

# FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Tuesday, December 10, 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, Police Chief Jack Peck (6:20- P.M.), Assessor Mark Caldwell (6:30-6:45 P.M.), Public Works Director Denis Castonguay (6:45-7:50 P.M.), Planning Board member Tom Eastler (6:30-8:00 P.M.), Budget Committee members Betty Jespersen (6:30-9:00 P.M.) and Michael Deschenes (6:30-8:30), Channel 11, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

**ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

**ITEM 2: To Review the Property Equalization Program with the Assessor**

Assessor Mark Caldwell reviewed the post revaluation information as outlined in his memo dated December 10, 2013.

**ITEM 3: To Approve the Town of Farmington's Share of the Mount Blue TV Channel 11 Budget for 2014**

Station Director J.P. Fortier reviewed the proposed budget, as well as handing out and reviewing the station's 2013 In-Kind Production Report. Highlights included the addition of In-Kind line items for income and expenses, and the sizeable reduction of the Equipment line item.

**Dennis Pike moved to approve the Town of Farmington's Share of the Mount Blue TV Channel 11 budget for 2014 in the amount of \$52,120.84, which includes \$5,000 for Public Access equipment; Jessica Berry seconded.**

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 4: To Consider Options for Recycling**

Richard Davis handed out and reviewed a report from the Recycling Committee, which included what the Town's allocation will be if it remains a member of Sandy River Recycling Association (SRRA). The Selectmen discussed other options proposed by SRRA, as well as a third party proposal from Archie's Inc. Mr. Davis stated that he is a supporter of both recycling and SRRA, but with the possibility of no Revenue Sharing in 2014, it is his opinion that it is a model that is no longer sustainable. It was his recommendation to consider the Archie's Inc. no-cost sort at site proposal and negotiate a contract with said company. He further recommended that a portion of the savings from no longer participating in the SRRA be set aside in a Reserve account to build for the

**ITEM 4: To Consider Options for Recycling (Cont.)**

future purchase of compacting equipment to change over to single sort recycling. It was the consensus of the Selectmen to contract with Archie’s Inc. for recycling. Resident and Planning Board member Dr. Tom Eastler expressed his concerns with the inappropriate way some people “recycle”. SRRA Jo Josephson thanked the Selectmen for their consideration and time spent in understanding the Association’s situation. She also commended the Town on their efforts to continue to recycle. Ryan Morgan in turn noted the benefits to the Town and environment through the efforts of SRRA in the past twenty years.

**Dennis Pike moved to authorize the Town Manager to proceed with negotiations for recycling with Archie’s Inc.; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.**

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 5: To Consider Transferring the DEP License for the Composting Facility from the Sandy River Recycling Association to the Town of Farmington**

Richard Davis stated that the Sandy River Recycling Association has been operating the composting facility under license from the Maine DEP, and explained the original design of the operation. Mr. Davis handed out and reviewed a memo from Mark King of the DEP Sustainability Division proposing the transfer of the DEP license from SRRA to the Town of Farmington in the event the SRRA should cease to exist. He also reported that the one-time fee for the license transfer application is \$288, with the annual licensing and reporting fee thereafter being \$300. Public Works Director Denis Castonguay, UMF Professor Dr. Tom Eastler, and Jo Josephson participated in discussions with the Selectmen about this proposal, as well as the type of operation necessary to sustain a license, the consequences of letting the license lapse, and the lack of a definitive plan. Dr. Eastler offered to donate \$288 for the DEP application fee for the license transfer.

**Ryan Morgan moved to accept Dr. Tom Eastler’s offer to donate \$288 for the DEP license transfer application, and negotiate with UMF and Aramark to operate the composting facility; Dennis Pike seconded.**

After a brief discussion, it was the assumption of the Selectmen that the SRRA license will expire on June 30, 2014.

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 6: To Consider Eliminating Outside Agencies’ Funding Requests from the 2014 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant**

Richard Davis explained the perceived controversy and inequality of these funding requests. Mr. Davis clarified what agencies were funded last year, and explained the difference between the two categories of Contracts/Public Services and Outside Agencies.

**ITEM 6: To Consider Eliminating Outside Agencies' Funding Requests from the 2014 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant (Cont.)**

Mike Blanchet, a member of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, urged the Selectmen not to take the decision out of the voters' hands.

**Joshua Bell moved to remove the list of outside agencies from the 2014 Warrant and encourage them to go to the County for funding; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.**

Mr. Davis explained that the Town can still provide funding to the Snowmobile Clubs through registration reimbursements as a separate Article on the Warrant. He also pointed out that the Selectmen can vote to fund the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and AVCOG memberships through the amended Franklin Printing TIF rather than the General Fund.

**VOTE                    AFFIRMATIVE   3                    OPPOSED   2                    MOTION CARRIED  
(Berry/Pike)**

**ITEM 7: To Approve the Transfer of Forfeiture Assets of \$747.50 to the Farmington Police Department**

Chief Jack Peck reviewed a letter dated November 27, 2013 from the State of Maine Office of the Attorney General, which explained the proposed transfer of forfeiture assets to the Farmington Police Department's Drug Forfeiture account.

**Dennis Pike moved to approve the transfer of forfeiture assets of \$747.50 to the Farmington Police Department; Jessica Berry seconded.**

Chief Peck clarified what account this money will go into and what it will be used for.

**VOTE                    AFFIRMATIVE   5                    MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Ryan Morgan signed the Approval of Transfer document.

**ITEM 8: To Approve the Fourth Quarter 2013 Sewer Commitment**

Richard Davis reported that the rates remained the same as the third quarter of 2013.

**Dennis Pike moved and Jessica Berry seconded, as Sewer Commissioners, to approve the following rates for the fourth quarter 2013 Sewer Commitment:**

**ITEM 8: To Approve the Fourth Quarter 2013 Sewer Commitment (Cont.)**

**Residential/Rental and Commercial Rate = \$7.285 / 100 cubic feet  
Residential/Rental and Commercial Minimum = \$36.43 / 500 cubic feet**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Board signed the Commitment.

**ITEM 9: To Grant Blanket Approval to the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post No. 28 for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014**

Richard Davis explained that this is a routine annual request.

**Andrew Hufnagel moved to grant Blanket Approval to the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post No. 28 for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen signed the Blanket Approval.

**ITEM 10: To Grant Blanket Approval to Farmington Lodge 2430 BPOE for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014**

Richard Davis explained that this is also a routine annual request.

**Andrew Hufnagel moved to grant Blanket Approval to Farmington Lodge 2430 BPOE for Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for a Period of one year, from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen signed the Blanket Approval.

**ITEM 11: To Determine the Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of 2013**

Richard Davis asked the Selectmen what they wish to do about the second meeting in December. Since the fourth Tuesday of the month is Christmas Eve and there presently are no agenda items to warrant holding a meeting next week, it was the general consensus of the Board to cancel the December 24<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting. The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

**ITEM 12: To Consider Holding a Special Meeting on January 7, 2014 to Review the 2014 Departmental Budget Requests**

Richard Davis asked the Selectmen if they would consider holding a special meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 to review the 2014 departmental budget requests. He explained that as a courtesy he likes to have the Selectmen see the budget before the Budget Committee, whose meeting is on Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

**Dennis Pike moved to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. to review the 2014 departmental budget requests; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 13: To Consider an Expenditure from the Special Projects Account for Employee Recognition**

Richard Davis explained that, although there are many good employees who go above and beyond the call of duty on a regular basis, it has been noted that one employee in particular has done incredible work of late and is worthy of recognition, possibly a small expenditure of \$50.00 for a gift certificate as a special thank you. The employee was not named, as it was the Board's hope to surprise the employee.

**Joshua Bell moved to approve an expenditure of \$50.00 from the Special Projects account for a gift certificate for an employee; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 14: To Approve the Minutes of November 26, 2013**

**Dennis Pike moved to approve the minutes of November 26, 2013; Jessica Berry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 15: To Discuss Other Business**

A) Richard Davis stated that Public Works Director Denis Castonguay has asked for confirmation of two spare plow truck operators so that they will be ready when needed. Mr. Davis further stated that a background check on both applicants, Robert Daggett and Curtis Pratt, revealed no issues.

**Dennis Pike moved to confirm the employment of Robert Daggett and Curtis Pratt as part-time plow truck operators for the Public Works Department; Jessica Berry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 15: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)**

- B)** Richard Davis asked for the Selectmen’s approval to close the Town Office at 12:00 noon on Christmas Eve, as several employees are taking the afternoon off using personal time, so there will not be enough staff to keep the office open. Mr. Davis stated that a notice will be posted and advertised.

**Andrew Hufnagel moved to approve the closing of the Town Office at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 24, 2013; Dennis Pike seconded.**

**VOTE                                      AFFIRMATIVE                      5                                      MOTION CARRIED**

- C)** Andrew Hufnagel announced that on December 18<sup>th</sup> for approximately one and a half hours Santa Claus will be riding around Town on the Fire Rescue Department’s new squad truck looking for donations of unwrapped toys and warm clothing to Operation Santa Claus. He will then be staging at the Snack Shack by the Narrow Gauge Cinema on Front Street.
- D)** Jessica Berry stated that she is unable to attend the Safety Committee meeting the next day and asked if someone else might be able to fill in for her. Andrew Hufnagel volunteered to attend.
- E)** Joshua Bell generated a discussion regarding putting cemeteries out to bid. Richard Davis pointed out that this subject was discussed a couple of years ago. Discussion included operation of the Cemetery Department, as well as the difficulties such a change would impose.
- F)** Ryan Morgan wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

**ITEM 16: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to Conduct the Manager’s Annual Performance Evaluation**

**Joshua Bell moved to go into Executive Session at 9:00 P.M.; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.**

**VOTE                                      AFFIRMATIVE                      5                                      MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 9:42 p.m.

No action was taken.

**ITEM 16: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to Conduct the Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation (Cont.)**

**Joshua Bell moved to adjourn; Andrew Hufnagel seconded.**

**VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

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Dennis C. Pike - Secretary