

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Andrew Hufnagel, Dennis Pike, Joshua Bell and Jessica Berry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell (6:40PM), Firefighter David Fronk, Public Works Director Denis Castonguay (7:05PM), Shop Manager Greg Soule (6:55PM), Treasurer Diana Young, Channel 11, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Chairman Morgan asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the tragic train derailment, explosion and fires in Lac-Megantic on Saturday, July 6, 2013.

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business

- A)** Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell handed out a CD of pictures that were taken and reviewed the role of six of his firefighters plus himself in extinguishing the fuel tank fires in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, Canada on Saturday, July 6, 2013. Resident Fred Smith passed on information that he received on Sunday from a New Vineyard firefighter who had just returned from the scene. Chairman Morgan reported that he is working with Town Manager Richard Davis and numerous townspeople and State officials to determine what more can be done to help the citizens of Lac-Megantic, and they would like guidance from the Selectmen as well. Richard Davis reported that a Canadian Red Cross link, specific to this incident, has been provided to local newspapers and may also be searched on the Internet. He also reviewed the informal research that was done today in regard to the Town possibly starting a designated bank account for people to contribute. The Selectmen discussed this option.

Andrew Hufnagel moved to establish an account for relief funds for Lac-Megantic through TD Bank, with \$500 from the Selectmen’s discretionary fund to be provided to start the account; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
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The Selectmen discussed how the public may contribute to this account. Resident Fred Smith stated that \$200 was raised at a meeting that he attended last night that will be contributed to this account. Ryan Morgan pointed out that numerous organizations are rallying their support and encouraged all those who can to do the same.

ITEM 2: To Consider a Request from Iris Morgan to Install Pink Lights at the Meetinghouse Park Gazebo during October to Recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month, with the Official Lighting to Take Place on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Richard Davis reviewed a letter from Iris Morgan dated June 21, 2013 and explained that this is the third year for this worthy request. He pointed out that the issue that has arisen each year is that October is also Domestic Violence Awareness month and there is another organization that requests the use of Meetinghouse Park during the same time period. He stated that both organizations have worked together in the past and he is confident that they will be able to do so again this year. He further stated that SafeVoices came before the Selectmen with their request at their June 25th meeting and their request was approved, so he has contacted SafeVoices to let them know that the Breast Cancer Awareness standing request will be heard by the Selectmen as well and, it is expected that it will be a cooperative venture for the use of that desirable public space.

Dennis Pike moved to approve the use of Meetinghouse Park by both organizations during the month of October, with the organizations working out the details amongst themselves; Jessica Berry seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSTAINED 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Ryan Morgan)**

ITEM 3: To Award the bid for Public Works Equipment

Richard Davis reviewed the July 2, 2013 tabulation of bids from three vendors for five pieces of equipment and explained the recommendation that all five bids be awarded to Viking-Cives of Sidney, Maine, at a total cost of \$35,883. Mr. Davis pointed out that the total cost is approximately \$400 under the Town's estimate. Andrew Hufnagel asked for clarification on what a sander control is.

Dennis Pike moved to award the bid for Public Works equipment to Viking-Cives of Maine at a total cost of \$35,883; Jessica Berry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Schedule a Public Informational Meeting on Municipal Tax Increment Financing

Richard Davis reported that this on-going project is now ready to be presented to and discussed with the public. Mr. Davis asked that this public meeting be scheduled as a stand-alone meeting separate from the Selectmen's meeting, and be held at the Community Center since it is not known how many will attend. The Selectmen set the date for this meeting for Monday, July 22, 2013 at 6:00 P.M., with an alternate date of either Monday, August 5, 2013 or Tuesday, August 6, 2013. Mr. Davis will confirm the dates with John Holden and send out a public notification.

ITEM 5: To Consider an Expenditure of \$650 from the Tree Reserve Account for Pruning Trees in the Center Meetinghouse Cemetery

Richard Davis reviewed the perceived safety issue of deadwood on trees that are overhanging Cony Street and the courthouse cemetery. He also reviewed an estimate dated June 30, 2013 by arborist Mark Ingrisano of Deep Root Tree & Landscape, LLC. Mr. Davis suggested that funds for the pruning services be taken from the Tree Reserve account. Public Works Director Denis Castonguay contributed to the Selectmen's discussion of this matter.

Andrew Hufnagel moved to approve an expenditure of \$650 from the Tree Reserve account for the pruning of trees in the Center Meetinghouse Cemetery; Dennis Pike seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Write off as Uncollectible Personal Property taxes in the Amount of \$5,034.46 plus Interest

Richard Davis and Treasurer Diana Young explained the collection efforts that have been taken on a number of past due personal property tax accounts. Ms. Young stated that there are no further options for collecting this money. She also stated that this is not a process that is done on a regular basis, pointing out that the last time this write off process took place was after going through the small claims process in 2005 for thirty-seven accounts dating from 1998-2003 for unpaid taxes totaling approximately \$7,000. Mr. Davis pointed out that this should not be a problem in the future as personal property tax is being phased out through the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) Program. He also pointed out that unfortunately there has never been a lien process that the Town could use as with real estate tax collection.

Jessica Berry moved to write off \$5,034.46 plus interest as uncollectible personal property taxes; Dennis Pike seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Hear an Update on the Hiring Process for the Wastewater Superintendent Position

Richard Davis reported that the re-advertisement of this position in an attempt to broaden the pool of applicants resulted in the identification of five potential candidates. He stated that those candidates will be interviewed by the Committee this Thursday and the Committee is hopeful that it will be able to recommend a suitable candidate for the position at the July 23rd Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Davis further stated that all five applicants have the necessary Grade III license.

ITEM 8: To Accept the Resignation of Sarah Martin from the Zoning Board

Richard Davis reviewed Sarah Martin's letter of resignation dated June 26, 2013.

Dennis Pike moved to accept Sarah Martin's letter of resignation, and asked that a letter of appreciation be sent; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Approve two (2) Cemetery Conveyances

Richard Davis reviewed the two cemetery lot conveyances for Leslie W. Gatchell and Elizabeth A. Gatchell, and Raymond A. Orr, Sr.

Jessica Berry moved to approve the two cemetery lot conveyances as presented; Dennis Pike seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Board signed both conveyances.

ITEM 10: To Approve the Minutes of June 11 and 25, 2013

Jessica Berry moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2013; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The June 25, 2013 minutes were tabled as they were not yet available.

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- B)** Richard Davis read the letter of appreciation that he gave to Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell in regard to his department's response to the train derailment in Lac-Megantic.
- C)** Andrew Hufnagel commended the Fire Rescue Department and Police Officer Ed Hastings for their response to the structure fire at his home last week.
- D)** Dennis Pike reported that there is a day burner decorative street light on the corner of Academy Street and Main Street. Richard Davis reported that he has recently learned that the new decorative street light fixtures have been delivered to Central Maine Power and they are in the process of scheduling their installation.

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- E)** Jessica Berry commended the Public Works crew for their efforts in keeping the street drains clear in light of all the rain that we have had. Richard Davis agreed to pass this compliment on to the Public Works Department.
- F)** Joshua Bell generated a brief discussion regarding who maintains the grave stones in Center Meetinghouse Cemetery. Richard Davis explained that there are no specific funds budgeted for that type of work, and the work is usually sporadic. He stated that the Town will have to set aside specific funds or possibly access older Trust or Reserve funds. He stated that he will research the accessibility of those funds, as well as what work the Public Works Department crew may be able to do.
- G)** Jessica Berry pointed out the progress of the renovation work at North Church.
- H)** Franklin Journal reporter Pam Harnden pointed out that the statement at the last Selectmen's meeting that the Archie's Inc. proposal was not covered in any of the media was a false statement, as it was reported in the Friday, June 28th issue of the Franklin Journal. Andrew Hufnagel acknowledged that it was he who made the statement and apologized.
- I)** Richard Davis clarified for Ryan Morgan that the Lac-Megantic Relief Fund will be established tomorrow, and assured him that it will be well advertised.
- J)** In answer to resident Nancy Porter's question as to what information will be available at the public meeting on the Downtown TIF, Richard Davis stated that will be a power point presentation and numerous people available to answer any questions.
- K)** Resident Fred Smith pointed out that the first of several auctions will be taking place at the North Church on Thursday, July 11th to raise funds for the Historical Society and the preservation of the Octagon House.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Jessica Berry moved to adjourn at 7:20 P.M.; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Dennis C. Pike, Secretary