

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

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, Scott Landry, and Joshua Bell. Michael Fogg was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Mt. Blue TV camera operator Tom Martin, and members of the press and public were also present.

Votes were taken by roll call.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

ITEM 2: To Consider a Request to Include a *Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution on the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*

Richard Davis provided a copy of the proposed Warrant Article: Maine Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution. Fenwick Fowler, representing the group Carbon Cash-Back 4ME, was present and explained that the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act has been reintroduced as H.R. 763. A summary of the bill states, "It is based on a Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) framework to account for the hidden costs of burning fossil fuels. If enacted into law, this policy will drive down greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by stimulating American innovation and ingenuity." The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 places a carbon fee on coal, oil, or natural gas as it enters the U.S. economy. The fee starts at \$15 per metric ton of CO₂ and increases by \$10 every year until GHG emissions are reduced by 90 percent. The fees must be deposited into a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund and used for administrative expenses and dividend payments to U.S. citizens or lawful residents. The fees must be decommissioned when emission levels and monthly dividend payments fall below specified levels. If emission cuts do not meet mandatory targets, the annual increase can be raised to \$15. The bill also suspends certain regulations that limit GHG emissions. The suspensions expire if the emissions targets established by this bill are not reached after a specific time period. Joshua Bell asked if business would be reimbursed. Mr. Fowler stated that he did not believe so and thought they would pass the costs on to their consumers. Mr. Bell stated that the carbon fees would be passed onto consumers at the grocery store, and they will pay more for food because it costs more to get trucked there. In the end, consumers and small businesses are going to be paying that much more. Scott Landry stated that there are too many unanswered questions and with limited in-person gatherings, it would be difficult to inform the public. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Joshua Bell moved to not to support the *Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution on the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant*; Matthew Smith seconded

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

ITEM 2: To Consider a Request to Include a *Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution* on the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (continued)

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 2 OPPOSED 2 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)**

The Selectmen agreed to revisit the issue when the full board is present.

ITEM 3: To Award the bid for Printing the 2020 Annual Report

Richard Davis reviewed a summary of the five bids received and recommended that the bid be awarded to Bromar Printing Solutions of Skowhegan at a cost of \$2,310.00.

Joshua Bell moved to award the bid for printing the 2020 Annual Report to Bromar Printing Solutions of Skowhegan at a cost of \$2,310.00; Stephan Bunker seconded

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

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)**

ITEM 4: To Approve a Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition for 2021

Richard Davis stated that he has been the representative and a Selectman has been the alternate.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve a Resolution for Membership and appointment of Town Manager Richard Davis as the Voting Delegate Representative and Stephan Bunker as the Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition; Joshua Bell seconded

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

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)**

ITEM 5: To Schedule a Special Meeting for February 2, 2021 to vote Recommendations on the Proposed 2021 Departmental Budgets

Joshua Bell moved to schedule a special meeting for February 2, 2021 to vote recommendations on the proposed 2021 departmental budgets; Stephan Bunker seconded

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

ITEM 5: To Schedule a Special Meeting for February 2, 2021 to vote Recommendations on the Proposed 2021 Departmental Budgets (continued)

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of January 12, 2021

Joshua Bell moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021; Scott Landry seconded

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business

- A. Richard Davis announced that Jennifer Savage was promoted from part-time Parks and Recreation Assistant to full time Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Savage will continue working part-time until Monday, June 21, 2021.
- B. Mr. Davis reported that the search for a new Police Chief has gone well and the candidate will need to be confirmed at the February 9th Selectmen’s meeting. Stephan Bunker requested an Executive Session to discuss the decision prior to an announcement. Mr. Davis agreed to add an Executive Session to the special Board of Selectmen’s meeting on February 2nd.
- C. Joshua Bell asked if there was any more clarity on how the Town Meeting referendum will be conducted. Richard Davis stated not at this time, he is seeking advice from the Maine Municipal Association.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:16 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.**

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary