

FARMINGTON SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, June 27, 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 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, Byron Staples, and Dennis O’Neil. Kenneth Charles, Police Chief, Andrew Marble, Plumbing Inspector, Cornell Knight, Interim Town Manager, Leah Giusti, Executive Assistant, 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.

ITEM 2: To Appoint Board and Committee Members

The Board reviewed the following list of applicants:

Bryon “Buzz” Davis: Revolving Loan Fund, TIF Committee
Fenwick L Fowler: Budget Committee
Aileen Kennedy: Board of Appeals, Budget Committee, Recreation Committee,
Revolving Loan Fund
Michael Guerrette: Planning Board (Alternate)
William A. Haslam: Conservation Commission
Michael MacNeil: Planning Board (Alternate)
Gloria McGraw: Board of Assessment Review
Paul H. Mills: Zoning Board
Judith Murphy: Budget Committee, Planning Board
Jeffrey M. Wright: Planning Board

Selectman Bell makes a motion to approve all applicants; Selectman O’Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To review Applications for Renewal of On-Premises Licenses for The Farmhouse Beer Garden, Pizza Hut, and Legend Asian Restaurant, a/k/a Jade Palace

Selectman O’Neil is concerned some applications missing information. A question arises regarding Jade Palace/Legend Asian Restaurant. It appears not to be a renewal, but rather a

transfer of the license to a new entity.

Selectman Bell made a motion to table Legend Asian a/k/a Jade Palace until more information is garnered and there is a public hearing; Selectman Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Selectman O’Neil moves to approve renewals for Pizza Hut and Farmhouse Beer Garden; Selectman Smith Seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To approve expenditure of \$8,400 from Police Department Building Reserve Account to upgrade Police Department lighting

Police Chief Kenneth Charles addressed the board regarding lighting at the police department. Presently, the police station has 115 fluorescent light bulbs that aren’t working. He reached out to three local vendors, but only one provided a quote. He is proposing the expenditure to replace all of the remaining fluorescent with LED flat panels. The key motivator is the savings in electrical costs of approximately \$1,700-2,000 in reduced energy costs per year. There is currently over \$23K in reserve for building expenditures.

Selectman Bell asks about Efficiency Maine. Chief Charles states that it is included in the quote, the cost is the total after rebates.

Selectman Bell made a motion to approve expenditure; Selectman O’Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To authorize the Police Department to auction one 2016 Ford Interceptor Sedan with proceeds deposited in Vehicle Reserve Account.

Chief Charles states that he anticipated they would end up with an extra vehicle. This is the least desirable vehicle in the fleet. It is not suitable for frontline service. Not optimal for animal control. This is an opportunity to refresh money into vehicle reserve. Muncipd.com can set up an auction with bidding done through the company with costs incurred by the buyer.

Selectman Bunker made a motion to authorize the Police Department to auction the 2016 Ford Interceptor; Selectman Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To hear proposal from Plumbing Inspector, Andrew Marble, regarding Permit Fees

Andrew Marble addressed the board. He would like to look at running all permit fees through the Town Office. Fees are now all paid to the plumbing inspector. Mr. Marble states that Farmington is only one of two towns he has worked for that does it this way. All other towns handle by going through town and a portion gets sent to the state with a copy of the permits, and a portion goes to the inspector. Mr. Marble states that the current procedure adds liability to the inspector, and it seems strange to tell people that a municipal permit cost is paid directly to him. Mr. Marble estimates that he averages between 60-80 permits per year for Farmington.

The Board inquires as to how these changes would be made. Interim Town Manager Cornell Knight states that the board needs to vote on it and the treasurer can take care of it from there.

Between 60-80 on average per year.

Town of Farmington only charges the state minimum - \$10 per fixture. Septic is \$250 + \$25.

Regarding payment structure, 25% goes to the state. Municipalities can adopt ordinances to add additional fees. Minimums were set in 2011, and the State only gets the minimum.

To set a new ordinance, it must first go through code enforcement, then there must be a public hearing, finally, the selectboard will vote.

Selectman Smith suggests a \$10 processing fee.

Selectman Bunker made a motion to change the process for all permit fees payable through town; Selectman O’Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Selectman O’Neil made a motion to direct TM to look at adopting an ordinance with fee structure ; Selectman Smith seconded

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of 6/13/23

Selectman Bunker made a motion to approve the minutes; Selectman Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Discuss Other Business

Selectman O’Neil asks for an update on the assessor work from the Interim Town Manager, Cornell Knight. Mr. Knight states that they are starting their work on Friday, June 30, for the 2023 commitment. He has not heard back from KRT regarding the revaluation.

Selectman O’Neil also asks if we heard from the Town Attorney regarding the bidding process on paving. Mr. Knight states that Phil wanted to add something about an RFP for engineering.

Regarding the question about an assessor from the previous meeting, Mr. Knight sent an analysis to the board this afternoon. Because the town voted in the 1971 town meeting for a single assessor, they will have to keep searching until we find a single assessor. Someone on the board cannot do the work of an assessor while serving on the board.

Selectman O’Neil received a residents’ petition regarding the deer population. Introduces on their behalf to see if there is anything we can do. Mr. Knight states that Scott Landry was going to contact Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. He send a note to him a few weeks ago regarding same, but has not heard back.

Selectman Bell made a motion to go to Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.D to discuss the Police Labor Contract Negotiations; Selectman Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.D to discuss the Police Labor Contract Negotiations with the Negotiators, Interim Town Manager Cornell Knight, and Chief of Police Kenneth Charles.

Return to regular session at 7:45 p.m.

Selectman Bell made a motion to approve the 3-year agreement between the Town of Farmington and the Maine Association of Police as presented and expiring March 31, 2026; Selectman Bunker Seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Selectman Bell made a motion to enter an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6)(F) for hardship property abatement as per 36 M.R.S. § 841 (2)(E); Selectman Bunker Seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6)(F) for hardship property abatement as per 36 M.R.S. § 841 (2)(E)

Return to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

