

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, November 22, 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 578-7395.

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, Code Enforcement Assistant Kate Foster, Police Chief Kenneth Charles, Michael McNamara & Cristal Bazquez representing Ace's Hotspot, Laurie Brown of the Franklin Community Coalition, Deputy Fire Rescue Chief Clyde Ross, resident Konrad Bailey, MBTV Camera Operator Kia Strine, Annie Twitchell and Alex Sawyer of The Bulldog, and members of the press and public were also present. 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 and vote on a new application for a Lunch Wagon Permit for Ace's Hotspot owned and operated by Michael S. McNamara

Chairman Matt Smith opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 P.M.

Michael S. McNamara introduced himself and stated it will be a family run business serving American/Spanish subs with different Spanish appetizers. Scott Landry asked where they were going to be located and his daughter Cristal Bazquez stated that they would like to park at Gifford's Ice Cream but are still waiting to hear back.

Chairman Matt Smith closed the Public Hearing at 6:35 P.M.

Joshua Bell moved to approve the Lunch Wagon Application for Ace's Hotspot; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To allow Leeanna Lavoie, MPH, Franklin Community Health Network/Healthy Community Coalition to address the Board. Re: Community health data

Laurie Brown introduced herself stating that she was filling in for Leeanna Lavoie and had a slideshow showing the services they provide at Healthy Community Coalition (HCC) and would email it to Nancy Martin as well. She then presented the slideshow and reviewed the information. Stephen Bunker discussed Chester Greenwood Day with

Laurie Brown. Stephen Bunker then discussed smoking and vaping and the HCC's view on those topics leading to the topic of cancer among firefighters and the resources that may be available for them. Matt Smith thanked Laurie Brown for her time.

ITEM 4: To approve the short-term employment agreement with Twila D. Lycette

Christian Waller told the Board it would be for salary and mileage reimbursement and that the Town may need to bring her back in. He stated that Twila has reviewed and signed the agreement. Joshua Bell asked if there was a potential schedule or an idea on the number of days and Christian Waller replied that Twila is currently working on voter history and verification and may be able to wrap it up by December 9th but might be able to come back to help with the town meeting. Stephen Bunker stated the Town is lucky to have her help. Matt Smith echoed Mr. Bunkers appreciation and wanted to thank Twila for her help.

Stephen Bunker moved to approve the short-term employment agreement with Twila D. Lycette; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To provide the Select Board an update on the November 8, 2022 election results

Christian Waller presented the results to the Board with a 48% turnout from town residents, and stated he wanted to make sure they were aware of the results and felt it went good.

ITEM 6: To approve Monday March 27, 2023 as the date for Farmington's Annual Town Meeting and Annual Election to be held at the Mount Blue High School Gymnasium. If approved nomination papers would become available at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, December 19, 2022 at the Town Clerk's Office. Nomination papers must be filed on or before January 26, 2023

Christian Waller stated this is to decide when to have the annual election and Town Meeting. He said they are planning on having more check in stations so it will go a little bit quicker but felt the venue went well overall. Joshua Bell confirmed they would be holding the elections for Selectmen and School Board at the Community Center from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and the Town Meeting will be at the Mount Blue High School Gymnasium and that the school does not charge anything for these events.

Scott Landry moved to approve Monday March 27, 2023 as the date for Farmington's Annual Town Meeting; Stephen Bunker seconded.

Matt Smith verified it will be at 7:00 P.M.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To approve the renewal of the liquor license for Jade Palace Corp. located at 249 Wilton Road

Matt Smith asked if there was a change in ownership to the Liquor License or if it was just a renewal in which Christian Waller replied it is a renewal. He hasn't received any complaints and doesn't see any issues.

Stephen Bunker moved to approve the renewal of the liquor license for Jade Palace Corp.; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To review and approve the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Town employees in the Town Fiscal Year 2023

Christian Waller stated this is the same method he used in 2022 to come up with the COLA and the last two months of the year and what is going to be expected, he estimated the 7.1% for the COLA for budget preparations. Stephen Bunker asked Mr. Waller how he estimated the 7.1% from in which he stated the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Northeast Urban Compact Consumer Price Index. Discussion followed on deciding to set it now or wait another month to add that to the calculations. Matt Smith asked the Board if they wanted to table this until the next meeting of December 13th.

Joshua Bell moved to table the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Town employees in the Town Fiscal Year 2023; Stephen Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To approve the transfer of Criminal Forfeiture Assets consisting of one G Force G25 AR Shotgun (Serial number unavailable), one Hammerli Tac R122C Shotgun (Serial number HA036084), and one Taurus G2C Pistol (Serial number ACM592769) as a result of a Drug Investigation

Police Chief Kenneth Charles gave an overview to the Board of the incident. He stated that Sargent Boyd received a suspicious vehicle complaint in which he investigated and seized narcotics, these weapons, among some other items and the suspect was arrested. The Police Department did not want to return the weapons to the subject so they requested a forfeiture and they need approval from the Town before the Police Department can accept the forfeiture showing that the Police Department is willing to take possession. Matt Smith asked what will happen with the guns once the Police

Department receives them. Chief Charles replied that once they are proving to be working guns, depending on their condition the Police Department can dispose of them, use them and put them into service which he doesn't believe they will, or put them up for sale or trade in to off set the cost of equipment.

Stephen Bunker moved to approve the transfer of Criminal Forfeiture Assets consisting of one G Force G25 AR Shotgun (Serial number unavailable), one Hammerli Tac R122C Shotgun (Serial number HA036084), and one Taurus G2C Pistol (Serial number ACM592769); Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To approve the minutes of November 8, 2022

Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of November 8, 2022; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 11: To discuss Other Business

A. Christian Waller stated he needed signatures for a General Assistance Ordinance.

The Selectmen signed the document.

B. Christian Waller stated he gave the Board a sheet on possible reorganization of jobs in the Town Office and discussion followed about the impact on staff and customers and how applications that come in sometimes are good in one area but not in another, the possibility of cross-training, and job descriptions for possible new hires.

The Board decided they wanted more time to review the information and asked that Mr. Waller explain the job description to the possible new hires with the job possibilities. The Board will follow up with a memo from Mr. Waller and discuss this further in an email chain.

C. Chief Charles stated that the Police Department is going to have to officers graduating from the Police Academy on 12/16 @ 10:00 A.M. and wanted to give an invite to it as well as a tour of the facility if anyone wants one.

D. Stephen Bunker wanted to remind everyone of Chester Greenwood Day on 12/3.

E. Joshua Bell wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

He asked how the Town verifies new registered voters and if they have transferred their vehicles over and how can the Town follow up on those things. Scott Landry stated that Planning Board member Troy Landry has Vermont plates and feels there

should be a 30-day limit to change residency items such as plates.

He asked if during the voting process, if someone was going to nursing homes to allow those residents to vote, in which Mr. Waller replied yes, himself and Mrs. Lycette were bringing them absentee ballots. Mr. Waller added that there were roughly 1100 absentee ballots and only 3 were rejected due to being submitted too late.

- F.** Byron Staples asked if there was any updates on the process for the Zoning Ordinance changes. Christian Waller stated his understanding is that the Planning Board can move forward with having a Public Hearing if there hasn't been any changes and then it will go to the Board of Selectmen to decide to put it as an article on the warrant for the Town Meeting. Joshua Bell verified that Mr. Staples concern was that the language for the process in the Ordinance as well as the changes/additions needs to be done. Mr. Bell asked if there was an update from Steve Kaiser on when he was thinking it will be brought before the Planning Board. Kate Foster replied and stated that Steve Kaiser and Cindy Gelinas had a conversation about this recently and said that it will be on the December Planning Board agenda unless there are no other items and then it would be placed on the January Planning Board meeting at the latest regardless if there are any other items. Mr. Staples asked if the Zoning Board would have to meet again for the amendments to the process. Ms. Foster replied that yes, the Zoning Board meets for any changes to the Zoning Ordinance in which would then go to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing and then to the Board of Selectmen for a Public Hearing as well.
- G.** Christian Waller stated that he spoke with Parks & Rec Director, Matt Foster about the Community Center roof and the second round of changes requested were accepted and approved. They were supposed to get the updated agreement to Mr. Foster by Thanksgiving but think it might be a little after.
- H.** Matt Smith stated that before COVID they had started working on fixing the WWII honor roll memorial at Meeting House Park and someone contacted him asking what the status was. Christian Waller stated that Matt Foster had a committee to work on it and Mr. Smith and Mr. Waller agreed that it should start again at the beginning of the year. Mr. Smith said he would reach out to Kent Wiles to see what the cost would be where the price of stone has gone up. Byron Staples asked if it would qualify for any TIFF's. Mr. Smith replied that he didn't think so.
- I.** Joshua Bell asked Christian Waller to schedule a Downtown TIFF Committee meeting next month where they haven't had one in almost 2 years.
- J.** Konrad Bailey asked about the project at 329 Farmington Falls Road (correct location is 325) where he believes the Town was building a driveway or fixing a stormwater drainage issue for the resident that lives there. He stated himself and

There being no further business to come before the Board, Byron Staples moved to adjourn at 9:11 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE

AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kate Foster.

Byron Staples - Secretary