

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Dennis Pike, Joshua Bell and Jessica Berry. Andrew Hufnagel was absent. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, 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 the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for 82 High Street, Phase II

Town Manager Richard Davis reviewed the Letter of Intent (LOI) that the 82 High Street Board members are submitting to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Assistance program to begin Phase II of this project. He stated that the 82 High Street Board members requested this Public Hearing to provide information and elicit comments regarding the project.

Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser explained that this Public Hearing is required as part of the CDBG application process. He stated that the 82 High Street Board successfully completed the Phase I mobile home rehabilitation project in 2012, and the Phase II project will provide sewer, water, and natural gas utilities within the "82 High Street" community, which comes at an opportune time considering the problems the community has been experiencing with the old sewer lines this winter. Mr. Kaiser reviewed the project, which includes installing: a 4" water main along with 1" copper service lines with curb boxes; an 8" SDR 35 sewer main together with 6" SDR 35 service lines and five manholes; and a 2" CTS natural gas line together with 1" CTS service lines with meter lock stops. He stated that these utilities will be installed along Sawtelle Lane, which will be repaired following the utility installation by repaving with 2" binder. Mr. Kaiser further stated that the utilities will service the existing mobile homes, apartment buildings, and any planned unit replacement, as well as any future development. He pointed out that the LOI is due March 14th, and if it is accepted, they will be invited to submit an application, with said application being due May 2nd. If the application is accepted, the construction will begin in 2015.

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

ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for 82 High Street, Phase II (Cont.)

Fenwick Fowler, Chairman of the Development Committee of the 82 High Street Board, introduced Property Manager Rachel Jackson-Hodsdon, and Committee member Erick Aplan. Numerous other Committee members were also present. Mr. Fowler stated that they are in the last stage of redevelopment and will be phasing the project in over time. He pointed out that 82 High Street was developed 25 years ago in as inexpensive a manner as possible to retain its affordability status. He further pointed out that the apartment units are not suitable for rehabilitation, so the infrastructure improvements will help the redevelopment project move forward.

Chairman Ryan Morgan closed the Public Hearing at 6:37 P.M.

Dennis Pike complimented the group that 25 years ago assumed responsibility for making the property more efficient. He pointed out that prior to the project's existence, 37% of all law enforcement activities in the Town of Farmington were associated with that area.

Dennis Pike moved to authorize and support the application for the CDBG Grant for the 82 High Street Project Phase II; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Hufnagel)

Ryan Morgan stated, for the record, that he has distanced himself from this application as he represents the Town on this Board.

ITEM 3: To Hear a Report on an Opportunity to Fund Broadband Expansion

Richard Davis stated that he became aware of this grant funding opportunity through an article that appeared in the February 21st issue of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Legislative Bulletin. Mr. Davis reviewed the article and the potential such an economic development tool would mean for Farmington businesses and residents. He reported that Steve Kaiser, with input from the Public Utilities Commission and University of Maine System, was very helpful in drafting the requested Statement of Interest (SoI), which was submitted to the FCC by the March 7th deadline. Mr. Davis stated that there is no obligation on the part of the Town by submitting the SoI. The Board discussed the opportunity, with Mr. Kaiser contributing to the discussion.

ITEM 4: To Receive for Review the updated *Town of Farmington All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan*

Richard Davis handed out and reviewed the Town's Emergency Management Ordinance that was adopted in March, 2006. He explained that in performing the required periodic review of the *Emergency Operations Plan*, it was discovered that it needs to be updated.

