FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Michael Fogg, and Matthew Smith. Andrew Buckland was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Police Chief Jack Peck, Police Officer Michael Lyman, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins, 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 Take Action on the Following Police Department Matters:

Police Chief Jack Peck reviewed the following matters, as outlined in his memo dated February 7, 2017 to the Town Manager and Selectmen:

• To Accept a \$13,143 Speed Enforcement Grant from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

Police Chief Jack Peck stated that this is an annual grant that be used from now until the end of September for speed enforcement only.

Matthew Smith moved to accept a \$13,143.22 Speed Enforcement Grant from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

• To Accept Drug Forfeiture Assets Consisting of Twenty Firearms and a 2006 Honda Accord

Police Chief Jack Peck reviewed the July, 2016 incident that resulted in the drug forfeiture of twenty firearms and a 2006 Honda Accord. In response to Michael Fogg's inquiry, Chief Peck explained what happens to the firearms. Chief Peck stated that the department is actually in the process of getting two cars, and explained what will happen with both of them.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept drug forfeiture assets consisting of twenty firearms and a 2006 Honda Accord; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

The Selectmen signed the forfeiture document.

ITEM 2: To Take Action on the Following Police Department Matters: (Cont.)

• To Accept a \$1,000 Grant from the Healthy Community Coalition for a Portable Breath Detector and Enforcement of Underage Drinking Violations

Police Chief Jack Peck explained that last fall he was approached by the Healthy Community Coalition representative about a \$1,000 donation to the Farmington Police Department from a grant they had received. The grant would allow the Police Department to purchase a portable breath detector for approximately \$350-\$400 and utilize the remainder of the money for enforcement of underage drinking violations.

Matthew Smith moved to accept a \$1,000 grant from the Healthy Community Coalition for a portable breath detector and enforcement of underage drinking violations; Stephan Bunker seconded.

Chief Peck confirmed for Joshua Bell that the Department does not currently have a breath detector. He stated that the Department does have access to a stationary intoxilizer at the jail.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

• To Hear a Proposal from Chief Peck to Authorize the Addition of a Drug Detection Canine to the Department

Police Chief Jack Peck and Officer Michael Lyman reviewed the Canine Program Reinstatement Proposal that Officer Lyman had compiled. Facts and discussion included: the dog has already been purchased by Officer Lyman; the epidemic in overdose deaths is not only nation-wide, but here in Maine, Franklin County and Farmington; in an effort to be proactive rather than reactive, Operation HOPE was established and is just the first step in assisting people with getting help through Franklin Memorial Hospital and Evergreen Behavioral Services; there are no canines available in Farmington on a regular basis, especially one trained exclusively in opiates; canines trained in marijuana detection can no longer be used since marijuana is now legal; this canine will be trained and used for drug detection only through a 9-week State Police training program in August, with recertification each year; work schedule and availability of the dog after hours; the biggest training expense will be this year, which will be absorbed into the 2017 Police Department's patrol budget; who is liable in the event the dog is injured while on the job and whether the dog needs to be insured, and if so, what the cost will be; the possibility of the donation of a protective vest for the dog; Chief Peck hasn't been approached yet, but he has heard that a local veterinary office may donate their services in the event that there are any issues other than routine care; private entity requests for canine services, and compensation thereof; there would be no charge for County or other municipality requests for canine services, but the canine would only be sent to towns that border Farmington; time constraints with case law was explained; if approved, annual review of the Program, or designate as a one-year trial period with tracking of the number of stops, sniffs, successful cases, extra costs, etc.; and Chief Peck will research the possibility of any grant funding.

ITEM 2: To Take Action on the Following Police Department Matters: (Cont.)

• To Hear a Proposal from Chief Peck to Authorize the Addition of a Drug Detection Canine to the Department (Cont.)

It was the general consensus of the Selectmen to table the proposal until the February 28th meeting to give Chief Peck and Officer Lyman time to obtain answers to the Selectmen's questions. The Selectmen commended both Chief Peck and Officer Lyman for their dedication and commitment to this proposal.

ITEM 3: To Consider the Recommendation of the Downtown TIF Advisory Committee to Proceed with the Construction of Parking and Pedestrian Improvements in West Farmington

Richard Davis reviewed the diagram and proposal by Dirigo Engineering to create parking and pedestrian improvements in West Farmington. Mr. Davis stated that these documents have been reviewed by the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Committee. He further stated that the Downtown TIF Committee recommends proceeding with the project, including the granite curbing. The estimated project total of \$79,170 could be funded from the Downtown TIF Reserve, in which there will be enough funding after the August tax commitment. Mr. Davis reported that there will also be four decorative street lights installed, two at parking sites on each side of the park. The Selectmen discussed the granite curbing.

Stephan Bunker moved to proceed with the bid process for construction of parking and pedestrian improvements in West Farmington; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

ITEM 4: To Receive the Dedication of a Road (Willow Springs Drive) for Acceptance by the Voters at Town Meeting

Richard Davis reviewed information on road acceptance procedures; a deed that is a dedication that the Town will have to accept at Town Meeting, if they so choose; and a draft Warrant Article for acceptance of this road, as well as a sample Article on which it was based. Mr. Davis explained that, according to Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser, this road was built to Town specifications because there was talk from the beginning that the developers would be asking the Town to accept it as a Town road. Mr. Davis reiterated that this will be an Article on the Town Meeting Warrant because the dedication and acceptance of the road must go before the voters at Town Meeting. He stated the Selectmen can certainly speak for or against it at that time. Mr. Davis pointed out that the sidewalk will be included. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins was present and explained how a T-roadway is plowed.

ITEM 5:To Approve a Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate
Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition

Richard Davis stated that this is an annual renewal.

Matthew Smith moved to approve a *Resolution for Membership* in the Maine Service Centers Coalition, and to appoint Richard Davis as voting delegate representative and Joshua Bell as alternate; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

ITEM 6: To Approve a new Road Name (Bray Barn Lane)

Richard Davis reviewed a memo dated February 7, 2017 from Addressing Officer Terry Bell, as well as a letter from 456 New Vineyard Road resident, Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace.

Matthew Smith moved to approve the new road name of Bray Barn Lane; Stephan Bunker seconded.

Joshua Bell generated a brief discussion regarding the purchase of signs for private roads.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	4	ABSENT	1	MOTION CARRIED
	(Andrew Buckland)				

ITEM 7: To Consider Meeting with Dr. Tom Ward on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. to Review the Preliminary RSU 9 Budget

Matthew Smith moved to schedule a meeting with Dr. Tom Ward on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. to review the preliminary RSU 9 budget; Stephan Bunker seconded.

- VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)
- **ITEM 8:** To Approve the Minutes of January 24 and 31, 2017

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of January 24, 2017 and to table the minutes of January 31, 2017; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

- **ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business**
 - A) Richard Davis reported that he received notification today that the Franklin County Budget Committee has scheduled its caucus for Monday, March 6, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. Stephan Bunker stated that he is seeking re-election.

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- **B**) Joshua Bell stated that he was approached with an inquiry about contracting the crosswalk painting versus having the Public Works Department do it. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins stated that he just recently requested a quote from Lucas Striping for comparison, and if he determines that there would be significant savings, he will put the project out to bid.
- C) At the Selectmen's request, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins gave an update on how his Department fared during and after the recent snowstorms. Mr. Hutchins reported that they are behind on clearing the sidewalks because both Holder sidewalk plows are out of service. Nortrax out of Westbrook is delivering a skid steer with a snow blower tonight from New York which the Department will be renting on a weekly basis for the rest of the season. Mr. Hutchins stated that Jordan Equipment out of Hartland will also be delivering a demo sidewalk plow tomorrow morning. Mr. Hutchins explained the problems that have been experienced with the most recently purchased Holder sidewalk plow since its purchase, the most important being that they have found that the parts are very expensive and the maintenance/repair is too technical. Mr. Hutchins expressed his disappointment with its performance, especially considering the purchase cost of \$125,000 with \$50,000-\$60,000 in attachments. Mr. Hutchins pointed out that the skid steer is a very versatile piece of equipment that can be used year-round.
- **D**) Philip Hutchins reported that the Public Works crew will be pushing back snow banks and removing snow from downtown tonight. He stated that the grader is also out of service but the needed part is being overnighted so it should be operational tomorrow.
- ITEM 10: To Hold Executive Sessions Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.D to Discuss the Police Labor Contract Negotiations with the Negotiators, Richard Davis and Jack Peck; and Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to Discuss a Personnel Matter in the Public Works Department

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 8:02 P.M. pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.D to discuss the Police Labor Contract Negotiations with the Negotiators, Richard Davis and Jack Peck; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:42 P.M.

No action was taken.

ITEM 10: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A (continued) to discuss a Personnel Matter in the Public Works Department

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 8:42 P.M. pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to discuss a personnel matter in the Public Works Department; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept Mr. Meisner's retirement proposal as presented; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Stephan Bunker moved to** adjourn at 9:07 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Andrew Buckland)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Andrew R. Buckland – Secretary