

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, June 22, 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 live stream 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, Scott Landry, and Joshua Bell. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Police Chief Kenneth Charles, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Treasurer LucyAnn Cook, and Mt. Blue TV camera operator Tom Martin were also present. Members of the press and public participated remotely as authorized by PL 209, c.617.

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 Discuss the Current Staffing Issues in the Police Department (Chief Charles)

Chief Kenneth Charles stated that he recognized Farmington Police Sergeant Brandon Sholan, Farmington Police Officer Ethan Boyd, and Wilton Police Officer Kevin Lemay for their outstanding collaborative efforts when responding to a suicidal teenager with a firearm. During the six-hour standoff, the officers used their training to deescalate the situation and persuaded the teenager to relinquish the firearm. The young man was transported to Franklin Memorial Hospital where he received the care that he needed.

Chief Charles provided an overview of current staffing shortages. The Farmington Police Department, which is allotted and budgeted for thirteen (13) officers, is currently down five positions: one Detective, one Sergeant, one School Resource Officer, and two Patrol Officers. Detective Jacob Richards resigned in January, Sergeant Eddie Hastings accepted a position with the Fire Marshal's Office, and Officer/School Resource Officer Bridgette Gilbert retired this month. Chief Charles reported that there is one candidate in the late stages of the application process. To speed the hiring process along, the FPD is conducting a two-phase training course. Phase I, Preservice Law Enforcement Academy, is a one-hundred-hour online course and Phase II offers in-person training. Chief Charles stated that recruitment continues to be a challenge for police departments across the State. A lengthy discussion ensued.

ITEM 3: To Consider Transitioning the Part-time Counter Clerk Position to Full-time with Shared Support Responsibilities

Richard Davis announced that after ten years of service, part-time Deputy Clerk Annie Tibbetts has given her notice. Mr. Davis stated that Annie is a very valuable employee, and we are sorry to see her go. He stated that most municipal positions are difficult to fill, especially part-time

ITEM 3: To Consider Transitioning the Part-time Counter Clerk Position to Full-time with Shared Support Responsibilities (continued)

positions that do not offer full benefits. Mr. Davis requested that the Selectmen transition this part-time position into a full-time floater position with shared responsibilities. He stated that the Public Works Department and the Treasurer both have heavy workloads and would benefit from administrative support. Treasurer LucyAnn Cook stated that the Town has one full-time deputy clerk who is approaching retirement age and another deputy clerk whose interest and education are in assessing. Ms. Cook explained that she is trying to project and look down the road three years to where the Town would not have a utility biller or the election support that we are getting now. She stated that the Deputy Clerk position requires a lot of specialized education, and the Town needs to hire someone with years of experience. Ms. Cook provided an overview of the Deputy Clerk's position and answered the Selectmen's questions.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the transition of the part-time counter clerk position to full-time with shared support responsibilities; Michael Fogg 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 the Deposit of \$3,555 of net Auction Proceeds into the Parks and Recreation Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Account

Richard Davis provided a copy of the Final Settlement sales recap from Adrian Harris of Harris Auctions. The Parks and Receptions Department sold the following items at auction: 2001 Dodge Pickup, 2007 Snowblower, 2010 Craftsman Snowblower, and a 2012 Cub Cadet Mower. The net proceeds for the May 22nd auction totaled \$3,555.

Michael Fogg moved to approve the deposit of \$3,555 of net Auction Proceeds into the Parks and Recreation Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Account; 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

ITEM 5: To Consider an Appropriation of \$46,400 from the Downtown T.I.F. Reserve Account to Purchase Twenty-Nine (29) Decorative Streetlights for High Street

Richard Davis reviewed a quote from Goings Electrical Supply dated June 6, 2021. The decorative streetlights cost \$1,600 each for a total cost of \$46,400.

Scott Landry moved to appropriate \$46,400 from the Downtown T.I.F. Reserve Account to purchase twenty-nine (29) decorative streetlights for High Street; Stephan Bunker seconded

ITEM 5: To Consider an Appropriation of \$46,400 from the Downtown T.I.F. Reserve Account to Purchase Twenty-Nine (29) Decorative Streetlights for High Street (continued)

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Authorize the Manager to Award the bid for the Phase 1 - High Street Improvements Project

Richard Davis provided a copy of the Advertisement for Bids for Phase – 1 High Street Improvements Project. The deadline for the sealed bids to arrive at the Town Office is 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 24, 2021. Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at that time. Mr. Davis stated that the start of the project would be delayed if the Town waited to approve the bid at the July 13th Selectmen’s meeting. The work under this contract is generally described as the reconstruction of High Street from Broadway to Lincoln Street, including reclaim, repave the street, new sidewalks with granite curb, new decorative lighting, and new storm drain as well as erosion control and storm drainage measures at the intersection of Farmington Falls Road and High Street.

Scott Landry moved to authorize the Manager to award the bid for Phase 1 – High Street Improvements Project; 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 7: To Approve a New Road Name (Metcalf Lane)

Richard Davis provided an aerial map showing the proposed Metcalf Lane which runs parallel to Fairbanks Road/Route 4, with the entrance located across from Town Farm Road. John Metcalf Jr. requested the road be named for E-911 purposes.

Joshua Bell moved to approve the new road name Metcalf Lane; Michael Fogg 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 8: To Approve an Order pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §906, Pertaining to Unpaid Taxes

Richard Davis stated that this is an annual authorization that allows the Treasurer to apply the payment of a taxpayer owing multiple years of taxes to the oldest tax bill to avoid foreclosures.

ITEM 8: To Approve an Order pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §906, Pertaining to Unpaid Taxes (continued)

Scott Landry moved to approve an Order pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §906, pertaining to unpaid taxes; 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

The Selectmen signed the Order.

ITEM 9: To Approve an Amendment to the Town of Farmington Video Display Terminal (VDT) Ergonomics Policy

Richard Davis reviewed the proposed amendment to the Town of Farmington Video Display Terminal (VDT) Ergonomics Policy. Program Activities/Section A currently reads: The Town of Farmington will provide equipment that supports good ergonomic design in the “operator’s” workstation. If approved, the following will be added to Program Activities/Section A: *Specifically prohibited are exercise balls used as office chares, so-called “ball chairs”, treadmills, pedal exercisers, or other devices used for exercise at the “operator’s” workstation. Standing desks are allowed.*

Scott Landry moved to approve an amendment to the Town of Farmington Video Display Terminal (VDT) Ergonomics Policy; 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

ITEM 10: To Accept a Donation of \$2,016.35 for Flag Banners from Joshua Bell

Richard Davis stated that Item 10 should read: To Accept a Donation of Flag Banners from Joshua Bell. Mr. Davis noted that Mr. Bell is paying for the banners himself. Mr. Davis provided a copy of the Sales Order from Northern Lights Display for fifty-four (54 vinyl flag banners and an illustration of the red, white, and blue patriotic banner. He stated that Patty Haggan, President of the Downtown Association, has used the Northern Lights Display company before and highly recommends them. The Public Works crew is scheduled to put the banners up once they arrive so that they will be up before Independence Day. Mr. Bell stated that he and his wife Alicia wanted to do something to give back to the community and decided to donate these banners. Matthew Smith thanked Mr. and Mrs. Bell for their patriotic donation to the Town.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept the donation of flag banners from Joshua Bell; Scott Landry seconded.

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

ITEM 10: To Accept a Donation of \$2,016.35 for Flag Banners from Joshua Bell (continued)

Bell: Abstain, Scott Landry: Yes

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

ITEM 11: To Approve a Cemetery lot Conveyance

Richard Davis reviewed the following Cemetery lot Conveyances: Justin Gardyna for two (2) graves in Fairview Cemetery and Heidi A. Conover for two (2) graves in Fairview Cemetery.

Joshua Bell moved to approve the Cemetery lot Conveyance to Justin Gardyna for two (2) graves in Fairview Cemetery and Heidi A. Conover for two (2) graves, also in Fairview Cemetery; Scott Landry seconded.

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

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Cemetery lot Conveyances.

ITEM 12: To Approve the Minutes of May 25, 2021

Joshua Bell moved to approve the minutes of May 25, 2021; Scott Landry 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 13: To Discuss Other Business

A) Richard Davis reviewed a letter from Judith R. Hayden. Mrs. Hayden stated that she would like to donate \$154.15 to the Parks and Recreation Department in honor of her father, Robert P. Friberg (Bob). If approved, the donation will cover the cost of a new home plate at Hippach Field. Following in his father's footsteps, Bob Friberg played some minor league baseball before coaching the Farmington Flyers in the 1950s. His father, Bernie Friberg played Major League Baseball for the Phillies, Cubs, and Red Sox.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept a donation of \$154.15 to the Parks and Recreation Department in honor of Robert P Friberg; Joshua Bell seconded.

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

ITEM 13: To Discuss Other Business (continued)

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 14: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.E to Discuss Pending or Contemplated Litigation

Joshua Bell moved to go into Executive Session at 7:18 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

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

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 7:32 P.M.

No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Michael Fogg moved to adjourn at 7:32 P.M.; 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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary