

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, December 8, 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, Joshua Bell, and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Mt. Blue TV camera operator Tom Martin and members of the public 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 2: To Authorize the Town Manager to Enter into a Maine Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund *Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) Loan Program Loan Agreement for a \$20,000 Forgivable Loan***

Richard Davis reported that he had forwarded the loan documents to the Selectmen for review prior to the meeting. The environmental engineering firm Wright-Pierce is looking at all the Town's pump stations to assure that the elevations are sufficient to prevent flooding caused by hurricanes, high water, and other natural events.

**Stephan Bunker moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a Maine Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund *Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) Loan Program Loan Agreement for a \$20,000 forgivable loan; Joshua Bell seconded***

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

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE            5            MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Matthew Smith and Town Manager Richard Davis signed the Agreement.

**ITEM 3: To Rename the South Section of Russells Mills Road as *Russells Mills Lane***

Richard Davis stated that E-11 Addressing Guidelines state that, if a road does not go all the way through, it should be called a lane. Mr. Davis reported that the residents of the south section of Russells Mills Road were contacted and they are not opposed to renaming the south section of Russells Mills Road to *Russells Mills Lane*. Joshua Bell

**ITEM 3: To Rename the South Section of Russells Mills Road as *Russells Mills Lane***

asked if pedestrians and bicyclists would be able to pass over the bridge. Mr. Davis stated that they can for now, however, the bridge is unsafe due to missing portions of guardrail. Ultimately, the Maine DOT will remove the bridge and add turnarounds at both ends for plow trucks and other vehicles. Typically, the Maine DOT will create a nice little park area that the residence can enjoy. Mr. Bell asked whether the bridge will be removed due to lack of use or due to cost. Mr. Davis explained that cost was a big factor, and it is deemed a redundant bridge, meaning there is more than one way to get out of there. An agreement was made with the Maine DOT to use \$100,000 of State funds to repair Clover Mill Road. The total cost to replace the Russells Mills Bridge would have been \$1.5 million, with the Town paying \$750,000. Also, the Town would have assumed ownership of the bridge and would have been financially responsible for future maintenance.

**Michael Fogg moved to rename the south section of Russells Mills Road as *Russells Mills Lane*; Stephan Bunker seconded**

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

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE        5                    MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 4: To Approve an Agreement to Issue a Construction Overlimit Permit to the Contractor for Maine DOT Project Number 022236.00 (Hamlin Bridge Replacement on Livermore Falls Road)**

Richard Davis reviewed the letter of request from Maine DOT, as well as the Agreement.

**Michael Fogg moved to approve an Agreement to Issue a Construction Overlimit Permit to the Contractor for Maine DOT Project Number 022236.00; Stephan Bunker seconded**

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

The Selectmen signed the Agreement.

**ITEM 5: To Grant Blanket Approval to Farmington Lodge #2430 BPOE for Beano/ Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021**

**Joshua Bell moved to grant blanket approval to Farmington Lodge #2430 BPOE for Beano/ Bingo and Games of Chance for a period of one year, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE        5                    MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen signed the letter of approval.

**ITEM 6: To Grant Blanket Approval to the Roderick-Crosby Post 28 American Legion for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021**

**Michael Fogg moved to grant blanket approval to the Roderick-Crosby Post 28 American Legion for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a period of one year, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen signed the letter of approval.

**ITEM 7: To Accept the Resignation of Ron Gelinas from the Downtown T.I.F. Advisory Committee**

Richard Davis reviewed Mr. Gelinas' letter of resignation from the Downtown T.I.F. Advisory committee. Mr. Gelinas is selling his downtown building and relocating his business to Wilton.

**Joshua Bell moved to accept the resignation of Ron Gelinas from the Downtown T.I.F. Advisory Committee; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Board thanked Mr. Gelinas for his years of service.

**ITEM 8: To Accept the Resignations of Nancy Twitchell and Edmund Lewis from the Town Report Committee**

Richard Davis reviewed Ms. Twitchell's and Mr. Lewis' letters of resignation from the Town Report Committee.

**Scott Landry moved to accept the resignations of Nancy Twitchell and Edmund Lewis from the Town Report Committee; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Board thanked Nancy Twitchell and Edmund Lewis for their years of service.

**ITEM 9: To Consider an Expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the January 2021 Greater Kennebec & Androscoggin River Valley Regional Edition of Discover Maine Magazine, to be funded from the Special Projects Account**

Richard Davis provided a copy of a prior ad that the Town placed in the Discover Maine Magazine. A discussion was held on the benefits of running the yearly advertisement.

**ITEM 9: To Consider an Expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the January 2021 Greater Kennebec & Androscoggin River Valley Regional Edition of Discover Maine Magazine, to be funded from the Special Projects Account (continued)**

**Joshua Bell moved to decline an expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the January 2021 Greater Kennebec & Androscoggin River Valley Regional Edition of Discover Maine Magazine; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 10: To Approve the Minutes of November 24, 2020**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of November 24, 2020; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

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

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business**

- A.** Richard Davis provided an update on the Chief of Police search. The Town received two in-house applications, one local application, and several applications from out of State. The Chief of Police posting closes on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Davis stated that, within the next couple of weeks, he will send an email list to the Search Committee for feedback and formulate interview questions.
- B.** Richard Davis stated that the Budget Committee will hold its organizational meeting on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- C.** Stephan Bunker stated that he is glad we made it past the storm. Our highway crew was challenged for a variety of reasons. Richard Davis stated that the Fire Rescue Department was a great help. They cleared fallen trees to open the roads up so the plow trucks could pass through.
- D.** Joshua Bell acknowledged it was the quietest Chester Greenwood Day, which was sad to see.
- E.** Scott Landry commented that the streets are clean after the storm. Richard Davis stated that the Public Works crew was shorthanded during the storm. Plowing the sidewalks is now a priority.
- F.** Scott Landry introduced Jean Mason. Ms. Mason stated that she is a life-long resident of Farmington and chose to raise her family here. Ms. Mason and her husband reside on Bailey Hill Road with their three sons, two of whom are autistic. Her eldest son is sixteen years old, autistic, and non-verbal. Last year Ms. Mason contacted the Public Works Department and requested “Autistic Child” signs be posted in front of her

**ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business (continued)**

property. A few weeks ago, the signs were removed, and she was told that the signs do not work. Ms. Mason stated that she is very concerned and considers the signage a life and death issue and requested that the Town install “Caution Autistic Child” signs in front of her property. Richard Davis stated that the signs were put up without his knowledge, and he had them removed. Mr. Davis stated that he sympathizes with Ms. Mason’s situation and apologized for the miscommunication. He said he should have called to let her know the signs were being removed. He explained that, as Road Commissioner, he follows the Federal Highway Administration and Maine DOT’s guidelines. Studies have shown that non-standard signs are not effective, they give the parent a false sense of security, there is no evidence that the signs prevent injury or decrease the speed of vehicles, and the signs open the Town up to liability. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Davis agreed to contact the Town’s legal counsel and have her draft a waiver of liability for Ms. Mason to sign. In the interim, the Public Works Department will install “School Bus Stop” signs in front of Ms. Mason’s property on Bailey Hill Road.

**Scott Landry moved to request the Town’s Attorney draft up a Waiver of Liability for Non-Standard Signs for future approval by the Board of Selectmen; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

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

**VOTE                    AFFIRMATIVE      3            OPPOSED      2            MOTION CARRIED**  
**(Smith, Bell)**

**G.** Matthew Smith thanked Public Works Director Phil Hutchins and the Public Works crew for working long hours while short-handed during a major storm. Scott Landry inquired on the status of the Public Works crew. Richard Davis reported that one employee was out due to non-work-related injuries, one employee tested positive for COVID-19 and was in quarantine. The remainder of the employees were potentially exposed to COVID-19 and are currently in isolation and being tested.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:35 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.**

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

**VOTE                    AFFIRMATIVE      5            MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.