

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

The conduct of the meeting will include remote access by telephone, 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 207-578-7395

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, and Byron Staples. Scott Landry was unable to attend. Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, Fire Chief TD Hardy, Franklin County Emergency Management Agency Director/Fire Deputy Chief Tim A. Hardy, Fire Deputy Chief/Budget Committee Vice-Chair Clyde Ross, Fire Lt. Joe Hastings, Police Chief Ken Charles, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Smith, Public Works Assistant Director Leia Durrell, Budget Committee Chair Judith Murphy, MBTV Camera Operator Kai Stone, and members of the press and the 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

Matthew Smith led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Farmington, Maine and Industry Maine

Fire Chief T.D. Hardy reviewed the MOU/proposal to provide fire protection services to the Town of Industry. The Farmington Fire Department (FFD) is staffed 24 hours/7 days a week with two full-time firefighters. The full-time staff is supplemented by a full-time fire chief, a daytime firefighter Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m., and seventeen paid call firefighters.

FFD will provide:

- Administration services for an annual fee of \$10,000;
- Emergency response to all fire/rescue incidents; equipment and maintenance to maintain compliance with Maine Bureau of Labor Standards for an annual fee of \$20,000.

Industry's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2023. Pending approval by the Town of Industry, the MOU shall be in effect for one year from 12:01 a.m. April 1, 2023, to 11:59 p.m. March 31, 2024.

Joshua Bell asked if \$20,000 was enough to cover the Town's costs. Chief Hardy estimated that FFD stated that based on past data he estimated, they would respond approximately 35 times to fire/rescue incidents in Industry, and \$20,000 is a fair amount. The Town of Industry has its own EMS, and FFD would not need to respond to medical calls. Stephan Bunker stated that he is in favor of the MOU. If successful, it will be a good role model for others. He would like to review after one year to see if the Town's costs were covered. Fire Chief T.D. Hardy and EMA Director Tim Hardy answered the Selectboard's questions. The Town of Industry requested a meeting with the Town to discuss the MOU further; Stephan Bunker agreed to act as liaison with Chief Hardy.

ITEM 3: To discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU between the Town of Farmington and Franklin County to reimburse the County \$24,339.19. The cost represents \$17,373.40 allocated to the fee for licensing and upgraded public safety and informational services, \$6,365.79 to the cost of maintaining the upgraded services and \$600 allocated to the subscription fee for upgraded services.

Police Chief Ken Charles and Franklin County Emergency Management Director Tim Hardy provided a review of the MOU agreement. The County contracted with Information Management Corp (IMC) to substantially upgrade public safety communication and information technologies services. Chief Charles reported that it is a next-generation computer-generated dispatch system and is the County's most critical piece of software and hardware. The Franklin County Commissioners allocated 2021 ARPA funds to cover the \$734,000 project costs. If the Town agrees, its portion of the cost of the upgraded services is \$24,339.19. The amount represents \$17,373.40 (one-time expenditure) allocated to the fee for licensing the upgraded services, \$6,365.79 (annually) to the cost of maintaining the upgraded services, and \$600 (yearly) allocated to the subscription fee for the upgraded services. The deadline for the \$24,339.19 payment is December 31, 2024. Chief Charles stated that the annual costs are familiar; the Town is paying these fees on the current system. Director Tim Hardy reported that the County Commissioners allocated up to \$500,000 in ARPA funds for this upgrade. Franklin County Emergency Management Agency obtained \$113,000 through Homeland Security Grants for this project. The remaining funding would come from participating towns (six police and four fire departments). Chief Charles stated that the fees were tiered based on the number of users. The estimated installation of the upgraded services is in late 2024 or early 2025. Chief Charles, Director Hardy, and Fire Chief T.D. Hardy answered the Selectmen's questions.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Farmington, Maine, and Industry Maine; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Landry)

Chairman of the Board, Matthew Smith, signed the MOU.

ITEM 4: To discuss the Farmington Compost Cooperative (FCC) Survey

Matthew Smith reported that FCC is conducting a survey. The survey can be taken online at shorturl.at/oyJ48 or scan the QR code on one of the flyers throughout the Town. Paper surveys are available at the Farmington Library and the Town Office. Anyone with questions is encouraged to contact Dominique Dispirito at Dominique.dispirito@maine.gov or call 207.446.2611. Stephan Bunker stated that he appreciates the newfound energy the FCC is putting into composting. Any food waste we can remove from our solid waste disposal is good. He hopes this generates more interest and more use of the great compost. The compost is sold several times a year and is worth its weight in gold. Mr. Smith pointed out that one of the FCC's goals is to get local businesses involved in the compost program.

ITEM 5: To consider an expenditure of \$395 for a full-color ad in the 2023 Spring Western Region Edition of Discover Maine Magazine, to be funded from the Special Projects Account

Joshua Bell moved not to expend \$395 for a full-color ad in the 2023 Spring Western Region Edition of Discover Maine Magazine; Matthew Smith seconded.

ITEM 6: To Discuss Other Business (continued)

C.) Joshua Bell requested that the Solar Farm Ordinance review process be added to a future agenda. The Board would then bring the ordinance to the Zoning Board for review.

D.) Byron Staples to promote an abundance of clarity reviewed possible Warrant Articles:

- \$355,000 from surplus to fund the plow truck and two pickups.
- \$150,000 to contribute to the facility reserve for the PWD parking lot and sleeping quarters.
- \$150,000 contribution to Parks & Recreation for the Hippach Field fence.

ITEM 7: To hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 to discuss confidential records.

Joshua Bell moved to go into Executive Session at 7:40 P.M.; Byron Staples seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE 4	ABSENT 1 (Landry)	MOTION CARRIED
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The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 7:52 P.M.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept the terms of Town Manager Christian H. Waller’s separation package; Joshua Bell seconded

ITEM 8: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6. A to discuss a personnel matter

Joshua Bell moved to go into Executive Session at 7:54 P.M.; Byron Staples seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE 4	ABSENT 1 (Landry)	MOTION CARRIED
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The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:30 P.M

Joshua Bell moved to go accept the terms of employment for interim Town Manager Cornell Knight; Matthew Smith seconded.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Stephan Bunker moved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.**

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE 4	ABSENT 1 (Landry)	MOTION CARRIED
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Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.