

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 12, 2020**

The meeting was conducted through remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public may attend by viewing the livestream at <http://mtbluetelevision.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> and/or calling 778-5874.

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith, and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Deputy Chief S. Clyde Ross, Deputy Chief Timothy A. Hardy, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, and the Mt. Blue TV camera operator were also physically in attendance.

Votes were taken by roll call.

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 Proclaim May 17 to 23, 2020 as Arbor Week in Farmington

Richard Davis reviewed the upcoming Arbor Week events: Tree planting at the new reservoir site off Anson Street. Originally, the Maine Forest Service and the National Arbor Day Foundation had planned for a Town Forest Day in October with trail walks, tree identifications, and lectures. However, with the Coronavirus pandemic, the future of the event is uncertain. Mr. Davis stated that this is the 43rd year Farmington's been recognized as TREE CITY, USA by the Maine Forest Service and National Arbor Day Foundation.

Matthew Smith moved to proclaim May 17 to 23, 2020 as Arbor Week in Farmington; Scott Landry seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	4	ABSENT	1	MOTION CARRIED
			(Stephan Bunker)		

The Selectmen signed two copies of the Proclamation.

Selectman Stephan Bunker joined the meeting at 6:35 P.M. by participating remotely as authorized by PL 2019, c.617.

ITEM 3: To Review and Vote a Recommendation on the Revised 2020 Fire Rescue Department Budget Proposal

Mr. Davis reviewed the proposed 2020 Fire Rescue budget in the amount of \$566,549, which is a decrease from the December 11, 2019 proposed budget of \$270,491, or -33.58%. Mr. Davis stated that the proposed municipal budget will come in at approximately \$21,000 above this year's budget, an increase of less than .1%.

Chief Terry Bell, Deputy Chief Tim A. Hardy, Deputy Chief Clyde Ross, and Captain T.D. Hardy were present to answer the Selectmen's questions. Chief Bell stated that the Fire Department does not have adequate staffing and provided an overview of staffing shortages. Deputy Chief Tim A. Hardy expressed concern about the lack of manpower from 7:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M and cited a recent example of a call for medical assistance where only one fire fighter responded. Chief Bell stated that the proposed budget adds two full-time firefighters, which would bring the department up to six fulltime firefighters. With the use of a per diem fire fighter, six fulltime fire fighters would allow for twenty-four-hour coverage. Chief Bell explained that on Sunday and Wednesday a per diem fire fighter would be scheduled for a 24 shift. They would work the overnight shift with one fulltime fire fighter. Captain T.D. Hardy stated that the use of per diem fire fighters reduces overtime pay by approximately \$25,000 and allows for vacation and sick time coverage. Captain Hardy stated that the addition of two fulltime firefighters reduces fulltime fire fighter's workweek from fifty-two hours per week to forty-six hours per week.

Scott Landry moved to recommend the proposed budget of \$566,549; Matthew Smith seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Award the bid for Pavement Reclamation and Paving

Richard Davis reviewed the tabulation of the four Pavement Reclamation and Paving bids received, with the recommendation that the bid be awarded to Pike Industries.

Matthew Smith moved to award the bid for Pavement Reclamation and Paving to Pike Industries; Scott Landry seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To Discuss ways to Assist Businesses that may be Struggling During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Richard Davis stated that he continues to follow up on area businesses with the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business Association, and he is forwarding sources of assistance to them. Mr. Davis stated that the Town does not have any discretionary funding to assist businesses. He understands there will be some Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding available in June or July that businesses can apply for directly. Businesses would not apply for CDBG through the Town. Mr. Davis explained that the Town does have the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), to which businesses can apply for loans up to \$25,000 for working capital and improvements. There is an RLF committee that reviews applications, and they can be processed quickly. Currently, the RLF has approximately \$120,000 to lend. Mr. Davis stated that one of the biggest sources of help is through the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), a Small Business Development Center. Businesses can access applications for federal funds through the AVCOG website: <https://www.avcog.org/35/Business-Services>. Joshua Bell stated that AVCOG compiled a list of resources that businesses can reach out to. Mr. Bell inquired about the use of the Franklin Printing TIF. Mr. Davis explained that the Franklin Printing TIF can provide funds to be injected into the RLF, but it does not provide for funds to be used directly from the TIF account. Mr. Davis stated that there is no Credit Enhancement Agreement in the Franklin Printing TIF, so there is no money going into the reserve account. The funds are being spent down. Scott Landry recommended that small businesses take advantage of CDBG verses taking out a loan, which would need to be paid back. Mr. Landry stated that many businesses in the Farmington area have taken advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program and are thrilled. Mr. Davis reported that 26,000 small businesses in Maine have received a total of \$2.55 billion in Paycheck Protection Program loans.

ITEM 6: To Establish a new Tentative Date for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting

Richard Davis stated that, at the prior Selectmen's meeting, the Selectmen and School Directors' election was scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th, coinciding with the state referendum. The selectmen had also moved to establish a tentative date of Monday, July 20th for the Annual Town Meeting; however, crowd restrictions relating to the Governor's reopening plan would prohibit a traditional Town Meeting in July, and we do not know about August yet. Mr. Davis stated that the Town could possibly hold the Town Meeting in September, but it is difficult to plan that now. Mr. Davis stated that the Town will need to amend the Warrant, and that he spoke with John O'Donnell, Tax Assessor, and Mr. O'Donnell suggests that on the due date for taxes it read: "Due November 1, 2020 or forty-five days from the commitment, whichever is later". Joshua Bell inquired about holding referendum-style vote on the warrant. Mr. Davis stated that the Town can hold a referendum-style vote, but we would need to hold a public hearing. Mr. Davis cautioned that the ballot would be several pages long and would take time for people to read through the ballot creating long wait lines at the Community Center. Absentee Ballots would be very expensive, and should a question fail the Town would need to hold another written ballot. Mr. Davis stated that, at this time, he has no firm answers or recommendation. The Selectmen reached a consensus to wait and see if conditions improve.

ITEM 7: To Discuss the Potential use of Unassigned Fund Balance

Richard Davis disclosed that he is working on revising this year revenue estimates. The 2020 estimate for excise tax revenues will probably be \$250,000 less than originally projected, bringing the revised estimate to approximately where it was in 2019. Mr. Davis explained that local road assistance will most likely be cut because of reduced gas tax revenues. The excise tax declined drastically during the month of April and picked up slightly in May. Mr. Davis informed the Selectmen that the Town Office will open to the public June 1st, and the Town should see an increase in walk-in revenues. Mr. Davis stated that, to keep taxes from increasing and to meet our tax commitment, the Town will likely need to appropriate funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Mr. Davis stated that he was able to reduce this year's budget by calling Bangor Savings Bank and deferring the December 6th bond payment for the new fire truck until January 2021. Mr. Davis recommended preserving the Unassigned Fund Balance in 2020 and using the funds to pay the two fire truck bond payments in 2021.

ITEM 8: To Consider Cancelling the May 26, 2020 Selectmen's Meeting

Richard Davis asked the board to consider cancelling the May 26th meeting, as he will not be able to attend.

Matthew Smith moved to cancel the May 26, 2020 Selectmen's meeting; Scott Landry seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of April 28, 2020

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2020; Scott Landry seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

- A. Richard Davis reiterated that the Town Office will open to the public on Monday, June 1st. Mr. Davis explained that he is working with staff to create an information sheet for the public. Police Chief Jack Peck is working on an opening plan for the Police Department on June 1st and Matt Foster, Parks and Recreation Director, is waiting on guidance that is coming out on Monday. Public Works and the Waste Water Treatment Plant will most

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business - continued

likely remain closed. Joshua Bell questioned opening the tennis courts on an RSVP basis. Mr. Davis stated that he would forward the recommendation on to Mr. Foster.

B. Michael Fogg stated that the letter the Selectmen sent to the Superintendent of Schools encouraging RSU #9 to keep the school budget conservative was very well worded. Mr. Fogg asked Richard Davis if he had heard from the Superintendent. Mr. Davis stated that he had not heard from the Superintendent. He did, however, receive an email from School Director Wayne Kinney thanking the Selectmen for their letter. Also, School Director Doug Dunlap sent a note thanking the Selectmen for their letter. Mr. Davis stated that an article in the Daily Bulldog projecting the school budget and its impact on the individual towns indicated a \$72,000 decrease for Farmington.

C. Michael Fogg recommended an item for a future agenda. He stated that it would be nice to have a hat with the Town of Farmington’s logo that could be worn with pride by Selectmen, Public Works, Fire Rescue Department, and others. Mr. Fogg stated that it would be nice to wear a hat that advocates for the Town of Farmington. The topic of discussion for the Selectmen’s meeting would cover how many hats should be ordered, who gets a hat, and would there be a charge for them. Richard Davis stated that he would add the item to the June 9th agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:59 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.**

Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary