

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

6:30 P.M.

The meeting was conducted through remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public was able to 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 Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg, Joshua Bell, and Scott Landry. Stephan Bunker was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Police Chief Jack Peck, Police Officer Riley Dowe, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, and Mt. Blue TV camera operator Tom Martin were also physically in attendance.

Votes were taken by roll call.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Matthew Smith led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 3: To hear an Update on the Hiring of a new Police Officer, Riley Dowe

Police Chief Jack Peck introduced Officer Riley Dowe. Officer Dowe attended Erskine Academy in South China, and during his senior year he enrolled in the Law Enforcement Program at the Capital Area Technical Center in Augusta, Maine. After graduating high school, Officer Dowe attended Central Maine Community College, earning an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, Officer Dowe was employed by the Old Orchard Beach Police Department. Chief Peck stated that Officer Dowe has been on patrol for just over three weeks and is doing well. Officer Dowe thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity to serve the Town. The Selectmen welcomed Officer Dowe, and told him to enjoy his time here for many years to come.

ITEM 4: To Accept a COVID-19 Grant in the Amount of \$4,770 to Purchase Sixteen (16) N-95 masks for Public Safety

Police Chief Jack Peck reported that the Department applied for a Coronavirus Emergency Aid Grant, and they were awarded up to \$8,100 over the next two years. Chief Peck stated that the first thing the Police Department would like to do is upgrade their respirators by purchasing N-95 masks. Joshua Bell asked if the N-95 cannisters were changeable, and if refills were available for purchase. Chief Peck affirmed that the cannisters are changeable, and refills are available for purchase.

Michael Fogg move to accept COVID-19 Grant funds in the amount of \$4,770 to purchase sixteen (16) N-95 masks for public safety; Scott Landry seconded.

ITEM 4: To Accept a COVID-19 Grant in the Amount of \$4,770 to Purchase Sixteen (16) N-95 masks for Public Safety (continued)

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

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Bunker)**

ITEM 2: To Review the 2020 Tax Rate Scenarios

Richard Davis handed out and reviewed two spreadsheets which explained information regarding 2020 TIF tax choices, tax rate history, and the proposed rate for 2020. Discussion included: overlay scenarios and use of overlay last year; TIF and unassigned fund balances; effects of valuation on the tax rate; State Revenue Sharing, and potential abatements. Michael Fogg stated that he has complete faith in the Town’s Tax Assessor, John O’Donnell, and he supports the Assessor’s preferred rate of .01985 per thousand with \$100,000 Downtown TIF, and \$64,000 overlay. Joshua Bell recommended reducing the Downtown TIF appropriation to \$50,000 and the overlay to \$40,000 for a mill rate of .01970 per thousand.

Joshua Bell move to adopt the tax rate option with \$50,000 Downtown TIF and \$40,138.79 overlay funds for a mill rate of \$19.70; Matthew Smith seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: No, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 NEGATIVE 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Fogg) (Bunker)**

ITEM 5: To Approve a new Road Name – Rue Petite

Richard Davis referenced a memo from Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell dated August 17, 2020. The Marcotte and Wannemacher families share a driveway and request that the driveway be renamed Rue Petite, which is French for small road. The name Rue Petite is a tribute to the property’s former owner, Ron Small. The driveway is near 833 Knowlton Corner Road.

Scott Landry moved to approve a new road name of Rue Petite; Joshua Bell seconded.

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

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Bunker)**

ITEM 6: To Discuss the Process for Conducting the Manager’s Annual Performance Evaluation

Richard Davis explained the usual process and suggested completing his annual performance evaluation at the September 22nd Selectmen’s meeting, to which the Selectmen agreed.

ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of August 11, 2020

Joshua Bell moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020; Scott Landry seconded.

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

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	4	ABSENT	1	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bunker)		

ITEM 8: To Discuss Other Business

- A.** Richard Davis reviewed an email from Matt Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation dated August 25, 2020 in which he introduces Michael Muise, the new Parks and Recreation Assistant Director. Mr. Muise grew up in Auburn and graduated from Edward Little High School where he played baseball and basketball. He then went on to play college baseball at Salve Regina University where he suffered an arm injury. Mr. Muise returned to Maine and graduated from Central Maine Community College with an Associate Degree. He is currently enrolled in the University of Southern New Hampshire and is majoring in Business and Sports Management. Mr. Muise should have his Bachelors Degree completed within the next year.
- B.** Joshua Bell asked if the University would use the baseball field this year. Richard Davis stated that he has not heard anything formal, however, they would need to follow CDC guidelines.
- C.** Scott Landry inquired about marijuana growers and adult use licensing; where does the Town stand now, and what does the future look like? Richard Davis stated that there was one business with outstanding licensing fees, and the other businesses have paid their annual fees. Mr. Davis stated that he does not foresee many changes unless a business fails to renew their license, opening the slot for a new business. Mr. Landry asked what the procedure would be should a license become available. Mr. Davis stated that the opening would be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Mr. Davis stated that the State will issue adult use licenses on October 9th. Joshua Bell asked if there was a deadline for paying the annual licensing fees. Mr. Davis stated that there is a deadline, however, he would need to review the Ordinance to see what the deadline is.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Joshua Bell moved to adjourn at 6:59 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.**

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

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	4	ABSENT	1	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bunker)		

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary