

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, September 13, 2022

The conduct of the meeting included remote access by telephone, video, and electronic means. The public could 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 calling 778-5874.

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Joshua Bell, Scott Landry, and Byron Staples. Stephan Bunker arrived at 6:33 p.m. Town Manager Christian Waller, Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, Assessor John O'Donnell, Planning Assistant Cindy Gelinas, Police Chief Ken Charles, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster, Fire Chief T.D. Hardy, Fire Deputy Chief/Town Budget Committee Chair Clyde Ross, Board of Appeals and Board of Assessment Review Member Dennis O'Neil, Budget Committee Member Lloyd Smith, MBTV Camera Operator Tom Martin, and members of the press and public were also present. Berry Talbot and Royer Certified Public Accountant Marc Roy, and members of the press and public, participated remotely as authorized by PL 209, c.617.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of soliciting comments and reviewing the self-assessment results for the Community Resilience Partnership grant application

Christian Waller said the Town was applying of a \$50,000 grant, and he provided a copy of the Community Resilience Partnership's Community Resilience Resolve, Self-Assessment, and List of Community Actions. The list of community actions is prioritized as follows:

1. Install an HVAC system at the Community Center Building
2. Broadband expansion
3. Traffic management
4. LED lighting for Municipal facilities
5. Electric vehicle charging stations.

The resolution designates Planning Assistant Cindy Gelinas and Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster to coordinate the planning, implementation, and monitoring of energy and resilience projects and to be the primary point of contact to the Community Resilience Partnership.

Chairman Matthew Smith opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:32 P.M.

There were no comments from the public.

Chairman Matthew Smith closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:32 P.M.

ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of soliciting comments and reviewing the self-assessment results for the Community Resilience Partnership grant application (continued)

Scott Landry moved to accept the Community Resilience Partnership grant application as written; Byron Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the resolution.

ITEM 3: To Review the 2022 Tax Rate Scenarios

Assessor John O'Donnell provided a spreadsheet with the following 2022 tax rate scenarios for the Board and provided a review:

- Downtown TIF \$0.00, Overlay \$64,482.59, estimated tax rate 0.01779
- Downtown TIF \$173K, Overlay \$61,625.09, estimated tax rate 0.01809
- Downtown TIF \$150K, Overlay \$62,536.44, estimated tax rate 0.01805

A lengthy discussion ensued, including the Downtown TIF, Overlay, Unassigned Fund Balance, abatements, valuations, and property tax stabilization for senior citizens.

Joshua Bell moved to set the Downtown TIF at \$150,000 and set the Overlay at \$40,000; Stephan Bunker seconded.

John O'Donnell stated that as the sworn assessor, he is responsible for setting the tax rate and establishing the Overlay. The Board can vote on what they want him to do, and he will do his best to come as close as possible to what they ask, but it won't be exact.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To consider an appropriation of up to \$2,300 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account SX-7975 to replace the Town Clerk's office door

Scott Landry moved to approve up to \$2,500 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account SX-7975 to replace the Town Clerk's office door; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To apply for and accept Edward S. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) grant in an amount up to \$4000 to purchase Body Armor Plates (stand-alone Rifle Armor) and Carriers.

Police Chief Ken Charles stated that the Department of Justice annually awards each state. The grant rotates amongst the local police departments, and it is Farmington's turn to apply. The grant is for \$2,657. They would like to use the funds to purchase body armor far exceeding what they currently have. The total purchase price of the armor would be \$3,293, leaving a balance of \$626, which is available in the safety equipment fund.

Joshua Bell moved to apply for and accept the Edward S. Byrne Justice Assistance grant for \$2,657; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Approve a Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition for 2022

Christian Waller provided a copy of the Maine Service Centers Coalition (MSCC) 2022 Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate. Stephan Bunker provided a brief overview of the MSCC.

ITEM 6: To Approve a Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition for 2022 (continued)

Joshua Bell moved to appoint Town Manager Christian H. Waller as the designated representative for the Maine Service Centers Coalition and appoint Stephan Bunker as the designated alternate; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Nancy Martin signed the resolution.

ITEM 7: 2023 Town budget process overview

Christian Waller stated that after reviewing 2022's budget season and after speaking with all the Board members, he wanted to start the 2023 budget process early to allow plenty of time for discussion, collaboration, and feedback. He sent an overview of the 2023 budget process and a tentative schedule. Mr. Waller provided a flow chart and tentative schedule with the following items:

- 9/13/22 Tax Commitment
- 10/11/22 Select Board Policy Statements (Budget Guidance)
- 11/15/22 Department Head Budgets
- 01/06/23 Budget Draft to Select Board
- 01/01/23 Department Head Budget Presentations to Select Board and Budget Committee
- 01/11/23 Department Head Budget Presentations to Select Board and Budget Committee
- 01/17/23 Budget Meetings
- 02/08/23 Budget Meetings
- TBA Select Board Votes; Approved Budget to the Budget Committee
- TBA Budget Committee Votes; Budget with recommendations to the Select Board
- TBA Select Board Votes; Approved Final Budget to the Town Manager
- TBA Warrant Drafted
- 03/28/23 Town Meeting, 6:30 p.m. downstairs of the Community Center

A lengthy discussion ensued. Marc Roy participated in the discussion and provided an overview of the operational budget and analysis worksheet via Zoom. Topics of discussion included: reserves, capital improvement plans, future town growth, master budget workbook, the ability to see past three years' expenditure totals, etc... Mr. Roy answered the Select Board's questions.

ITEM 8: To Approve the Minutes of August 23, 2022

Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of August 23, 2022; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business

- A. Christian Waller reported there were two items the Board needed to discuss and set a special Town Meeting for. The first is the purchase of land that abuts Public Works; the funds would need to be appropriated at a special Town Meeting. The second is the replacement of Engine 2. Fire Chief T.D. Hardy stated that to avoid a price increase, the contract for the replacement truck needs to be signed before November 1, 2022. Mr. Waller said that we have unofficial reasons to believe that the Town was not awarded the fire truck grant. Other towns throughout the country have much older fleets. Funding will need to be approved at a special Town Meeting. Mr. Waller recommended that the special Town

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business (continued)

- B.** Meeting be held on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the downstairs area of the Community Center.

Scott Landry moved to hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 3, 2022, for the acquisition of a fire truck and land acquisition; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

- C.** Christian Waller informed that the Planning Board approved the subdivision off Maple Avenue (Map R08, Lot 008).
- D.** Stephan Bunker declared he is looking forward to attending the MMA Convention in Bangor.
- E.** Mr. Bunker stated he was asked if it was time for the Town to survey to see if there are forest harvesting opportunities on our public lands. Perhaps Peter Tracy could offer us his thoughts.
- F.** Mr. Bunker inquired about the timeline for installing a solar farm at the transfer station. He asked Christian Waller to research the status of this project.
- G.** Mr. Bunker revealed that he received several inquiries regarding electronic vehicle (EV) charging stations. Mr. Waller conveyed that the Farmington Water District reached out and was looking at different options for their vehicles. Mr. Waller believes each station costs between \$6,000 to \$10,000. The Board will need to determine what the Town's goals are. Will this be a publicly paid service? Mr. Waller will continue looking into EV charging stations.
- H.** Mr. Bunker requested an update on the High Street project. Mr. Waller confirmed that the utility transfers were completed, and the project manager anticipates that the work will start in about a week.
- I.** Mr. Bunker asked where the Walton's Mill Pond project stood. Matthew Smith stated there was no longer a pond at the site. Joshua Bell said it is now Walton's Mill Park. Mr. Waller reported that the dam is completely gone. They are putting in fill and shoring up the concrete retaining wall.
- J.** Mr. Bunker asked where we are with the 2021 year-end audit. Mr. Waller declared that he and Marc Royer have encouraged auditor R.H.R. Smith & Company to bring the audit to a close. Mr. Roy noted that the auditors requested and received a few documents. Mr. Roy confirmed there is a shortage of auditors, and this is creating a backlog. Many towns are waiting for their final audit reports.
- K.** Mr. Bunker wished the community and Franklin County Agricultural well on the upcoming Farmington Fair. And he wished the Police and Fire Departments well with their public information booths.
- L.** Joshua Bell recommended that the Downtown TIF Committee schedule a meeting. Mr. Waller will ask Cindy Gelinas to schedule a meeting.
- M.** Mr. Bell asked if any cemetery stones were repaired this year. Mr. Waller responded that he met with Deborah Probert earlier today, and they had done some work behind the courthouse. Ms. Probert asked to address the Board and will be at the September 27th meeting to provide an overview and ask the Board what their concerns and interest were.
- N.** Mr. Bell asked State Representative Scott Landry how the State planned to address decreased fuel tax revenues caused by the increased EV charging station. Mr. Landry said the issue had not been discussed yet.

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business (continued)

- O.** Scott Landry noted the quality work done on Skunk Hollow. He said it was a beautiful road.
- P.** Matthew Smith asserted that the Board would need to discuss contracting fire protection services for the Farmington Fair, as the police contract police protection at the fair. As we become more professional with full-time paid firefighters, we must consider a contract for 2023 services.

There being no further business to come before the Board, 7:38 P.M. Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:38 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Byron Staples - Secretary