

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 24, 2022

The conduct of the meeting will include remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public may attend in person or by viewing the live stream at <http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> or by calling 778-5874

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, Scott Landry, and Byron Staples. Town Manager Christian Waller, Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins, Public Works Mechanic Jeff Fitch, Parks & Recreation Director Matthew Foster, Board of Appeals and Board of Assessment Review Member Dennis O'Neil, MBTV Camera Operator Lilli Clark, and members of the press and public were also present. Members of the media and public participated remotely.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

ITEM 2: To hold a Public Hearing and vote on the following new and renewal applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permits

- **Mount Blue Motel – owned and operated by Rick Collins; located at 454 Wilton Road, located at 593 Wilton Road (renewal)**
- **Mount Blue Motel DBA Colonial Valley Motel – owned and operated by Rick Collins; located at 593 Wilton Road (renewal)**
- **Farmington Motel - owned and operated by 489 Farmington Falls, LLC; located at 489 Farmington Falls Road (renewal)**
- **Sandy River Dairy – owned and operated by Eric Johnson; located at 560 Farmington Falls Road (renewal)**
- **The Ugly Dumpling - owned and operated by Lou Sarofeen; located at 430 Farmington Falls Road (renewal)**
- **The Outpost - owned and operated by Brian Bates; located at 495 Wilton Road (renewal)**
- **The White Fox, LLC – owned and operated by Nico Regas (renewal)**
- **The Frost Paw – owned and operated by Mary Hastings (New)**

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

The Selectboard reviewed the new and renewal applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon permits.

Mary Hastings was present and provided a brief overview of The Frosty Paw. The Frosty Paw is a mobile family business that offers prepackaged ice cream treats out of a musical ice cream truck. Ms. Hastings and her children plan to sell old-fashioned novelty treats downtown, parades, and ballgames.

Chairman Smith closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:33 P.M.

ITEM 2: To hold a Public Hearing and vote on the following new and renewal applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permits (continued)

Matthew Smith questioned if The Outpost was a lunch wagon. The Outpost has several buildings on its lot, and quite a bit of infrastructure were moved in. He suggested the Board review The Outpost and confirm they have the appropriate licensing. Joshua Bell asked if Mr. Smith was looking to ensure they fulfill the definition of a lunch wagon. Mr. Smith replied, yes. Since the original license was issued, they have added a permanent sign and several permanent roofs to the site. Scott Landry asked if taxes were being paid on the outbuildings. Stephan Bunker noted the business has morphed, and Code Enforcement should review to see if the company continues to meet the definition of lunch wagon or do they fall into a different category. If so, which category and what are the standards. Mr. Smith said he is happy that The Outpost is thriving.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the new applications for The White Fox, LLC, and The Frost Paw, and the renewal applications for Mount Blue Motel, Mount Blue Motel DBA Colonial Valley Motel, Sandy River Dairy, The Ugly Dumpling, and the Outpost; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the signature page.

ITEM 3: To hold a Public Hearing and vote on an application for a new liquor license for American Dream Restaurants LLC, DBA Pizza Hut owned and operated by James Souza; located at 564 Wilton Road

Chairman Matthew Smith opened the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:37 P. M.

The Selectboard reviewed the application for the new liquor license. The Pizza Hut is under new ownership.

Chairman Matthew Smith closed the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:38 P. M.

Joshua Bell moved to approve the application for a new liquor license for American Dream Restaurants LLC, DBA Pizza Hut owned and operated by James Souza; located at 564 Wilton Road; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the signature page.

ITEM 4: To Approve an Expenditure of \$260,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account #SX-7960 for the purchase of a new plow truck

Public Works Director Phil Hutchins introduced Shop Manager/Mechanic Jeffrey Fitch. Mr. Fitch extended an open invitation to the Board to stop by the shop, ask questions, and look at the equipment. Mr. Hutchins reported that the \$260,000 expenditure is not for a specific truck; the purchase is predicated upon availability. Mr. Fitch contacted O'Connor Trucks and Freightliner of Maine, each of the dealerships is allotted one slot in the factory for a future build with the

ITEM 6: To accept a \$100 donation from Sharon Cullenberg for the purchase of some plants for the Community Center weight room and place the funds into the Community Center Building Repairs and Maintenance Account #52-7253 (continued)

Scott Landry moved to accept a \$100 donation from Sharon Cullenberg for the purchase of some plants for the Community Center weight room, and place the funds into the Community Center Building Repairs and Maintenance Account #52-7253; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To accept a \$250 donation from Mickey Amlotte (Sports Project, Inc.) to go towards the purchase of a new dome for the dome hockey table, and place the funds into the Community Center Program Supplies Account #52-7400

Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster said Micky Amlotte had made \$500 donations for many years. He sells games of chance at the local fairs, and these donations are his way of giving back to the community. A few years ago, Mr. Amlotte provided Mr. Smith with a list of donations he has made over the past 15 – 20 years, and it added up to a significant amount. His contributions helped the Town start a lacrosse program. Matthew Smith thanked Mr. Amlotte for his continued support.

Scott Landry moved to accept a \$250 donation from Mickey Amlotte (Sports Project, Inc.) to go towards the purchase of a new dome for the dome hockey table and place the funds into the Community Center Program Supplies Account #52-7400; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To approve moving \$139.14 from the Bowen Ice Skate Propane Reserve Account #SX-7953 into the Hippach Field Reserve Account #SX-7954 (current balance \$13,911.91)

Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster reported that Dead River had donated propane for many years. The Town has not used account #SX-7953 for many years, it has been kicking around, and it may be time to consolidate the funds into the SX-7954 account. Mr. Foster indicated the account was no longer needed.

Joshua Bell moved to approve moving \$139.14 from the Bowen Ice Skate Propane Reserve Account #SX-7953 into the Hippach Field Reserve Account #SX-7954 (current balance \$13,911.91); Byron Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To approve moving \$5,888.75 from the Walton’s Dam Reserve Account #SX-7955 into the Walton’s Mill Park Reserve Account #SX-7956 (current balance of \$2,809.20); bringing the Walton’s Mill Park Reserve Account balance to \$8,697.95

According to Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster, the account would no longer be needed once the dam is removed. Byron Staples asked if the reserve accounts were existing bank accounts or were the account numbers used for tracking? Matthew Smith acknowledged the account numbers were for tracking purposes. In response to Stephen Bunker’s request, Mr. Foster provided an update on Walton’s Mill Park. An archeologist will walk the low water area that is now exposed. They must do an archeology survey because there could be significant artifacts they want to recover before they are lost or damaged whenever a site is exposed after several hundred years. The archeologist will conduct their walk within the next week or two. They provided an invasive plant species update last night where they reviewed the control they have done over the park and how they will continue to address the issue once the park is completed. They are focusing on the dam area and the park itself. In mid-June, they will go in for the dam and begin constructing the park. The park will be off-limits during the construction phase.

Joshua Bell moved to approve moving \$5,888.75 from the Walton’s Dam Reserve Account #SX-7955 into the Walton’s Mill Park Reserve Account #SX-7956 (current balance \$2,809.20); bringing the Walton’s Mill Park Reserve Account balance to \$8,697.95; Byron Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Approve the Minutes of May 10, 2022

Joshua Bell moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business

- A.) Christian Waller conveyed that the Town received \$4,684.68 from FEMA to cover past COVID-19 expenses.
- B.) Christian Waller announced that the Selectboard was invited to a retirement ceremony in honor of Farmington’s U.S. Postmaster, Sue Jones, on Thursday, May 26th, from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. The ceremony will be held behind the Farmington Post Office.
- C.) Christian Waller announced that the Selectboard was invited to the Franklin County Adult Education graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 2nd, at 5:30 p.m. The ceremony will be held at Narrow Gauge Drive-in. Mr. Waller acknowledged this was a fantastic accomplishment for the graduates.
- D.) Stephan Bunker recounted that the Foster Tech Center and the Farmington Fire-Rescue Department hosted the eight (8) Vocational Tech firefighting classes from around the State at the training facility earlier today. Under the guidance of twenty to twenty-five staff and evaluators,

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business (continued)

the eighty students completed their hands-on training to become State-certified firefighters. The students and staff were thrilled with the training facility. The facility is being well used and well appreciated. The American Legion and Hannaford Supermarket graciously provided lunch for the participants.

- E.) Joshua Bell requested that the banners previously hung on Front Street could also be displayed in the downtown area before Memorial weekend. He indicated Public Works has the flags. Christian Waller believed they could be, and he would put our best people on it.
- F.) Joshua Bell generated a discussion regarding solar farm moratoriums. He questioned if the Town would need to hold a public hearing and vote on creating a moratorium. Matthew Smith confirmed that was correct. Mr. Bell declared that now we have had the ordinance in place and can see the pros and cons, it would be wise to take another look at it. A few things he would like to see are placing the powerlines underground, addressing the issue of setbacks, and a survey that defines the effects of solar farms on abutting landowner's property. Matthew Smith believed that the surveys are already out there; we've been given them before. Mr. Bell asked if the Town should have a moratorium. Mr. Smith responded that the Town looked at a moratorium, and it was stringent and did not meet the standards. Christian Waller asserted he has some information right now, and due to tariffs and other economic factors, just about all the solar activity has been hibernating for a while. His best-educated guess would be it will be at least six months before things get moving again. Mr. Smith said he agrees with Mr. Bell, the Board previously discussed taking another look at solar farms. Like any other ordinance, we have it in place now, and it's time to look at it to see what we like and don't like. Scott Landry acknowledged that many people are negotiating options with the power companies and have been placed on hold. It will be interesting to see what effect the wait may have on negotiations.
- G.) Scott Landry mentioned he noticed the striping was almost complete. Christian Waller reported there is only one place in the country that manufactures the paint, and last year due to COVID-19, production was delayed.
- H.) Matthew Smith reminded everyone that Monday is Memorial Day, and it is about our fallen soldiers and service members. Sometimes that gets forgotten. The American Legion will hold a memorial ceremony at the WWI Arch at 10:00 a.m. he encouraged everyone to come. The WWI area was refurbished, the arch was washed, a new lighted flag pole was added, trimmed some trees, and reseeded the grass. It looks nice. Following the 10:00 a.m. ceremony at the WWI arch, they will march down to the WWI Memorial at Meetinghouse Park, and there will be a wreath-laying ceremony. The Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America will march with veterans.
- I.) Matthew Smith said our thoughts and prayers are with those involved in the tragedy today in Texas. Today's disaster involved a lot of children. Mr. Smith encouraged everyone to keep the people of Texas in their thoughts and prayers. He hopes everyone gets through this.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:05 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Byron Staples - Secretary