

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, June 9, 2020

The meeting was conducted through remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public may attend by viewing the livestream at <http://mtbluetv.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 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith, and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Police Chief Jack Peck, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster, Planning Assistant Cindy Gelinas, 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 Hold a Public Hearing and vote on an Application for a New Liquor License for Sandy Hill Farm, LLC owned and operated by Keeley Valverde and Dennis Riordon d/b/a *The Farmhouse Beer Garden*, located at 926 Farmington Falls Road

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:35 P.M.

Keeley Valverde was present and reviewed the hours of business, menu, seating, and potential opening date. The Farmhouse Beer Garden will offer outdoor seating only, and will serve beer, wine, pizza, and ice cream. The tentative hours of operation will be 11:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. Ms. Valverde stated that they hope to open before the July 4th weekend.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:40 P.M.

Scott Landry moved to approve the application for a new liquor license for Sandy Hill Farm, LLC, d/b/a *The Farmhouse Beer Garden*; Matthew Smith seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing and vote on the Following New and Renewal Applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permits

- **Farmington Motel, located at 489 Farmington Falls Road, owned and operated by Steven Guerrette d/b/a *G. Suites Hospitality, LLC* (new owner)**
- **Mount Blue Motel, located at 454 Wilton Road and Colonial Valley Motel, located at 593 Wilton Road, both owned and operated by Rick Collins**

ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing and vote on the Following New and Renewal Applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permits (continued)

- **Sandy River Dairy, owned and operated by Erik, Trudy, and Ericka Johnson, located at 560 Farmington Falls Road**
- **The Outpost, owned and operated by Brian Bates, located at 495 Wilton Road**

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:40 P.M.

Richard Davis reviewed the renewal applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permits. Rick Guerrette was present and provided an overview of the renovations done on the Farmington Motel.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:42 P.M.

Matthew Smith moved to approve the new Innkeeper application for Farmington Motel, and the renewal applications for Mount Blue Motel and Colonial Valley Motel, and the Lunch Wagon Permit renewal applications for Sandy River Dairy and The Outpost; Scott Landry seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Consider Revising the Proposed 2020 Police and Parks & Recreation Department Budgets

Richard Davis reviewed the proposed 2020 Police budget in the amount of \$1,311,659, which is a decrease of \$88,123, or -6.295%. from the December 11, 2019 proposed budget. Police Chief Jack Peck stated that, due to issues beyond his control, the department was unable to fill two vacant patrol officer positions. The removal of the two patrol officer positions for six months reduces salary, FICA, and health insurance costs by \$58,546. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the police academy closed, reducing training cost by \$9,350. COVID-19 also affected the price of motor fuel, decreasing projected fuel costs by \$7,000. Chief Peck reported that the department will not purchase a new police vehicle this year. The department will rely on the vehicles purchased through the State surplus program, which decreases the budget by \$20,000. Joshua Bell commended Chief Peck for the way he has run the department over the years. Mr. Bell stated that it speaks volumes that Chief Peck waited to hire the right candidates, never settling just to fill a position.

Stephan Bunker moved to recommend the proposed Police budget of \$1,311,659; Matthew Smith seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Consider Revising the Proposed 2020 Police and Parks & Recreation Department Budgets (continued)

Richard Davis reviewed the proposed 2020 Parks & Recreation/Community Center Building budget in the amount of \$325,558, which is an increase of \$11,931 over last year's budget, or 3.8%. Matthew Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation was present to answer the Selectmen's questions.

Mr. Davis stated that the proposed 2020 Town of Farmington budget in the amount of 6,114,616, is a decrease from 2019 of \$770, or -0.1%.

Stephan Bunker moved to recommend the proposed Parks and Recreation budget of \$325,558; Matthew Smith seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To Discuss the Proposed LEAP Memorial Sculpture

Richard Davis provided a drawing by Vera Johnson of the proposed sculpture titled "Healing Bells Memorial Sculpture." A \$10,000 grant to create the sculpture was provided by the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area LEAP Explosion Fund. Scott Landry stated that Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell and Diana Bell will meet with artist Vera Johnson and discuss design options for the LEAP Memorial Sculpture. Joshua Bell stated that once a final design is agreed upon, the placement of the sculpture should be discussed. The walkway to the sculpture should flow cohesively with current paths. Mr. Davis stated that he asked to be kept informed, and he will forward any information on to the Selectmen.

ITEM 6: To Accept the Resignation of Donna Tracy from the Planning Board

Richard Davis explained that after twenty-two years of service, Donna Tracy is stepping down from the Planning Board.

Matthew Smith moved to accept the resignation of Donna Tracy from the Planning Board; Scott Landry seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Davis will send Mrs. Tracy a letter of appreciation.

ITEM 7: To Nominate a Candidate to Serve on the Maine Municipal Association’s Legislative Policy Committee

Richard Davis stated that he has had the pleasure and honor of serving this Committee for several years and would be pleased to continue. Nominees serve for a two-year period 2020 – 2022. Mr. Davis explained the election process for those candidates nominated.

Matthew Smith moved to nominate Richard Davis to serve on the Maine Municipal Association’s Legislative Policy Committee; Scott Landry seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Consider Purchasing Town of Farmington logo Ball Caps

Richard Davis provided an email dated May 1, 2020 from Matt Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation. The setup charge for hats with a logo ranges from \$35 - \$45 for the embroidery set up. There is no setup fee for hats without logos. Depending on the quality and the quantity of hats, the cost is \$12 - \$20 per hat.

The Selectmen reached a consensus to not purchase Town of Farmington logo ball caps.

ITEM 9: To Approve a Municipal Quitclaim Deed

Richard Davis reviewed a Quitclaim Deed releasing any interest the Town might have on account of undischarged liens on property of Leslie J. Marean and Jennifer Hutchinson, located at 110 Rocky Road.

Matthew Smith moved to approve a Municipal Quitclaim Deed for of Leslie J. Marean and Jennifer Hutchinson, located at 110 Rocky Road; Michael Fogg seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Municipal Quitclaim Deed.

ITEM 10: To Approve the Minutes of May 12, 2020

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 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 11: To Discuss Other Business

- A.** Richard Davis stated that, on the original Town Meeting Warrant under Article 30, the Town set the interest on overdue real estate taxes at 9% and under Article 31, the Town set the interest to pay on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes at 5%. According to the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors' and Treasurers' Association (MMTCA), in January 2020, the State Treasurer's office mistakenly set the maximum interest rate at 9%. The maximum interest rate on overdue real estate taxes is actually 8%, and the minimum interest rate on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes can be set at 4.00%.

Matthew Smith moved to establish the interest rate on overdue real estate taxes at 8%; Scott Landry seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Matthew Smith moved to establish the interest rate on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes at 4.00%; Scott Landry seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

- B.** Richard Davis stated that the Selectmen received a letter from Mr. Joe Green. Mr. Green has offered to donate two championship banners from the graduating class of Farmington High School 1950. Mr. Green would like to see the banners hung at the Community Center. The Town has accepted the banners.
- C.** Joshua Bell asked if it would be possible to add the Road Discontinuance item and the Solar Project item onto the Primary ballot. Richard Davis stated that the absentee ballots were already printed; however, the two items could be addressed at a special Town Meeting. Scott Landry asked if the items could be added to the November ballot. Mr. Davis stated that was possible and he would speak with Leanne Dickey, Town Clerk.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 7:40 P.M.; 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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary