

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith, Scott Landry and Michael Fogg. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser, 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 Hold a Public Hearing and Vote on the Town of Farmington Moratorium Ordinance Extension for Adult Use and Medical Marijuana Stores, Cultivation Facilities, Manufacturing Facilities, and Testing Facilities**

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 P.M.

Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser gave an update on what the State has done with the medical and adult use marijuana laws since May, 2018. Mr. Kaiser explained that the requested extension will allow time for the draft ordinance, zoning changes and application to be fine-tuned for presentation at the annual Town Meeting in March, 2019 where there will be broader representation for the opt-in to be voted on. Mr. Kaiser further explained how implementation of licensing and operation of both adult use and medical marijuana facilities will presumably take place, as well as regulation thereof. Also discussed were NFPA regulations that are in place for facilities that make products from the oils, etc. of the marijuana plant, and how it is addressed in the Town's ordinance.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:46 P.M.

**Scott Landry moved to approve a Moratorium Ordinance Extension for Adult Use and Medical Marijuana Stores, Cultivation Facilities, Manufacturing Facilities, and Testing Facilities until the March 25, 2019 annual Town Meeting; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 3: To Hear an Update from Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC), on Initiatives of GFDC and its Request for County Funding**

Richard Davis stated that a vote was taken at the last meeting to encourage the Franklin County Commissioners to approve an appropriation of \$40,000 from the County TIF to support GFDC. Mr. Davis further stated that it has since been learned that any of the County TIF funding has to be used in the unorganized territories. Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC), explained that

**ITEM 3: To Hear an Update from Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC), on Initiatives of GFDC and its Request for County Funding (Cont.)**

he has met with the County Clerk and Commissioners to get clarity on how the TIF funding may be used and found that if \$40,000 has been raised, it can then be matched. Mr. Woodworth reported that, in fact, GFDC has raised \$45,000 this year. He further reported on GFDC’s economic and community development efforts, which consist of: broadband connectivity; workforce development; a community marketing-branding initiative; and a heritage and cultural initiative. Mr. Woodworth also briefly discussed the importance of funding the other non-profit agencies that were cut this year. He encouraged the Selectmen to write a letter of support to the County Commissioners for matching funds this year, and for the economic and community development entity to be put back into the budget in the spring. He also encouraged Joshua Bell, as the chair of both the Farmington Selectmen and the County Budget Committee, to be the one to sign and send the letter, which he feels will send a strong message to the County Commissioners.

**Stephan Bunker moved to reaffirm the Selectmen’s position to send a letter to the Franklin County Commissioners to provide matching funds to the GFDC in 2018 and to strongly consider adding GFDC back into their regular budget considerations; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 4: To Dedicate the Compost Site to the Memory of Dr. Tom Eastler, who was Instrumental in its Establishment and Operation**

Richard Davis stated that this suggestion was put forth by Mark King of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection compost program, and Luke Kellett of the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF), both of whom have been the principals in the operation of the site. They thought that this might be an appropriate gesture in light of Dr. Eastler’s enthusiastic participation in establishing and running the compost site. Mr. Davis reported that there will be a compost sale on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Matthew Smith moved to dedicate the compost site to the memory of Dr. Tom Eastler; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

Richard Davis pointed out that there is a memorial service for Dr. Eastler scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, September 30th at Dearborn Gym on the UMF campus. Mr. Davis stated that he will discuss with Mark King the placement of a sign at the site. It was the consensus of the Selectmen that they are willing to help with funding of said sign through the Special Projects account.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 5: To add Domestic Partner Coverage to the Town's Health Insurance Benefit**

Richard Davis reviewed a Question & Answer sheet on domestic partner coverage from the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust, which they do offer, but it requires a vote from the Municipal Officers in order to offer it. Mr. Davis pointed out that this coverage would provide the Town with another employee recruitment tool, and it will not cost the Town any more than the health coverage currently offered. There are, however, some Internal Revenue Service (IRS) considerations that will apply to the employee taking the coverage as it is not a tax qualified dependent being covered. Mr. Davis pointed out that Franklin County has this coverage.

**Matthew Smith moved to add domestic partner coverage to the Town's health insurance benefit; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 6: To Consider the Application of Hunter Manley to Serve on the Conservation Commission**

Matthew Smith stated that Mr. Manley is interning with Peter Tracy in his forestry business and feels that he will be a good addition to the Commission.

**Matthew Smith moved to appoint Hunter Manley to the Conservation Commission as an associate member; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 7: To Consider Cancelling the October 9, 2018 Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

Richard Davis explained that he will not be available that evening, but can certainly generate an agenda if they wish to hold the meeting without him. Scott Landry stated that he will be out of town as well.

**Matthew Smith moved to cancel the October 9, 2018 Board of Selectmen's meeting; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 8: To Approve Voting Delegate Credentials for the Maine Municipal Association's Annual Business Meeting**

Richard Davis explained that he will not be able to attend. Stephan Bunker stated that as a past President he will be attending.

**ITEM 8: To Approve Voting Delegate Credentials for the Maine Municipal Association's Annual Business Meeting (Cont.)**

**Matthew Smith moved to approve Stephan Bunker as the Town of Farmington's voting delegate for the Maine Municipal Association's annual business meeting; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen signed the Voting Delegates Credentials.

**ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of September 11, 2018**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2018; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business**

**A) Richard Davis reviewed a Cemetery Lot Conveyance to Roger and Bette Robbins for two grave lots in the Fairview Cemetery.**

**Matthew Smith moved to approve a Cemetery Lot Conveyance to Roger and Bette Robbins for two grave lots in Fairview Cemetery; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**B) Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen and listening audience that the first of three meetings on the Walton Mill dam removal will be held at the Community Center tomorrow night beginning at 6:00 P.M.**

**C) Richard Davis reported that Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell offered the vacant Firefighter position on his department to an existing per diem employee, but that employee was unable to accept it, so the position has been advertised.**

**D) Richard Davis reported that Kenneth Schmidt has been hired as the new Public Works Department mechanic, and gave a brief synopsis of his background history.**

**E) Richard Davis reported that Kate Foster has been hired as the new Code Enforcement Assistant.**

**F) Scott Landry commented on the Titcomb Hill Road project and the bad condition of the Ski Slope Road.**

**G) In response to Joshua Bell's inquiry, Richard Davis explained the placement of the Front Street culvert relative to the Consolidated Communications cables.**

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

**H)** Richard Davis stated that he is still working with the land owners on the upper end of Front Street to come up with an agreement to allow the Town to do the cutting necessary to install the retaining wall. He feels they're close to an agreement but it may not be in time to accomplish that project this year.

**ITEM 11: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to Conduct the Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation**

**Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 7:23 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:25 P.M.

**Stephan Bunker moved to give the manager a \$500 one-time stipend from the Special Projects Account in recognition of his receipt of the Maine Town, City, and County Association's *Linc Stackpole Manager of the Year Award* and to increase the Town's contribution to the manager's ICMA 457 Deferred Compensation Account by 2% (to a total of 14% of salary) effective April 1, 2019; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 8:26 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

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Michael J. Fogg - Secretary