

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith and Scott Landry. Michael Fogg was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins and Foreman James Kiernan, Budget Committee member Lloyd Smith, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster and Assistant Director Jaycee Jenckes, 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 Introduce the new Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

Director Matthew Foster introduced new Assistant Director Jaycee Jenckes and reviewed her work experience with the Parks and Recreation Department in the past four years. Ms. Jenckes further reviewed her background. The Selectmen and Town Manager welcomed Ms. Jenckes and wished her well in her new position.

ITEM 3: To Authorize the Police Department to Participate in the “Operation Stonegarden” Grant Program

Richard Davis referred to a printed copy of the maine.gov description of “Operation Stonegarden” that he had provided them and asked Police Chief Jack Peck to explain more about what “Operation Stonegarden” is and what’s expected of the Farmington Police Department if they participate. Chief Peck introduced Robert Leroux, Special Agent in charge of the Border Patrol Station in Rangeley, who was present to help answer any questions there may be. Chief Peck explained that this program was designed to enhance the Border Patrol’s efforts in stopping trafficking, ie. drug, sex, illegal immigration, etc. He also explained the plan, if the grant is approved, that has been formulated for use of the funds during the current operational period, which runs through September 6th. He asked the Selectmen to authorize him to accept \$6,109.60 to run one 5-hour shift per week through September 6th, which will consist of enhanced patrols along the corridors of Rte. 2/27 and Rte. 2/4. Chief Peck explained that a Border Patrol officer will be coming tomorrow to conduct a class to further explain the workings of the program. Officer Leroux explained that this class tomorrow is not contingent on the Selectmen’s approval of the grant; it’s to establish a good working relationship with the Police Department. He further explained this program, which started back in 2005.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize the Police Department to participate in the “Operation Stonegarden” grant program; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE APPROVED 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 6: To discuss the Removal of the Large Pine Tree on Upper Broadway

Richard Davis stated that he feels the conclusion from discussion at the last Selectmen’s meeting was that the tree needs to come down. He pointed out that since it is an extreme safety issue there hopefully will be no controversy. Mr. Davis described the damage to the tree as reported by an arborist with the aid of two photos of the tree displayed on the television screen. He stated that he is getting quotes on removal of the tree and asked for discussion on what to do once it is removed. It was his recommendation to remove the tree to ground level and have the stump ground, which it is his understanding someone has volunteered to do at no cost to the Town, remove the bricks around the base of the tree, select and plant a species of tree, and have a cast iron grate and protection stand installed. He stated that funding could be discussed at a later time, however such an endeavor would certainly qualify for funding from the Downtown TIF account. Mr. Davis also mentioned that there is a large pine in front of the Octagon House that also needs to be taken down but, since it is leaning towards the Octagon House and it is outside the Town’s right of way, removal will be the responsibility of the Historical Society. Scott Landry recommended that the Broadway tree be replaced with one of the new disease-resistant elms. Matthew Smith agreed if it’s proven to be able to withstand the winter salt. The Selectmen discussed the various species of trees that would be appropriate for that location.

Scott Landry moved to pursue the cost of removal and replacement of the pine tree on upper Broadway and replace it with an elm; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE APPROVED 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 7: To Accept a Donation of Women’s Exercise Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department

Richard Davis reviewed a memo from Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster dated April 26, 2017 regarding the donation of several pieces of women’s exercise equipment to the Parks and Recreation Department by Randy and Carol Holloway. Director Foster further explained the donation and stated that use of the equipment will be free, and accessible from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. He also explained where in the Community Center he proposes to set the equipment up.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept a donation of women’s exercise equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department, with gratitude and asked that their thanks be extended to Randy and Carol Holloway; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE APPROVED 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 8: To Consider Renewing Membership in the Maine Tourism Association with funding from the Franklin Printing TIF Reserve Account

Richard Davis reported that the membership cost is \$280.00 per year, which allows the Town to put its promotional literature in the information kiosks on the Maine Turnpike in

ITEM 8: To Consider Renewing Membership in the Maine Tourism Association with funding from the Franklin Printing TIF Reserve Account (Cont.)

Kittery, Yarmouth and also in Hampton, New Hampshire. He stated that it is good exposure, with 10,000 having been put out in the past and more just recently.

Scott Landry moved to approve renewing membership in the Maine Tourism Association with funding to come from the Franklin Printing TIF Reserve Account; Stephan Bunker seconded.

In answer to Joshua Bell's question as to what the enhanced kiosk fee would be, Richard Davis stated that he does not know but will find out.

**VOTE APPROVED 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)**

ITEM 9: To Approve Municipal Quitclaim Deeds

Richard Davis reviewed three Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for Nancy R. Bryant, Brian D. Dunn, and Anthony M. Grimanis.

Matthew Smith moved to approve Quitclaim Deeds for Nancy R. Bryant, Brian D. Dunn, and Anthony M. Grimanis; Stephan Bunker seconded.

**VOTE APPROVED 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)**

The Selectmen signed the three Quitclaim Deeds.

ITEM 10: To Approve the Minutes of April 11 and 25, 2017

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2017 and table the minutes of April 25, 2017, as they were not yet available; Scott Landry seconded.

**VOTE APPROVED 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)**

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis reviewed his memo dated May 5, 2017 regarding upcoming meetings for the Walton's Mill Dam feasibility study. He asked the Selectmen to let him know if they are attending the 1:30 P.M. site visit on June 28th because if more than three Selectmen will be attending he will have to advertise it as a public meeting.
- B) Richard Davis reported that the Woodlands Senior Living Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program has been approved by the Department of Economic and Community Development, although work is not as yet complete on the Credit Enhancement Agreement but he anticipates it will be concluded shortly.

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- C)** Richard Davis reported that there is an Arbor Day event scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th at 3:30 P.M. at the Old North Church, and encouraged the Selectmen to attend in support of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Davis also reported that Public Works Director Philip Hutchins will be speaking at this event.
- D)** Richard Davis reported that he has received a request from the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) for the Town to consider changing South Street from a two-way to one-way street, west to east, as well as some parking improvements. Mr. Davis explained the process, which will start with the Parking Ordinance Committee. They are working on finding a mutually agreeable date to meet. Discussion included: the projected impact on Academy Street, as well as other streets, including the possible need for a traffic light; the need for an engineering firm with experience in traffic studies; UMF's Master Plan; and removal of or alternatives to the crosswalk at South Street across Main Street.
- E)** Stephan Bunker reported that the American Legion will be placing flags on the graves of veterans next weekend.
- F)** In answer to Scott Landry's inquiry as to the status of the street striping, Richard Davis reported that bids are due to be opened on Thursday, May 18th, and pointed out that this is the first time that the crosswalks have been included in the bid specifications. Mr. Davis stated that the specifications require that the work be done by June 30th. Director Philip Hutchins reported that if the bids come back as expected financially, Farmington will be the second largest contracted town in the State of Maine for street striping and paving.
- G)** In answer to Joshua Bell's inquiry as to the reason for the digging on the back side of the Municipal Building, Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen that it was budgeted to have the piping from the underground tank to the building replaced as it was not up to code and would not have passed inspection this year otherwise.
- H)** In answer to Joshua Bell's inquiry as to what happened on Clay Hill approximately one month ago, Director Philip Hutchins stated that it was a Water Department project due to a frozen water main during a snowstorm. He stated that the paving can't be accomplished until the posted road posters are taken down next Monday. Richard Davis pointed out that there's a section on the Farmington Falls Road that will need to be repaved as well.
- I)** In answer to Joshua Bell's inquiry as to the anticipated repair date of the problem with the traffic light pattern at the foot of the hill and on Bridge Street, Richard Davis explained that the signal loop in the pavement is broken and cannot be replaced until the pavement has warmed up considerably. Mr. Davis stated that if replacing the loop doesn't fix the problem they may have to look into separate controlling mechanisms.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 8:53 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

VOTE APPROVED 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Michael J. Fogg – Secretary