

## FARMINGTON SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, April 25, 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 6:35 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, Byron Staples, and Dennis O'Neil. Timothy D. Hardy, Fire Chief, Kenneth Charles, Police Chief, Matthew Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, Philip Hutchins, Dept. Head of Public Works, Leah Giusti, Executive Assistant, MBTV Camera Operator Kai Stone, and members of the press and the public were also present. Interim Town Manager Cornell Knight participated via Zoom. 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.

### **ITEM 2: To allow Chief of Police Kenneth Charles to introduce the newest members of the Police Department: Officer Donald Gray; Officer Jonathan Parker; Officer Ethan Bronson; and Officer Rex Schweighofer.**

Chief Kenneth Charles states successful turnaround and high-quality staffing. The only open position remaining is the detective position. All new officers are certified through the academy.

Officer Donald Gray introduces himself. Degree in Criminal Justice, 8 years in the U.S. Army.

Officer Jonathan Parker introduces himself. Degree in Criminal Justice, 19 years as Asset Protection Manager at Wal-Mart.

Officer Rex Schweighofer introduces himself. Spent the past 3 years with Jay Police and has also worked with Wilton and Fryeburg departments.

Officer Ethan Bronson was unable to attend.

### **ITEM 3: To allow Chief of Police Kenneth Charles to accept a grant in the amount of \$2500 from Wal-Mart to be used for a laptop computer and other supplies.**

Chief Charles explains the ongoing Walmart grant program. Officer Parker applied for a community grant. Officer Parker states that the computer in the intake room in the jail is severely dilapidated and needs to be upgraded. The printer will be updated as well due to

the generous grant amount. It is a local community grant.

**Selectman Bell moved for a motion to accept the grant; Selectman O’Neil seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE    5                            MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 4:      To allow Parks Department to accept donations totaling \$3,045.55 for new equipment for the youth lacrosse program**

Matt Foster states that in the prior decade, there had been anywhere between 8-18 children in the youth lacrosse program. This spring there are 60. They have cobbled together used and donated equipment. Generous donations have given them enough equipment for this season and they now have four (4) teams. Mr. Foster is excited to see how the program grows from here.

**Selectman Bell moved for a motion to authorize the acceptance of the donations; Selectman O’Neil seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE    5                            MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 5:      To approve the expenditure of \$278,375 from the public works equipment reserve account SX-7960; for a 2023 International HV613 plow truck from HP Fairfield.**

Phil Hutchins states this is the only new plow truck available on any lot in the state. Equipment ready to be installed by HP Fairfield. We have the first opportunity due to our budget working on the calendar year. The wait time from the factory would be 1.5 years.

Selectman Bell asks about other plow trucks possibly available in New England. Mr. Hutchins states they all work with the factory, it is a lottery throughout the country. Not so much the tractor availability, but more the build with plow equipment on it.

Selectman Bell asks what will be left in the public works reserve. Mr. Hutchins states \$176,625.

Selectman Smith asks about other tractor bodies, Mr. Hutchins states we still have 5 non-stainless and 3 stainless. Selectman Smith asks if we will have to order in advance going forward. Mr. Hutchins says now is the time to sign up for the following year.

**Selectman Bunker moved for a motion to approve the expenditure; Selectman Staples seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE    5                            MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 6: To approve expenditures up to \$120,000 from the public works equipment reserve account SX-7960 for the purchase of additional vehicles and to allow the trade of our 2012 Ford F550 1 ton.**

Mr. Hutchins would like to purchase two (2) slightly used pickup trucks for the public works fleet. The 2012 Ford F550 to be traded in has electrical and mechanical issues. No quotes for trade-in yet, but the book value is roughly \$15,000.

Selectman Bell requests confirmation that the two vehicles will be slightly used. Mr. Hutchins confirms. Mr. Hutchins believes \$60,000 per truck will be enough.

**Selectman O'Neil moved for a motion to approve the expenditures; Selectman Bunker seconded.**

**VOTE**

**AFFIRMATIVE 5**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 7: To discuss future projects through the MPI and VPI programs from the State MDOT.**

Mr. Hutchins states that he recently had a meeting with a local engineer regarding Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI) and Village Partnership Initiative (VPI). These are two separate but similar processes. MPI focuses on surface treatments, road reconstructions, drainage, etc. The maximum amount from the State is 50% of the cost up to \$625,000. VPI concentrates on village center downtowns with a speed limit of 30 MPH or less. VPI covers 50% of the cost and the amount is not capped, it depends on the complexity of the project. It is a 3-step process. A regional engineer will work with the town to estimate a preliminary cost in-house. Step 1, a regional engineer approaches the state, step 2 is design and review, step 3 is bid and construct. Used MPI for Front Street and High Street. Can combine MPI and VPI funds into the same project. He is looking for ideas on what the Board would like to see and if we should start the process.

Selectman O'Neil asks about speed bumps on High Street. Mr. Hutchins states that there is a speed table in front of the gymnasium. Selectman Bunker thinks another speed bump on High Street would be a benefit.

Selectman Bell asks if they are looking for any direction from the Board regarding MPI. Mr. Hutchins states he is and that now is the time to propose more work. Selectman Bell suggests sidewalk work on Wilton Road. Mr. Hutchins suggests adding lighting on Wilton Road. Selectman O'Neil is concerned about planned roadwork being pushed off, Mr. Hutchins states that would not be the case.

Selectman Smith tells Mr. Hutchins to start the process and keep the Board informed.

**ITEM 8: To discuss the 2023 paving process.**

Mr. Hutchins requested approval to contract with Pike Industries for the 2023 road paving program. Mr. Hutchins stated that some smaller contractors reached out. Mr. Hutchins told them he would have a conversation about it before deciding on Pike Industries. Farmington is currently on Pike Industries' list, and they want to start work on May 4 and begin paving on May 11. They would begin work on Moser Hill and other roads that are already prepared.

Selectman O'Neil asks if it is through a bid process, Mr. Hutchins states no it would be through a contract process. Mr. Hutchins recommends contracting Pike Industries as there have been issues with incomplete work with other companies after going through the bid process and Pike Industries had to come in and finish it.

Mr. Hutchins states that they would be saving \$10.00/ton with Pike Industries. Selectman Bell asks if he could reach out to get competing offers and rates. Mr. Hutchins states that companies don't typically like to expose their prices without going through the bid process. Mr. Hutchins states that a lot of the other companies are much smaller, and he worries they would not be able to mix and lay down on time with the amount of footage Farmington needs to be paved.

**Selectman Bell moved for a motion to approve the 2023 Paving Contract with Pike Industries pending approval of the contract and terms by the Board and town attorney; seconded by Selectman Bunker.**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Opposed 1</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(O'Neil)</b>	

**ITEM 9: To discuss the use of funds from the Town of Industry**

Chief Hardy approached the Board to discuss the use of funds from the Town of Industry contract. They have come across issues regarding the use of funds. The funds automatically go into the general account, not the Fire Department. The ability to spend the money will need to be a special town meeting item. Selectman Bell asks if there is a call out to Industry, would our people respond out. Chief Hardy says yes. He also states that there will be some time once a week when one or two people will go out to Industry to do truck checks, equipment inspections, and maintenance. The hope was to use the money to add a day a week and expand staff hours for 3 m-f firefighters. Ideally, the money should have been included in the Fire Department budget. Now they will need an article to spend the funds.

Selectman Bell asks if there was anything left in the Fire Department budget. Chief Hardy states that there is not. Next year, they will include that money in the budget.

The Board and Chief Hardy discuss using the budget surplus for any necessary additional coverage.

Selectman Smith requests a quarterly update on costs.

**ITEM 10: To review BYOB permit for Davenport/James Wedding on 6/23/23-6/24/23**

Selectman Bell moved for a motion to approve the permit; Selectman Smith seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 11: To review Application for Renewal of On-Premises License for Grantlee's Tavern & Grill**

Selectman Smith moved for a motion to approve the renewal of the On-Premises License for Grantlee's Tavern & Grill; Selectman Bell seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 12: To review Budget Committee Application of Lloyd W. Smith**

Selectman Smith moved for a motion to approve the application; Selectman O'Neil seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 13: To Approve the Minutes of 04/11/23**

Selectman Bell moves for a motion to approve the minutes; Selectman Bunker seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 14: To Discuss Other Business**

Interim Town Manager Cornell Knight requests that the Town Clerk be granted authority to sign off on one-day liquor licenses.

**Selectman Smith moved for a motion to grant authority to the Town Clerk to sign off on one-day liquor licenses; Selectman O'Neil seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

Selectman Bell requests a follow-up on property tax liens. Selectman Smith will speak with the Treasurer.

There will be a rebate coming in from Efficiency Maine that will go into the general fund.

Selectman O'Neil asks about noise bylaws. Selectman Smith states that Farmington has none, only a nuisance ordinance.

Selectman Smith states that the Board will begin to interview town manager applicants later this week.

**There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Bunker moved to adjourn at 7:47 P.M.; Selectman Staples seconded.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leah Giusti.

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Byron Staples - Secretary