FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith and Scott Landry. Stephan Bunker was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Sewer Clerk Mavis Gensel, Sewer Superintendent Stephen Millett, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster, Budget Committee member Lloyd Smith, Police Chief Jack Peck, 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 Hear a Presentation from John Burrows, Director of New England Programs of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, regarding fish Passage Options for the Walton's Mill Pond Dam

The Town Manager and Selectmen welcomed John Burrows who explained the work of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and what it is proposing for options to provide fish passage at the Walton Mill Pond Dam. Mr. Burrows referred to a Scope of Work that he had provided for the Selectmen at an earlier date, and explained how ASF proposes to assess the different options, what the implementation and long-term costs of each option will be, and how these options will be funded. Mr. Burrows stated that ASF will contract with Wright Pierce for the technical work at the dam site, and he has also interviewed and obtained proposals from two landscape architect firms who will hold a variety of public meetings to get feedback on land improvement around the dam. He pointed out that the entire process could take 12-15 months, potentially longer if something is discovered that will require more extensive analysis or work. At that time all the agencies involved will have a better sense of what funding any of them will be able to contribute to help implement the project. Mr. Burrows asked for the Selectmen's authorization to move forward with the feasibility/assessment work, explaining that he will return periodically with updates, as well as keep in constant contact with the Town Manager. Discussion included: other dam removal or fish way projects that ASF has been involved with in the past 5-6 years, and how each of those options have been funded; what will happen if the project is presented to the town residents but rejected; turning the dam into a hydropower dam; dam removal impact on wetlands, habitat or species that are already in existence; and the possible solution of partial removal of the dam with the addition of a fish passage. Mr. Burrows stated that if ASF is given the authorization tonight to move forward, the next step will be to contract with Wright Pierce within the next one to two weeks, select a landscape firm by the end of the week, start the field work in May, and have numerous public meetings in June.

Matthew Smith moved to authorize a feasibility study for fish passage at the Walton's Mill Pond Dam; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Stephan Bunker)

ITEM 4: To Review and Approve the Proposed 2017 Sewer Department Budget

Richard Davis reviewed the budget spreadsheet and narrative of each category of the proposed 2017 Sewer Department budget in the amount of \$981,248, which is an increase over 2016 of \$7,402 or .76%. Mr. Davis stated that this increase will result in no impact at all on the sewer rates, so they will remain the same. Superintendent Stephen Millett explained there are now three operators in addition to him and reviewed the training, certifications and positions of the two newest employees. Discussion included review of the Reserve account past and proposed uses. Mr. Millett stated that he was able to budget for all the necessary projects this year without increasing the sewer rates. Mr. Davis pointed out that one such project will be a study through Wright Pierce for phosphorus removal, and he explained the possible combination loan/grant funding options. Mr. Millett added that with the phosphorus change more sludge will be produced so the cost of a new, more efficient sludge press will be rolled into the funding in conjunction with funds that have been saved for this specific purchase. Mr. Millett reported that the current press has been in operation since 1992 and can be resold once the new press is purchased and installed. Potential costs and feasibility of the use of a digester were discussed.

Michael Fogg moved to approve the 2017 Sewer budget in the amount of \$981,248; Matthew Smith seconded.

The Selectmen thanked Steve Millett and Mavis Gensel for the time and effort they put into this budget.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Stephan Bunker)

ITEM 5: To Award the bid for a new Police Cruiser

Police Chief Jack Peck stated that this new cruiser is a part of the department's annual rotation. The cruiser it will be replacing is a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe with over 120,000 miles on it, and has multiple mechanical and body problems. Chief Peck further stated that he was offered a \$6,500 trade-in of the 2011 Tahoe. It was Chief Peck's recommendation that of the nine bids sent and four received back, the bid should be awarded to Quirk Ford as low bidder for a 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV for the amount of \$21,392.

Matthew Smith moved to award the bid for a new Police cruiser to Quirk Ford for the amount of \$21,392; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	4	ABSENT	1	MOTION CARRIED
	(Stephan Bunker)				

ITEM 6: To Authorize the sale of a Surplus Pickup Truck from the Sewer Department to the Parks and Recreation Department

Richard Davis reviewed Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster's memo dated March 20, 2017 in which he explained the problems with the current truck they're using and the benefits of purchasing the Sewer Department surplus pickup truck. Mr. Davis also passed around a photo of the truck. Director Matthew Foster was present and asked for authorization to use funds from the Reserve account to pay the asking price of \$1,500 for the truck plus \$300 for the cost of replacing the Sewer Department logo with the Parks and Recreation logo on the side of the truck, for a total of \$1,800.

Matthew Smith moved to authorize the sale of a surplus pickup truck from the Sewer Department to the Parks and Recreation Department, with funding totaling \$1,800 to come from the Reserve account; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Stephan Bunker)

Director Foster explained that the Police Department has shown an interest in having the plow and related gear off the current truck to go on the truck that they just acquired through the LESO 1033 Program. He would then try to sell the truck at public auction.

ITEM 7: To Review the Election Process for MMA Executive Committee and Vice President

Richard Davis reviewed a letter from the Maine Municipal Association dated March 30, 2017, the purpose of which was to make the Selectmen aware of the election process for the MMA Executive Committee and Vice President. Mr. Davis stated that if anyone is interested in service in those capacities now is the time to apply. He further stated that he would be willing to assist anyone interested with the paperwork.

ITEM 8: To Approve the Minutes of March 28, 2017

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of March 28, 2017; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Stephan Bunker)

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business

A) Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster reported that there are two pianos at the Community Center, both of which are in bad condition. Raymond Glass, one of the members of the senior singing group that comes to the Community Center on Mondays has a son, Mark Glass, who would like to donate a piano to the Community Center. Director Foster stated that George Large, a piano tuner and repairman out of the Augusta area has inspected the piano and found it to be in good condition and very functional. In addition, Raymond Glass has offered to split with the Rec Department the cost of moving and tuning the piano. Director Foster stated that the piano will be available for use by adults, as

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business

A) (**Cont.**) well as by children with adult supervision, and sufficiently protected when not in use. The approximate expense of \$120 to have the piano tuned will need to be budgeted annually.

Matthew Smith moved to accept the donation of a piano from Mark Glass, with thanks, and authorized an expenditure of up to \$300 for moving and tuning the piano; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Stephan Bunker)

Richard Davis asked Director Foster to send a thank you letter to the Glass family.

B) Richard Davis reported that he was notified today that the grant for the Front Street culvert replacement project has been approved in the amount of \$75,000. He pointed out that the estimate for this project is \$120,000. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins feels certain that he can come up with the matching funds of \$45,000 from his operating budget due to the asphalt pricing coming in at a much more favorable cost than expected. Joshua Bell asked Mr. Davis to email him a copy of the scope of the project.

C) Michael Fogg asked for clarification of Board of Selectmen attendance at the bi-monthly Safety Committee meetings for the benefit of new member Scott Landry. Mr. Fogg was reminded that the Selectmen agreed to rotate attendance to whomever is available. Richard Davis stated that any of the Selectmen are welcome to attend, and pointed out that there is a meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m., which Matthew Smith offered to attend.

D) Michael Fogg stated that he toured the new Alzheimer's Center today, and it is very impressive. He encouraged the other Selectmen to do the same. Richard Davis stated that the plan is for the facility to be open for occupancy in September of this year. Mr. Davis reviewed the preliminary presentation of Phase II at the Planning Board meeting last night, and stated that the owners will be presenting their application for Phase II to the Planning Board at their May 8, 2017 meeting.

E) Michael Fogg asked for further clarification on the proposed Woodlands Credit Enhancement Agreement. Richard Davis stated that Town Attorney Frank Underkuffler will be coming to the April 25, 2017 Selectmen's meeting to further explain the proposed Agreement.

F) Joshua Bell pointed out that Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell has reached the milestone of 40 years of service with the Department.

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

G) Joshua Bell asked for more information on the reports the Selectmen received entitled "High Crash Location Analysis Report for Main Street between Front Street and Route 2 off-ramp" and "High Crash Location Analysis Report for the Intersection of Wilton Road (Route 2/4), Knowlton Corner Road, and Red Schoolhouse Road". Richard Davis stated that the Town will be hearing more from MaineDOT on these reports in the near future. Other potential "high crash" areas along the Wilton Road were also discussed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 7:46 P.M.; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Stephan Bunker)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Michael J. Fogg – Secretary