

**FARMINGTON SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

**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-streamfarmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> or calling 578-7395.**

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, Byron Staples, and Dennis O’Neil. Interim Town Manager Cornell Knight, Allison Brochu, Assessor, Cindy Gelin, Planning Assistant, Executive Assistant Leah Giusti, 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**

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

Chairman Smith makes a motion to amend the agenda to hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6) (E) for a consultation with legal counsel. Motion seconded by Selectman Bell.

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE            5                                    MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 2: To hear an update on the Electric Vehicle Charging Station**

Interim Town Manager spoke about a meeting of the Downtown TIF Committee where they voted unanimously that the Town not install two electric vehicle charging stations. A motion is in order to reject the grant application from Efficiency Maine. The chargers were sent to the town, they were refused and sent back.

Selectman O’Neil asked for reason, Selectman Bell stated that it took up parking spots in limited parking area. Not the idea of the charging stations but the location. Selectman Bell also stated that the Water Department was not in favor and that plowing could be an issue in the proposed location. Selectman Bunker asked about a restocking fee, Cindy Gelin, stated that no fee was mentioned.

**Selectman Bell moved for a Motion to not take the grant from Efficiency Maine Grant; Selectman Staples seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE            4            OPPOSED 1            MOTION CARRIED**  
**(Stephen Bunker)**



**ITEM 5: To Discuss the Interim Town Manager time away during April and May**

Interim Town Manager has a long-planned trip and will be away from April 12 through mid-May. He asks the Board if they would like him to continue as Interim Town Manager remotely. He can access voicemail, cellphone, text, zoom, and email remotely. He can check in daily. Ed Provencher has his signature stamp for purchase orders. He said purchase orders should be sent to him for approval via email. If approved by Interim Town Manager, Mr. Provencher will use the signature stamp and attach the approval email to the purchase order.

Chairman Smith asks if he can conduct business as usual, Town Manager says yes. Chairman O’Neil asks about his pay rate, Interim Town Manager states he will only be paid for hours worked.

Chairman Smith appreciates his willingness to continue remotely.

**All Selectman agree to continue with Cornell Knight as Interim Town Manager working remotely while away.**

**ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of 03/28/23 and 04/05/23**

Chairman Smith moved to approve the minutes of 03/28/23 and 04/05/23; Selectman Bell seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business**

Interim Town Manager Knight states that the Androscoggin Valley Counsel of Government (AVCOG) is holding a general assembly on April 26, 2023, at Martindale Country Club from 11:30 – 2:00. The Board needs to appoint a representative if someone would like to attend. Selectman Bunker volunteered.

**Chairman Smith moved for a Motion to appoint Selectman Bunker as representative, seconded by Selectman O’Neil.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSTAINED 1 MOTION CARRIED**

**(Stephen Bunker)**

Selectman Bell requested that the Treasurer come to a Board of Selectmen Meeting in order to provide an update on unpaid property taxes.

Selectman O'Neil requested information on the correct process to get in touch with department heads. Chairman Smith stated that constituent and targeted questions should be sent in writing to the Town Manager.

Selectman Bunker stated that there should be discussions between the Town Manager finalists and the Board about the flow of information and how the chain of command flows.

Patty Haggan addresses the board on behalf of the Farmington Downtown Association. She stated that the Public Works Budget for 2023/2024 has money earmarked for downtown beautification projects. They are discussing a portable toilet in the municipal parking lot. The Downtown Association supports a handicap-accessible toilet. Mrs. Haggan is bringing this to the Board because the toilet would be on town property.

Selectman Bell asks about security, Downtown Association will be responsible. Will use a padlock after hours and monitor what to do on weekends. Selectman Bunker asks about maintenance, it is taken care of under the fee charged by the company to the Downtown Association. Selectman O'Neil asks about signage for tourists. The Association will advertise on social media and webpage and will rely on businesses to advise tourists.

Chairman Smith states it is long overdue and thanks Mrs. Haggan.

Chairman Smith has for Change of Agent transfer form for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Agent for the new Town Clerk, Diane Durham.

**There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Smith moved to adjourn to the executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6) (E) for a consultation with legal counsel at 7:25 P.M.; Selectman Bell seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE   5            MOTION CARRIED**

Return to regular session at 8:20 pm. No action taken

**Motion by Chairman Smith to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.; Seconded by Selectman Bunker .**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE   5            MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leah Giusti.

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Byron Staples - Secretary