

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Andrew Buckland, Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith and Stephan Bunker. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Channel 11, 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 Approve the Town of Farmington’s Share of the Mount Blue TV Budget for 2016

Richard Davis stated that the proposed 2016 budget request is for \$46,313.83 for the operating budget and \$5,000.00 for the equipment fund, which comes from the franchise subscriber fees. Mr. Davis reviewed a letter from Bee Line Cable which explained the fees. Mount Blue TV Manager J.P. Fortier was present and further reviewed the proposed 2016 budget. Mr. Fortier reported that the studio is moving into a former television studio in the Roberts Learning Center, with the move of the administrative portion having taken place today. He stated that they anticipate being fully operative within 2-3 weeks. Mr. Fortier also reviewed present studio productions, upcoming new productions, new volunteers, the promoting of their website, sponsorship, and encouragement of local businesses and organizations to buy into the station.

Michael Fogg moved to approve the Town of Farmington’s share of the Mount Blue TV budget for 2016 in the amount of \$51,313.83; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To Review the Employee Share of Health Insurance Premiums vs. Cost of Living Adjustments

Richard Davis reviewed the research and information of other communities that he performed, and explained that the plans aren’t necessarily comparable. He also reviewed four scenarios based on the Town’s available insurance plans, and each scenario’s impact on the Town and employees. He also referred back to the spreadsheet he provided the Selectmen at the last meeting which shows yearly averages and their impact. Mr. Davis

ITEM 3: To Review the Employee Share of Health Insurance Premiums vs. Cost of Living Adjustments (Cont.)

reported that the projected increase in health insurance in 2016 is 6.25% for most of the plans. The Selectmen discussed the current policy from 2006 of employees paying half of any increase in health insurance versus approving a cost of living adjustment (COLA) and/or eliminating said policy and approving a different percentage share of premiums by both the Town and its employees. The Selectmen also discussed giving the part-time employees a 1% COLA since they will realize no benefit from any health insurance adjustments. Mr. Davis pointed out that they have to be careful not to give more to employees than the Police contract allows them as it would be a breach of the Police contract. Mr. Davis recommended the member 85/15 and dependent 50/50 scenario.

Michael Fogg moved to adopt the health insurance percentages of 85/15 and 55/45; no second. MOTION FAILED

Matthew Smith moved to adopt the health insurance percentages of 85/15 and 50/50; Michael Fogg seconded.

Further discussion was generated when the \$9,000 difference between the 85/15 and 55/45 scenario and the 80/20 and 55/45 scenario was questioned. The effect on the Police Department union contract was also further questioned.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 2 OPPOSED 3 MOTION FAILED
(Bunker/Buckland/Bell)**

Andrew Buckland moved to adopt the health insurance percentages of 80/20 and 55/45, and to accommodate the Police Department contract; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Davis for his research.

ITEM 4: To Discuss the Resignation of Yvette Robinson from the RSU 9 Board of Directors and the Appointment of an Interim Director

Richard Davis stated that he received an email resignation from Yvette Robinson yesterday. He explained that the Selectmen can appoint an interim Director to fill in until the March Town Meeting, at which time a Director will be elected to finish out the term, which ends June 30, 2016. Mr. Davis also stated that Douglas Dunlap and Scott Erb have resubmitted their applications from when Claire Andrews resigned in August. One more application has been received from Judith Murphy. It was Mr. Davis' suggestion and the consensus of the Selectmen that applications be accepted until the next meeting on December 22nd, at which time the Selectmen will review any applications received and appoint an interim Director.

ITEM 5: To Consider the Application of Frederick Conlogue III to Serve on the Recreation Committee

Richard Davis reported that Frederick Conlogue has been a member of the Recreation Committee in the recent past.

Matthew Smith moved to appoint Frederick Conlogue III to fill a 2018 vacancy on the Recreation Committee; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of November 24, 2015

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of November 24, 2015; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis reported that Public Works Director Denis Castonguay has given him his new retirement date of April 1, 2016. Mr. Davis stated that he will need to advertise soon in order to hire a replacement before that date, and is going to advertise differently this time in order to save money. He further stated that he will also be re-convening the Hiring Committee, on which Selectman Matthew Smith expressed his desire to continue to serve.
- B) Richard Davis reported that the Chester Greenwood Day events were highly successful and they made the NBC nightly national news.
- C) Andrew Buckland expressed his intrigue with Alison Hagerstrom's presentation at the last meeting and encouraged further investigation and open minds, considering the benefits to Farmington regardless of where any new business may end up. Richard Davis reported that another company that provides the same service has approached one of the other Town Managers and Alison Hagerstrom will be talking with them as well.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Andrew Buckland moved to adjourn at 7:56 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Andrew R. Buckland - Secretary