

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

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, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Jaycee Jenckes, 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.

Chairman Joshua Bell explained that the next two Items on the agenda were informational only and that representatives from NECEC and NRCM will be given twenty minutes each to give an update on, and voice concerns about, the project. He stated that the twenty minutes will include fielding any questions from the public. Chairman Bell also pointed out that the Selectmen voted at their February 12th meeting to add an Article to the annual Town Meeting Warrant for public vote in favor of, neutral, or in opposition to the project.

ITEM 2: To Hear an Update on the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Project (John Carrol and Thorn Dickinson of Central Maine Power Company)

John Carrol introduced himself and Gerry Mirabile, permitting manager for the project and Elizabeth Swain of Power Engineers. Thorn Dickinson was unable to attend. Mr. Carrol gave his update with the assistance of Mr. Mirabile and a PowerPoint presentation. Comments in opposition to the project were heard from Steve McCarthy/Rome; Darryl Wood/New Sharon; Ruth Keister/Farmington; Theresa York/Farmington; Samuel Day/Portland; Mark Raynes/Vienna; Roger Wing/Farmington; and Gina Taylor/Eustis.

ITEM 3: To Hear the Concerns of the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) regarding the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Project

Sue Ely, Clean Energy attorney for the Natural Resources Council of Maine introduced herself and explained that she has been working in opposition to the NECEC Project for over a year. Ms. Ely gave an overview of the concerns of the NRCM, as well as other alternative opportunities that they feel are worthy of more research. Comments in opposition to the project were heard from: Hunter Tayott/North Anson; Hank Washburn/New Sharon; Monica McCarthy/Rome; Fen Fowler/Farmington; Jane Woodman/Farmington; Gina Taylor/Eustis; Patty Mallette/ Farmington; Bert Knapp/Farmington; Troy Hull/Industry; Carol Anscheles/Farmington; Jean Stewart/New Sharon; Wayne Deri/Farmington; and Ken Decker/ Farmington. Gil Reed/Freeman and Paul Frederic/Starks spoke in favor of the project. John Carrol assisted with answering questions.

ITEM 4: To Review and Approve the Warrant for the March 25, 2019 Annual Town Meeting

Richard Davis reviewed the proposed Warrant, highlighting Articles Third, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Twenty-Fifth, Twenty-Sixth, Twenty-Seventh, Twenty-Ninth, Forty-Second, Forty-Third, and Forty-Fifth. Mr. Davis stated that the short audit was received today.

Matthew Smith moved to approve the Warrant for the March 25, 2019 Annual Town Meeting; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed two separate copies of the Warrant.

ITEM 5: To Review the Property Taxes paid by the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF)

Richard Davis reviewed his memo dated February 22, 2019 regarding the University of Maine at Farmington's (UMF's) purchase of the former call center property at 274 Front Street, which UMF has agreed to permanently pay 50% of the annual assessed property tax. He also reviewed two other properties that UMF has paid 100% of the property tax on annually and the adjustment to 50% on one of the properties, as well as payments in lieu of taxes made annually. Mr. Davis stated that he wanted the Selectmen to be aware of the tax and in lieu of payments made annually, in light of UMF's most recent purchase.

ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of February 12, 2019

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of February 12, 2019; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business

A) Richard Davis reviewed a letter from the Franklin County Commissioners dated February 13, 2019 announcing that they have arranged room in the Franklin County Courthouse on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. for the Selectmen to hold their caucus for the nomination of candidates for the County Budget Committee. Mr. Davis pointed out that there is an opening in all three Commissioner districts.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 8:47 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary