening the recruiting process to firefighters outside the Town of Farmington. He also proposed reducing the Postage line item to \$75, and reducing the Books / Periodicals line item to \$200. Chief Terry Bell reviewed the per diem hiring proposals, reiterating the on-going problem of unavailable manpower. Andrew Hufnagel generated a discussion regarding regionalization. Richard Davis stated that the Budget Committee never had the benefit of this type of detailed discussion, and they voted to recommend the amount presented to them at that time. It was his feeling, in light of the difference between the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations that there will most likely be, that the Budget Committee should have the opportunity to review the proposals again, which may change their recommendation. It was Mr. Davis' suggestion that the Selectmen and Budget Committee members have a joint meeting on Wednesday, February 5th, and advertise it as a Public Hearing in the hopes of getting more public input. He pointed out that the Warrant needs to be finalized for the Selectmen's final review at their February 11th meeting so that the Town Report can go to print as soon as possible thereafter. Budget Committee chairman Clyde Ross joined in the discussion.

- ITEM 4: To Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2014 Departmental Budgets: (Cont.)
- G) (Cont.)

Dennis Pike moved to table discussion and recommendation of the Fire Rescue budget until February 5th at 6:30 P.M. during a joint meeting with the Budget Committee; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

All Fire Rescue Department personnel left at 7:28 P.M.

H) Parks & Recreation

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$153,002 for the 2014 Parks & Recreation budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$12,063; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
		U	

I) Community Center

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$105,881 for the 2014 Community Center budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$4,751; Dennis Pike seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------------------	---	-----------------------

Steve Shible left the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

J) Public Works

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$1,053,087 for the 2014 Public Works budget, which is an increase over 2013 of \$48,021; Dennis Pike seconded.

Ryan Morgan stated that he would like an additional full time employee considered in next year's budget process, as well as an expansion of the pool of seasonal plow operators.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

- ITEM 4: To Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2014 Departmental Budgets: (Cont.)
- K) LORAP

Joshua Bell moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$173,000 for the 2014 LORAP budget, which is the same as 2013; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

L) Five Year Road Program

Joshua Bell moved to reduce the proposed amount to \$75,000; no second. Motion failed.

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$133,000 for the 2014 Five Year Road Program budget, which is the same as 2013; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

Andrew Hufnagel thanked Mr. Bell for trying to keep the budget as low as possible, but did not feel that this Program should be modified. Ryan Morgan expressed his agreement with Mr. Bell, pointing out that he feels that this line item is one that could be reduced because it is not directly attached to a specific budget.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	OPPOSED 2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Morgan/Bell)	

M) Public Works Reserve

Dennis Pike moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$5,000 for the 2014 Public Works Reserve budget, which is the same as 2013; Jessica Berry seconded.

N) Recycling

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$70,448, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$749; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

O) Administration

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$235,533 for the 2014 Administration budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$3,598; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

Richard Davis confirmed for Joshua Bell that the Downtown Association membership fee is not included in this budget.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED

P) Committees & Events

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$6,500 for the 2014 Committees & Events budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$300; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMAT	FIVE 5	MOTION CARRIED
---------------	--------	-----------------------

Q) Municipal Building

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$81,421 for the 2014 Municipal Building budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$4,054; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------	-------------	---	-----------------------

S) Other Protections

Joshua Bell moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$479,116 for the 2014 Other Protections budget, which is an increase over 2013 of \$31,667; Dennis Pike seconded.

Andrew Hufnagel generated a discussion regarding the increase in the Fire Hydrants line item due to the Farmington Water Department's pending rate increase.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------------------	---	-----------------------

- ITEM 4: To Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2014 Departmental Budgets: (Cont.)
- T) Debt Service

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$158,413 for the 2014 Debt Service budget, which is a decrease from 2013 of \$4,040; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
		•	

U) Legal Reserve

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$18,000 for the 2014 Legal Reserve budget, which is an increase over 2013 of \$3,000; Ryan Morgan seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------------------	---	-----------------------

V) ADA Reserve

Jessica Berry moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$2,500 for the 2014 ADA Reserve budget, which is same as 2013; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------------------	---	-----------------------

W) Transportation Advisory Committee

Dennis Pike moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$-0- for the 2014 Transportation Advisory Committee; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------	-------------	---	-----------------------

X) Contracts/Public Services

Richard Davis recommended that the Selectmen vote on each entity individually.

Dennis Pike moved to increase the proposed amount for the 2014 Farmington Public Library budget to \$143,771; Jessica Berry seconded.

Richard Davis reviewed the report that the Library presented to the Budget Committee at its informational meeting. He also explained the Committee's recommendation by majority vote to increase the requested amount, which the Selectmen discussed.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 2 OPPOSED 3 MOTION FAILED (RM/AH/JoB)

X) Contracts/Public Services – Farmington Public Library (Cont.)

Joshua Bell generated a discussion regarding the feasibility of the Town contracting with the Farmington Public Library, with Budget Committee chairman Clyde Ross extending discussion to include the ramifications of the Library being hypothetically gifted to the Town.

Dennis Pike moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$138,771 for the 2014 Farmington Public Library budget; Jessica Berry seconded.

Further discussion, which included Town departments maintaining their 2013 budget amounts but the Library's increased by 2%, the increase in the Library's patronage, and at the suggestion of Budget Committee member Betty Jespersen, possibly asking the Library to give another presentation to the Selectmen since three of the five did not hear the presentation given to the Budget Committee.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 2 OPPOSED 3 MOTION FAILED (RM/AH/JoB)

Dennis Pike moved to recommend the amount of \$135,938 for the 2014 Farmington Public Library budget, which is the same as 2013; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	4	OPPOSED	1	MOTION CARRIED
			(Berry)		

Joshua Bell moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$900 for the 2014 Gay Cemetery budget, which is the same as 2013; Ryan Morgan seconded.

VOLE AFTINIATIVE 5 MOTION CARNIED	VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
--	------	-------------	---	-----------------------

Joshua Bell moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$13,968 for the 2014 Franklin County Animal Shelter budget, which is an increase over 2013 of \$194; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 OPPOSED 1 MOTION CARRIED (Pike)

In response to Dennis Pike's statement that he feels that since a precedent has been set, all Contracts / Public Services should be held at their 2013 appropriation, Richard Davis explained that this contract is based on per capita and regulated by State Statute. He also pointed out that this is the alternative to the Town operating its own Animal Shelter.

ITEM 5: To Award the bid for Printing the 2013 Annual Report

Richard Davis reviewed the bid tabulation of the three proposals received, and recommended that the bid be awarded to Skowhegan Press for the amount of \$1,969.00.

Dennis Pike moved to award the bid for printing the 2013 Annual Report to Skowhegan Press for the amount of \$1,969.00; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Discuss the Dissolution of the Sandy River Recycling Association

Richard Davis reviewed the recently signed Recycling Service Agreement between the Town of Farmington and Alan Archibald of Archie's, Inc., which takes effect on January 31, 2014. He pointed out that the Town's recycling operation with Sandy River Recycling Association (SRRA) will cease on that date as well. Mr. Davis reported that SRRA voted on January 16, 2014 to dissolve the Association as of June 30, 2014, with the assets to be divided amongst those municipalities that were members at the time of the vote. Each municipality's share will be determined once appraisals are done and attempts are made to sell the assets. Mr. Davis reported that SRRA also voted at its January 16th meeting to pro-rate its first quarter invoice, based on the withdrawal date in writing of each municipality. He stated that he submitted a withdrawal letter on behalf of the Town of Farmington to SRRA to be effective January 31, 2014, thereby reducing the amount due from Farmington per the first quarter invoice by two months. He further stated that since this expenditure is not in the 2014 budget, he anticipates that it will be paid out of the Tipping Fees line item in the Recycling budget. Mr. Davis reported that SRRA also voted to retain the license for the compost site, as they feel it has potential commercial value to a landscaping type company. He indicated that Dr. Eastler's donation for the composting license fee will be refunded. In response to Joshua Bell's inquiry, Mr. Davis stated that the land was purchased from the Town, and the Town has first refusal to re-purchase it.

ITEM 7: To Transfer \$9,297.12 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to cover an Overdraft in the Other Protections Account, pursuant to Article Twenty-Eighth of the March 18, 2013 Annual Town Meeting

Richard Davis reviewed the Other Protections spreadsheet showing where the expenditures occurred in the Hydrants, Insurances and Traffic Light Maintenance line items.

Jessica Berry moved to approve the transfer of \$9,297.12 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to cover an overdraft in the Other Protections account; Dennis Pike seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRI

ITEM 8: To Approve the Minutes of January 7 and 14, 2014

Andrew Hufnagel moved to approve the minutes of January 7 and 14, 2014; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

- **ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business**
 - **A)** Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen of the Franklin County Municipal Officers meeting at the Community Center on Wednesday, January 29th at 7:00 P.M.
 - **B**) Richard Davis handed out a form to each Selectman to fill out to provide the Town with a new password for their Town email account. He asked that the form be turned back in to him.
 - C) The Selectmen each thanked Town Manager Richard Davis for the fantastic job he and the Department Heads did on keeping the budgets low.
- ITEM 10: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant To 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.D to discuss the Police Labor Contract Negotiations with the Negotiators, Richard Davis and Jack Peck

Dennis Pike moved to go into Executive Session under Item 10 at 8:21 P.M.; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Board came out of Executive Session under Item 10 at 8:45 P.M.

No action was taken.

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

Dennis Pike moved to go into Executive Session under Item 11 at 8:46 P.M.; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
------	-------------	---	-----------------------

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 (Cont.)

The Board came out of Executive Session under Item 11 at 9:14 P.M.

No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Andrew Hufnagel moved to adjourn; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Dennis C. Pike – Secretary