

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Vice Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Andrew Hufnagel and Dennis Pike. Stephan Bunker and Jessica Berry were absent. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Public Works Director Denis Castonguay, Assessor Mark Caldwell, Channel 11 and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Vice Chairman Ryan Morgan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Consider a Proposal for a Tractor Parade to Open the 2nd Annual Maine Fiddlehead Festival: Local Food Day on Saturday, May 4, 2013

Richard Davis explained that the Town does not require parade permits, but he felt that this event was of such a magnitude that it should come before the Board for consideration and approval. He pointed out that it also affords an opportunity for early publicity for the event. Lillian Lake, a member of the Local Food Day/Maine Fiddlehead Festival Committee, was present and handed out and reviewed information on the history of the Committee, as well as the Maine Fiddlehead Festival and its planned 2013 events.

Dennis Pike moved to approve the consideration of a Tractor Parade to open the 2nd Annual Maine Fiddlehead Festival: Local Food Day on Saturday, May 4, 2013; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED (Bunker/Berry)

ITEM 3: To Award the bid for Printing the 2012 Annual Report

Richard Davis reviewed the summary report on the three bids received, of which the low bidder was Skowhegan Press. His recommendation was to award the bid to Skowhegan Press for the cost of \$1,969.00.

Dennis Pike moved to award the bid for printing the 2012 Annual Report to Skowhegan Press for the cost of \$1,969.00; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED (Bunker/Berry)

ITEM 4: To Appoint the Local Health Officer for a three year term pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 451

Richard Davis referred to the December 27, 2012 correspondence from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and explained that this is a requirement that the local Health Officer be appointed every three years. The individual who fulfills that requirement for the Town of Farmington is Steve Kaiser, so this is basically a formality. Dennis Pike asked for, and Mr. Davis provided, confirmation that Mr. Kaiser is in agreement with this appointment. Mr. Davis also stated that Mr. Kaiser has had the appropriate training.

Dennis Pike moved to appoint J. Stevens Kaiser as the Local Health Officer for a three year term; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(Bunker/Berry)**

ITEM 5: To Consider the Request of Mark Caldwell to Retire “in place” pursuant to Article XXIV of the Personnel Policy

Richard Davis explained that this type of request has come before the Board several times in the past and has been allowed. Mr. Davis pointed out that it is actually a money saver for the Town because the Town’s contribution is reduced to up to 4% of the employee’s gross earnings. It also enables the Town to retain and utilize an experienced employee.

Dennis Pike moved to approve the request of Mark Caldwell to retire “in place”; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

Andrew Hufnagel asked for clarification of the retirement program to which this applies.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(Bunker/Berry)**

ITEM 6: To Approve the Proposed Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for Roads and Determine the Method for Funding Same

Richard Davis explained the process that Public Works Director Denis Castonguay used in compiling this Plan. He also explained that basically the only capital funding the Town has had available for accomplishing road improvements has been from the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP), which in recent years has been known as the Urban Rural Initiative Program (URIP), but is now changing back to LRAP. Mr. Davis explained what the LRAP is and how it works. He also reviewed the five year Road Plan, with which Denis Castonguay and he have been in consultation of with the Transportation

ITEM 6: To Approve the Proposed Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for Roads and Determine the Method for Funding Same (Cont.)

Advisory Committee. He gave scenarios of, and reviewed options for, funding. Mr. Davis stated that the Board may wish to wait until the full Board is present to make a decision on funding, but it was his hope that they would look at and approve the five year Road Plan tonight, and then make a decision on funding by the next meeting in order for him to have time to write an Article for placement on this year's Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Davis reiterated that the Town does not expect to see any additional assistance from the State for this problem. The Board discussed the proposed funding options. Resident Nancy Porter expressed her concern with raising money through taxation, and issued a challenge to the Selectmen to find a more creative way to fund this Plan, as well as look at cutting certain department budgets which she perceives to contain unnecessary expenses. Richard Davis responded to Mrs. Porter's concerns by reviewing the budget process and the cost of operations, which he feels the Town has done an excellent job of keeping down. He stated that if the Governor's proposal gets through the Legislature as presented, which will not be known until at least April, it will be devastating to the extent of likely having to eliminate some departments. He further stated that it is his intent, once the budget process is further along, to compile calculations as to what proportions of the proposed budget are "discretionary", keeping in mind that there are some things over which the Town has no control. It was his feeling that even after determining what the proportionate amounts of those budgets will be that will need to be cut in order to meet these drastic revenue confiscations that are being proposed, there will still likely be a property tax increase required in addition to some very drastic and painful cuts, resulting in the taxpayers paying more for less. Resident and Budget Committee Chairman Joshua Bell joined the meeting at 7:15 P.M. and stated that he does not want to see property taxes go up either, but the roads need to be taken care of and he feels the Plan is reasonable. Ryan Morgan encouraged the public to contact the Board or Town Manager with any questions or suggestions. Mr. Davis shared an interesting statistic that the average Mainer pays over \$400 in automobile repairs because of poor road conditions, and pointed out that an increase in property taxes would be far less than \$400. In response to Channel 11 cameraman Roger Leclair's question as to what affect any lack of funding will have on the Whittier Road repair, Mr. Morgan stated that that project is federally funded.

Dennis Pike moved to approve the proposed five year Capital Improvement Plan for Roads as presented, and schedule discussion of funding of same for the next meeting; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT	2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bunker/Berry)		

Dennis Pike asked for, and received from Richard Davis, clarification of Attorney Lee Bragg's statement in an email dated January 16, 2013 regarding the process for providing a written ballot to voters. Denis Castonguay left the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

ITEM 7: To Discuss the Governor’s Proposed Budget and its Potential Impact on Farmington Property Taxpayers

Richard Davis reviewed a memo from Geoff Herman dated January 14, 2013 regarding Mr. Herman’s preliminary analysis of Governor LePage’s proposed State budget, and explained his perception of its potential impact on Farmington property taxpayers, ie. commercial excise tax, Municipal Revenue Sharing and cost of education. Mr. Davis also explained the case study that the Maine Municipal Association is conducting in their Legislative Bulletin of a few Towns, one of which they would like to highlight being Farmington. Maine Municipal Association is projecting an even greater loss in revenue sharing because the State has never fulfilled its promise of 5.1% of revenues from income and sales tax. Assessor Mark Caldwell was present and reviewed his memo and spreadsheet dated January 22, 2012, which explained the research and calculations had Governor LePage’s budget been in place for 2012, and its projected impact on property taxpayers, including the loss of the Homestead Exemption. Resident Nancy Porter asked Mark Caldwell for an explanation of Municipal Revenue Sharing. The Board discussed the Town’s fiscal year versus that of the State, with Richard Davis pointing out the benefit in this case of being on a calendar year versus fiscal year budget. Mr. Davis and Ryan Morgan both encouraged residents to contact their legislators with their concerns and questions. Mr. Davis pointed out that the Maine Municipal Association is also contacting each municipality in the State for information regarding the potential impact and passing the information on to legislators. He stated that the theme that is running through all of this is that legislators live and pay property taxes somewhere as well, so they will also be impacted. Assessor Mark Caldwell left the meeting at 7:46 P.M.

ITEM 8: To Approve an Agreement to Issue a Construction Overlimit Permit to the Contractor for Maine DOT Project Numbers 015766.00, 015767.00, and 015768.00

Richard Davis explained that the Board has signed this type of Agreement in the past in cases where a contractor may need to use Town roads to haul materials and equipment to a project site, as is the case with these three projects which are scheduled for this summer. Mr. Davis reviewed the locations of the three projects

Dennis Pike moved to approve a Construction Overlimit Permit for Maine DOT Project Numbers 015766.00, 015767.00, and 015768.00; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(Bunker/Berry)

The Board signed the Agreement.

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of January 8 and 15, 2013

Town Secretary Linda Grant explained that the minutes of January 8, 2013 were not yet available.

Dennis Pike moved to table the minutes of January 8, 2013, and to approve the minutes of January 15, 2013; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(Bunker/Berry)**

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

A) Dennis Pike asked Town Secretary Linda Grant to report to Central Maine Power Company that the street lights on CMP Poles 6 and 8 located at the intersection of Church Street and High Street are both out. Mrs. Grant made note of the request.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Andrew Hufnagel moved to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.; Dennis Pike seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(Bunker/Berry)**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant

Dennis C. Pike – Secretary