#### FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### Tuesday, December 23, 2014

Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M. with the following members present: Joshua Bell, Andrew Buckland and Stephan Bunker. Michael Fogg arrived at 6:45 P.M. during Item 2. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Chief Jack Peck, 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 Authorize the Police Department to Accept and Implement a \$20,000 Speed Enforcement Grant

Chief Jack Peck reviewed the packet provided to the Selectmen, and pointed out that there is no in-kind match for this grant. Chief Peck reported that if the Selectmen authorize acceptance, it is his plan to run 140 four-hour speed enforcement details throughout the Town.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize the Police Department to accept and implement a \$20,000 Speed Enforcement Grant; Joshua Bell seconded.

## VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSTAINED 1 MOTION CARRIED (Michael Fogg)

### ITEM 3: To Review and Approve the Contract for Assessing Services

Richard Davis explained that he and Assessor Mark Caldwell have been working with Attorney Frank Underkuffler to compile this contract and he just received the latest draft today at 4:45 P.M. He asked the Selectmen to review the contract and accompanying letter of explanation from Attorney Underkuffler and get back to him by 12:00 P.M. tomorrow, December 24<sup>th</sup> with their approval or disapproval. If approved, Attorney Underkuffler will send the contract to John O'Donnell for his review and approval. Mr. Davis explained to the Selectmen why the contract is so lengthy.

## To Review and Approve the RFP for Engineering Services for the Downtown TIF Projects

Richard Davis asked the Selectmen to table Item 4 until their next regularly scheduled meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> in order to allow the Selectmen time to review the RFP. That would also allow the Downtown TIF Committee time to review the RFP and discuss it at their next meeting on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. It was the consensus of the Board to table Item 4.

#### ITEM 5: To Approve the Fourth Quarter 2014 Sewer Commitment

Richard Davis reported that the rates remained the same as the third quarter of 2014: Residential/Rental and Commercial Rate = \$7.285 / 100 cubic feet Residential/Rental and Commercial Minimum = \$36.43 / 500 cubic feet

Joshua Bell moved and Stephan Bunker seconded, as Sewer Commissioners, to approve the fourth quarter 2014 Sewer Commitment.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen, acting as Sewer Commissioners, signed the Commitment.

## ITEM 6: To Grant Blanket Approval to Farmington Lodge 2430 BPOE for Beano/ Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Richard Davis reported that this is a standard annual request from the Elks Lodge.

Ryan Morgan moved to grant Blanket Approval to Farmington Lodge 2430 BPOE for Beano/ Bingo and Games of Chance for a period of one year, from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015; Joshua Bell seconded.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Blanket Approval.

## ITEM 7: To Hear an Update on the Whittier Road Bank Stabilization Project

Richard Davis reviewed a letter from FEMA dated October 3, 2014, and noted the concerns expressed in the letter that have been addressed. He reported that the main concern that needs to be addressed is the trees that did not survive. Meetings with MEMA and the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation Service have produced a

#### ITEM 7: To Hear an Update on the Whittier Road Bank Stabilization Project (Cont.)

proposal to replace the trees with shrubs. The proposal calls for the plantings to be overseen by the Conservation Commission and accomplished by volunteers from the Foster Tech Forestry Program and the UMF Community Service Program in May. Mr. Davis stated that, with the likelihood of enough volunteers for planting, the only expense to the Town will be the shrubs; although he did not know what that cost will be. Mr. Davis reviewed the list of approved plantings, which will need to be ordered through the Conservation Service soon so as to be here in time to be planted in May. He further reported that the rest of the project has held up very well and performed as planned.

# ITEM 8: To Consider Holding a Special Meeting on January 6, 2015 to Review the 2015 Departmental Budget Requests

Richard Davis stated that he would like the Selectmen to review the budget requests before the Budget Committee does on January 7, 2015. He further stated that the budget books should be ready in time for review before the meeting.

Ryan Morgan moved to hold a special meeting on January 6, 2015 to review the 2015 departmental budget requests; Andrew Buckland seconded.

Michael Fogg asked for and received clarification of what will take place. Stephan Bunker pointed out that the next TIF Committee meeting will be on the same date starting at 4:30 P.M.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

### ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of December 16, 2014

The minutes of December 16, 2014 were tabled as they were not yet available.

#### ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis wished all a Merry Christmas.
- **B)** Joshua Bell noted the vast improvements to the Bee Line Cable website. He wished all a Merry Christmas as well.
- C) Stephan Bunker noted that Farmington is not the only Town with Public Works Department budget overdrafts due to the horrible weather that was experienced during the year. Richard Davis stated that he has told Public Works Director Denis Castonguay to hold off on all but essential expenditures for now due to the overdrafts.

#### **ITEM 10:** To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- **D)** Andrew Buckland expressed his thanks to Steve Muise and the Franklin County Fiddlers who held the annual Homecoming Concert on December 21<sup>st</sup> to benefit the Ecumenical Heating Fund. He reported that \$1,100 was raised this year.
- E) Ryan Morgan pointed out that with the new year comes new Legislation, and that with Richard Davis and Stephan Bunker on the Maine Municipal Association Legislative Policy Committee and Board, and Andrew Buckland as a State Representative, the Town should be well represented. He encouraged his fellow Board members to contact our Legislators with any concerns. He pointed out that there will be a list of bills out soon after the January 2<sup>nd</sup> cloture. Richard Davis stated the greatest concerns right now are loss of Revenue Sharing and excise tax. MMA will be pushing to try to preserve those, as they are the two largest sources of non-property tax revenue.

## ITEM 11: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A. to Discuss an Administrative Personnel Matter

Joshua Bell moved to go into Executive Session at 7:04 P.M.; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 7:41 P.M.

No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Stephan Bunker moved to adjourn; Michael Fogg seconded.** 

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Stephan M. Bunker – Secretary