

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, November 24, 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://mtbluetv.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: Stephan Bunker, Michael Fogg and Scott Landry. Joshua Bell was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis participated remotely as authorized by PL 2019, c.617. Interim Police Chief Shane Cote, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Director of Parks and Recreation Matthew Foster, Town Secretary Nancy Martin and Mt. Blue TV camera operator Tom Martin were also physically in attendance. Members of the public were also 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 2: To Hold a Public Hearing and Vote on Amendments to the M.M.A. Model General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A - H

Chairman Matthew Smith opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 P.M.

Chairman Matthew Smith closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 P.M.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve amendments to the M.M.A. Model General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A - D; Michael Fogg seconded.

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

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	4	ABSENT	1	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bell)		

The Selectmen signed the Ordinance signature page.

ITEM 3: To Authorize the Sale of the surplus 2003 Pierce Dash Pumper (Engine One)

Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell reported that Engine One was on auction for two weeks at Auctions International. Chief Bell stated that the winning bid was for \$26,100 and both he and the Town Manager Richard Davis felt this was a good price. Chief Bell explained that a few years ago manufacturers offered the Town \$5,000 for Engine One. The Town's cost for accepting the bid is \$35.

ITEM 3: To Authorize the Sale of the surplus 2003 Pierce Dash Pumper (Engine One) (continued)

Michael Fogg moved to authorize the sale of Engine One to the highest bidder for \$26,100; Scott Landry seconded

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Bell)

ITEM 4: To Authorize Interim Police Chief Cote to Submit a bid on a low mileage 2014 Ford Interceptor SUV and, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S § 5802.3, transfer the balances in the COPS Grant Reserve and the 2016 Byrne JAG Grant Reserve, totaling \$18,620.63, to the Police Vehicle Reserve Account to fund the Purchase of said Vehicle if the bid is Successful

Interim Police Chief (IPC) Shane Cote stated that the 2014 Ford Interceptor SUV (Explorer) has 31,600 miles and comes fully equipped with a two-way radio, radar, lights, and siren. The only required modification would be to replace the Town of Guilford Police Department graphics with Farmington Police Department (FPD) graphics. IPC Cote reported that last week the FPD had three cars off the road for maintenance, creating the need for officers to transfer and share vehicles. If the Town places the winning bid, this SUV would be a spare vehicle to start and then replace the oldest cruiser, a 2013 sedan with 110,000 miles on it. The Kelley Blue Book value for the 2014 Interceptor is \$12,900. Michael Fogg stated that the 2014 Interceptor strikes him as a very good deal, and that he trusts IPC Cote’s judgement. Treasurer LucyAnn Cook and IPC Cote reviewed the reserve accounts and suspect that a 2016 purchase was improperly taken from the operation budget line and not the 2016 Byrne JAG grant line. Pursuant to Title 30-A § 5802.3, they would like to move these balances into the Police Vehicle Reserve Account. In response to Scott Landry’s question, IPC Cote stated that, currently, the account balance is \$25,000. Transference of the COPS Grant Reserve funds and the 2016 Byrne JAG grant funds would bring the Police Vehicle Reserve account balance to \$43,620.63.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize Interim Police Chief Cote to submit a bid on a low mileage 2014 Ford Interceptor SUV and, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S § 5802.3, transfer the balances in the COPS Grant Reserve and the 2016 Byrne JAG Grant Reserve, totaling \$18,620.63, to the Police Vehicle Reserve Account to fund the purchase of said vehicle if the bid is successful; Scott Landry seconded

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Bell)

ITEM 5: To Rename the North Section of Russells Mills Road as Abbie Road

Matthew Smith reviewed two letters from Russells Mills Road property owners. The letter signed by Eric and Jodi Gunther, Kimberly Edwards, Charles B. King, and Cora Yaeger stated that they appreciate the historic nature of the name and prefer the name Russells Mills Road North if the name must be changed. The second letter signed by Kathleen and Robert Hallman, Leah and Chad Brackett, Gary and Kimberly Edwards, and Ann K. Thompson requested that the road be renamed Abbie Road in honor of the original landowner Abbie Thompson. Kathleen Hallman was present and provided a brief history of Abbie Thompson and the Russells Mills Road. Ms. Hallman, on behalf of four out of five home owners, requested the road be renamed Abbie Road. Chief Bell pointed out that it actually should be designated a lane, as opposed to a road, since it is no longer a through way. Charlie King, who attended the meeting remotely, called and provided a brief history of Isaac Russell. Mr. King stated that Mr. Russell built Russells Mills and the Russells Mills dam and is a prominent part of Farmington’s history. Mr. King stated that changing the road’s name would be disrespectful to the Town’s founders. He requested the north end of Russells Mills Road be renamed Russells Mills Road North. Mr. Fogg surmised that four out of five families that reside on the north end of Russells Mills Road support changing the name to Abbie Road (or Lane), and one family that resides on the road would like the name to remain the same. Matthew Smith explained that, due to the bridge being closed, the Town must change the name of the road. Mr. Fogg asked if both the north and south side of Russells Mills Road would need to be renamed. Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell stated that only one side of Russells Mills Road would need to be changed. He further explained that it could be very confusing during 911 responses if the caller or the dispatcher did not indicate which side of the discontinued bridge the emergency was on. First responders might enter from the wrong side and would need to turn around and approach from the opposite side. Chief Bell stated that would be better to not have like sounding road names. Stephan Bunker stated that he could see how renaming the road Russells Mills Road North and Russells Mills Road South might cause some difficulties. Matthew Smith stated that keeping the name Russells Mills Road on the south side of the bridge would retain the history of that era, and that is important.

Scott Landry moved to rename the north side of Russells Mills Road as Abbie Lane; Stephan Bunker seconded

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Bell)

ITEM 6: To approve a Cemetery lot Conveyance

Matthew Smith reviewed the following Cemetery Lot Conveyance: Donald Demarsh for two (2) graves in Fairview Cemetery.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the Cemetery Lot Conveyance as noted above; Scott Landry seconded

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

ITEM 6: To approve a Cemetery lot Conveyance (continued)

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

The Selectmen signed the Cemetery Conveyance.

ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of November 10, 2020

Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020; Stephan Bunker seconded

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

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

ITEM 8: To Discuss Other Business

- A.** Matthew Foster reviewed a letter addressed to Town Clerk Leanne Dickey dated September 30, 2020 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL). CTCL has awarded the Town of Farmington a \$155,000 grant. The grant funds must be used exclusively for the public purpose of “planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration in Farmington Town 2020”. Ms. Dickey followed up with CTCL and verified that the grant may be used to upgrade the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) in the Community Building, election signage, a folding machine for ballots, and more stanchions.

Scott Landry moved to accept a \$155,000 Center for Tech and Civic Life grant for the purpose of planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration in Farmington; Stephan Bunker seconded

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

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:13 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

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

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary