

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Michael Fogg, Andrew Buckland and Matthew Smith. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Police Chief Jack Peck, Deputy Chief Shane Cote as videographer for Channel 11, Parks & Recreation Director Steve Shible and Assistant Director Matthew Foster, Public Works Director Denis Castonguay, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Joshua Bell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing and vote on the Following Renewal Applications for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permits:

- **Farmington Motel, Located at 489 Farmington Falls Road, owned and operated by Rushi, LLC**
- **Mount Blue Motel, Located at 454 Wilton Road and Colonial Valley Motel, Located at 593 Wilton Road, owned and operated by Rick Collins**
- **RJ's Hot Dogs, owned and operated by Richard Joseph Sr.**
- **Grantlee's Mobile, owned and operated by Bernard Bates**

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 P.M.

Richard Davis stated that all five applications are routine annual renewals.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:34 P.M.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the renewal Innkeeper applications for Farmington Motel, Mount Blue Motel and Colonial Valley Motel, renewal Lunch Wagon Permit applications for RJ's Hot Dogs and Grantlee's Mobile; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTON CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the five renewal applications.

ITEM 3: To Confirm the Employment of Seth Noonkester as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

Richard Davis announced that Seth Noonkester has been hired as the new Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, and turned introduction over to current Assistant Director Matthew Foster. Mr. Foster explained that there were 23 applicants for the position, which a committee of 4 reviewed and interviewed 6. Mr. Foster reviewed the committee members and Mr. Noonkester's background. He pointed out that all of Mr. Noonkester's references were great and his background check revealed no issues. Seth Noonkester was present and further reviewed his background.

Andrew Buckland moved to confirm the employment of Seth Noonkester as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Take Action with regard to the Proposed Wilton Road Traffic Pattern Changes

Richard Davis stated that this matter has been before the Board before and a public meeting was held several weeks ago with a power point presentation by a traffic engineer from the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). Mr. Davis pointed out the reports provided to the Selectmen by the heads of the Public Works, Police and Fire Rescue Departments, and the map displayed on a side table which indicates the proposed lane changes. Public Works Director Denis Castonguay, Police Chief Jack Peck, and Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell explained how the proposed changes would affect operations and emergency response of each of their departments. Comments were heard from Selectmen Michael Fogg, Andrew Buckland and Stephan Bunker, Clayton King, Dick Brooks, Willard Hatch, Robert Waller, Dennis O'Neil, Nancy Porter, Lloyd Smith, and Jan Roberts. Facts, questions, concerns and suggestions included: why are the lanes being changed from four to two; there are only four sections of the 2.8 mile stretch of road that are being proposed to be reduced from four to two lanes for the purpose of improving safety issues; the traffic engineer stated at the Public Hearing that if the proposed traffic pattern is installed and is deemed to be unsuccessful the lines can be painted over, returning the road to its original pattern - it was pointed out later in the meeting, however, that the Town would be responsible for the very costly expense of repainting the traffic pattern; Willard Hatch presented information on the petition that he initiated, as well as traffic vs. accident statistics that he obtained from MaineDOT; what is the possibility of installing barriers down the center to eliminate left hand turns and instead create turnaround areas with traffic lights; safety issues concerning tractor trailers turning into businesses and/or trying to merge into traffic in the two lane sections; distracting signs/devices used by businesses to attract business; fear that the present inappropriate use of turning lanes as travel lanes will only get worse if a two-lane pattern is

ITEM 4: To Take Action with regard to the Proposed Wilton Road Traffic Pattern Changes (Cont.)

implemented; the perception that there is more concern about speed than for safety; fear of change; there will be breakdown lanes in the two-lane sections; most likely there will be two less years wear of the asphalt in the two-lane sections and there will be more maintenance; sewer manhole covers in the two-lane sections will be out of the travel lanes; it would have been preferable for MaineDOT to have presented more than the one plan; education on distracted driving is needed; it was reiterated that there are no “bricks and mortar” changes, only paint changes which can be returned to the original pattern, albeit at an enormous expense to the Town; it was suggested that lane change signs strung above/across the road would be more visible and less maintenance than painted signs on the road which tend to wear off quickly; alternative suggestions focused on public safety are needed; signage identifying certain traffic issues; the problem with the current traffic pattern/issues cannot be corrected by writing traffic tickets.

Michael Fogg moved to take no action in regard to the proposed Wilton Road traffic pattern changes and leave the existing pattern as it is; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To Countersign the Warrants for the RSU #9 Annual Budget Meeting on June 1, 2015 and Validation Referendum on June 9, 2015

Stephan Bunker moved to countersign the warrants for the RSU #9 annual budget meeting on June 1, 2015 and validation referendum on June 9, 2015; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the two warrants.

ITEM 6: To Cancel the May 26, 2015 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting

Stephan Bunker moved to cancel the May 26, 2015 Board of Selectmen’s meeting; Matthew Smith seconded.

Richard Davis clarified that all business that would have been taken up at that meeting has been taken care of tonight.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of May 12, 2015

Andrew Buckland moved to table the minutes of May 12, 2015 as the Board had not had a chance to review them; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Stephan Bunker reminded everyone of the 10:00 A.M. Memorial Day parade and reviewed its route. Andrew Buckland stated that regretfully he will be unable to attend.
- B) Robert Ross shared with the Selectmen a bad experience he had at the Walmart intersection on the Wilton Road due to another driver's inattention.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Andrew Buckland moved to adjourn at 8:00 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Andrew R. Buckland - Secretary