

ITEM 3: To Proclaim May 14 to 20, 2017 as Arbor Week in Farmington (Cont.)

demise of the tree. Because of the great sentimental value of the tree the Town has been trying to nurse it along but it has become very apparent that it is now time for the tree to be removed. It was agreed that a removal/replacement plan should be discussed at a future Selectmen's meeting. Sally Speich and Patty Cormier were thanked for all their work and that of the all the Conservation Committee members. Sally Speich encouraged the participation on the Committee of anyone interested.

Matthew Smith moved to proclaim May 14 to 20, 2017 as Arbor Week in Farmington; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Joshua Bell and Town Manager Richard Davis signed the Proclamation.

ITEM 4: To Approve an Agreement for Engineering Services for the Front Street Culvert Project

Richard Davis reported that the Town has been approved for a Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MaineDEP) grant in the amount of \$75,000 to go towards this \$120,000 project, with the remainder of the funds to come from the Public Works Department budget. Mr. Davis stated that Dirigo Engineering assisted the Town with the application for the grant, so he is recommending that the Town continue with their services to complete the project after the Town is under contract with MaineDEP for their portion of the funding. Mr. Davis reviewed the project and Agreement process.

Matthew Smith moved to approve an Agreement for Engineering Services for the Front Street culvert project; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Town Manager Richard Davis signed the Agreement.

ITEM 5: To Renew the Town of Farmington Mission Statement on Safety

Richard Davis explained that the Mission Statement on Safety is part of the Town's safety program and needs to be renewed when a new Selectman is elected.

Matthew Smith moved to renew the Town of Farmington Mission Statement on Safety; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Mission Statement. Stephan Bunker stated that he has been involved in the last few Safety Committee meetings, which are very informative and the Department Heads take very seriously. He also stated that the Town has a very good track record, which Richard Davis stated pays off in terms of dividends from the Workers' Compensation program.

ITEM 6: To Approve an Order pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §906, Pertaining to Unpaid Taxes

Richard Davis stated that this is an annual renewal of this policy which authorizes the tax collector to apply any tax payment received to the oldest outstanding tax.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve an Order pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §906, pertaining to unpaid taxes; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Order.

ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of April 11, 2017

Matthew Smith moved to table the minutes of April 11, 2017 as they were not yet available; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Discuss Other Business

A) In response to Stephan Bunker’s inquiry as to dates the County Budget Committee will be meeting Joshua Bell stated that they will be meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28th to review the budget, and again on Wednesday, May 24th at 5:00 p.m. to vote on the budget. No date has been set as yet for the public hearing. Mr. Bunker expressed his concerns with the funding of outside agencies and asked Chairman Bell what his sentiment is regarding the Commissioners’ decision for zero funding for the Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC) with no alternative to this organization for Farmington or any other towns in Franklin County. Chairman Bell shared what comments he could remember but did not recall any alternative options. He commented that while he has talked to some people who support funding the GFDC, and some who don’t, it is his understanding that not many of the Budget Committee members support the funding, although there were no answers at that meeting as to who would provide that service. Mr. Bunker reiterated to Mr. Bell, that as a County Budget Committee member he is conveying the Board’s sentiment on the matter and it would appreciated if he would discuss the matter with them prior to voting so that they may all weigh in on the decision as to his vote. There was discussion regarding the question of “cold calls”, with Richard Davis pointing out that the whole enterprise of economic development is not just about “cold calls”, it’s much more complex than that. Mr. Bell stated that it was his consensus and that of the Budget Committee that they are not sure what the County is getting in return for the money spent. Collaboration with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce was discussed with Scott Landry, President, pointing out that such a collaboration was considered at one time but never went anywhere, and that it’s not something the Chamber is capable of doing on its own. Stephan Bunker stated that he will be raising the matter again with the Selectmen before the County Budget Committee vote on May 24th to determine the entire Board’s position on the matter and then leave it to Mr. Bell’s discretion as how to vote.

