FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Joshua Bell, Andrew Buckland, and Stephan Bunker. Michael Fogg was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Public Works Director Denis Castonguay (6:50-7:40 P.M.), as well as 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 Approve the Town of Farmington's Share of the Mount Blue TV Channel 11 Budget for 2015

Richard Davis reviewed the proposed budget and acknowledged receipt of a check from Bee Line Cable in the amount of \$52,533.80, which included the Town's franchise fees and Bee Line's \$5,000 annual contribution to Channel 11. Station Director JP Fortier reviewed the year's activities and their struggles with volunteer help. He also further explained each line item of the proposed the budget, and handed out and reviewed MBTV's 2014 In-House Production Report. Mr. Fortier verified that this budget comes to the Selectmen with the endorsement of the MBTV Board of Directors.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the Town of Farmington's share of the Mount Blue TV Channel 11 budget for 2015; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 3: To Accept for Review the Updated Comprehensive Plan

Richard Davis stated that this update has been reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Boards, and is now being presented to the Selectmen for their review. He further stated that the next step is to schedule a Public Hearing in order for it to be placed on the March 23rd Town Meeting Warrant. He anticipates the Public Hearing will be on either the January 13th or 27th Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda. The Selectmen requested that staff provide them with a synopsis of the changes.

ITEM 3: To Accept for Review the Updated Comprehensive Plan (Cont.)

Andrew Buckland moved to accept the updated Comprehensive Plan for review; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 4: To Grant Blanket Approval to the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post No. 28 for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Richard Davis reviewed the letter of request from Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post No. 28 dated November 10, 2014.

Joshua Bell moved to grant Blanket Approval to the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post No. 28 for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a period of one year, from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSTAINED 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Stephan Bunker) (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 5: To Review and Approve the Contract for Assessing Services

Richard Davis asked that the Selectmen table action on this Item. While reviewing the rough draft of the contract proposal presented by Mr. O'Donnell with the Town's attorney it was determined that a more comprehensive contract is necessary in order to protect the interests of all parties involved. Mr. Davis stated that he anticipates an updated draft proposal will be available for the Selectmen's review at their next regularly scheduled meeting on December 23, 2014.

Andrew Buckland moved to table Item 5 until the next Selectmen's meeting on December 23, 2014; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 6: To Amend the Town of Farmington *Community Announcement Space Policy* 20:35

Richard Davis explained the purpose of the legal review and the proposed amendments.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve amendments to the Town of Farmington *Community Announcement Space Policy*; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

To Review the Public Works Department's Program of Watering and Fertilizing the Downtown Plants

Richard Davis reviewed the breakdown of the services and costs provided by Public Works Director Denis Castonguay, who was present to help answer questions. Downtown Association member Gloria McGraw reiterated that without this service they will not be able to purchase the plants. John Moore also encouraged the continuance of this program and asked if the Downtown TIF Fund could be utilized for funding. Mr. Davis explained that the TIF fund can be utilized for replacing poles and brackets, etc., but not the maintenance program. Ryan Morgan generated a discussion regarding the aesthetic benefits of the downtown plants.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve inclusion of the program of watering and fertilizing the downtown plants in the 2015 Public Works Department budget proposal; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 8: To Consider Giving Staff a Paid Holiday on Friday, December 26, 2014

Richard Davis explained, and the Selectmen discussed, the staff request.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve giving the staff a paid holiday on Friday, December 26, 2014; no second. Motion failed.

The Selectmen further discussed the additional costs of the request, which Mr. Davis anticipated to be minimal. The Selectmen asked that they be provided with a breakdown of the additional cost of any requests of this nature in the future. Mr. Davis reiterated that the Town Office will be closed regardless of the Selectmen's vote due to lack of staffing, with vacation time being used. He verified that other staff can certainly do that as well.

Joshua Bell moved to approve giving the staff a paid holiday on Friday, December 26, 2014; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 OPPOSED 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Ryan Morgan) (Michael Fogg)

Mr. Davis expressed thanks to the Selectmen on behalf of the staff.

ITEM 9: To Accept Selectman Buckland's Resignation from the Safety Committee and Appoint another Board member to Serve on that Committee

Richard Davis explained that this Committee is structured in such a way that a Selectman needs to be on the Committee. Michael Fogg was volunteered and Stephan Bunker volunteered to fill in whenever Mr. Fogg is not available.

ITEM 9: To Accept Selectman Buckland's Resignation from the Safety Committee and Appoint another Board member to Serve on that Committee (Cont.)

Ryan Morgan moved to accept Selectman Andrew Buckland's resignation from the Safety Committee and to appoint Michael Fogg to serve on that Committee; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 10: To Consider the Application of Linda Smith to Serve on the Town Report Committee

Richard Davis reviewed the Town Report Committee application.

Stephan Bunker moved to appoint Linda Smith to serve on the Town Report Committee; Ryan Morgan seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

To Hear a Report on Shortfalls in the 2014 Public Works Department Budget

Richard Davis expressed his regret in having to bring this information to the Board. He handed out and reviewed the Public Works Department budget expenditure sheet and backup material. He also read and reviewed the Statute pertaining to an allowable overdraft in the road or highway account. Mr. Davis stated that he will have final figures at the January 13th Selectmen's meeting. He reviewed the major weather events that occurred during the year, and Public Works Director Denis Castonguay reviewed all of the line items that these weather events impacted. Mr. Castonguay thanked the Selectmen for their support. Mr. Davis reviewed the overdraft and its funding, pointing out that ratification of the overdraft is required by a Town Meeting vote. The balance of the Unassigned Fund Balance and future anticipated expenditures from the UFB were also discussed.

ITEM 12: To Approve the Minutes of November 18 and 25, 2014

Joshua Bell moved to approve the minutes of November 18 and 25, 2014; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSTAINED 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Ryan Morgan) (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 13: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen that they will be meeting again next Tuesday, December 23rd to complete any year-end business. He stated that he anticipates scheduling a special meeting the first week in January for the Selectmen to review 2015 budgets with the department heads. Mr. Davis also reported that the Budget Committee will be holding its organizational meeting tomorrow night, December 17th, at 6:30 P.M.
- B) Resident/business owner John Moore asked to address the Selectmen regarding the Front Street storm water drain project relative to the approach taken by the Town Manager's office in the lack of notification of the project to the four tax paying abutters at the same time as notification to the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). Mr. Moore stated that he has no problem with the easement, but it was only the first of two pieces of correspondence that he has received regarding this project, the second being a letter of inquiry from an engineer asking for any plans/documents citing the location of any underground utilities in the project area. He voiced his concerns with his perceived Town credibility issues regarding abutter inclusion and implementation of agreed upon actions to be taken. Richard Davis accepted full responsibility for the abutters not being notified, stating that it was not a matter of ignoring them, but an oversight. He stated that it was not he who notified UMF, and he is not sure who did. Steve Kaiser's very preliminary draft easement was discussed, as well as Mr. Moore's perceived non-compliance of portions of the Town's 99-year lease of the Front Street parking lot with him. Mr. Moore handed out a copy of said lease and pictures of the parking lot. In regard to said lease, Mr. Davis apologized for any perceived oversight but also pointed out that he has not been made aware of any dissatisfaction. In moving back to discussion of the drainage project, he assured Mr. Moore that it is the Town's intent with this and any other project to be certain that all work is accomplished to the satisfaction of all parties involved. Mr. Davis stated that the next step in this project will be to prepare a formal easement and set up an informational meeting between all parties that will be affected in order to go over any concerns and make sure they are addressed in the project plan. All parties agreed that this new project will also provide an opportunity for opening communication regarding compliance of the parking lot lease with Mr. Moore. Mr. Davis encouraged Mr. Moore to come see him at his earliest convenience to view what information he has on this project to date.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Andrew Buckland moved to adjourn at 8:08 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Stephan M. Bunker – Secretary