FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith, Scott Landry and Michael Fogg. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Channel 11, 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 Consider an Appropriation of \$2,121.80 to Support the Franklin County Broadband Effort

Richard Davis introduced Charlie Woodworth and Bob Carlton of Franklin County Broadband Initiative (FCBI), who have been spearheading this grassroots effort of economically focused entities. Mr. Davis reviewed information regarding the amount of money that will need to be raised for this effort, and explained that FCBI was successful in being awarded a \$43,000 Broadband Planning Grant that they applied for through the Connect Maine Authority. In addition, Franklin County has agreed to provide \$58,000 from the infrastructure portion of the County TIF towards the \$112,000 needed to get this effort into the planning stage, provided the Towns raise the remaining balance, the goal being to get high speed internet throughout Franklin County. Mr. Davis stated that if the Selectmen are inclined to participate, as many of the Towns already have, one possible source of funding may be from the Franklin Printing TIF, as it fits the category of an economic development project. Both Mr. Woodworth and Mr. Carlton spoke, explaining their efforts to date. They further explained that the service will be provided by existing companies, with County-wide density being the key incentive for attracting those companies. The provider will own and operate whatever hardware is installed and the Towns will share in the costs of running those lines. Mr. Woodworth stated that they are in hopes of completing a contract with Sewall Consultants by December 31st. Joshua Bell voiced his concerns with subsidizing companies to run the lines.

Michael Fogg moved to approve an appropriation from the Franklin Printing TIF of \$2,121.80 to support the Franklin County Broadband Effort; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To Approve two (2) Applications for Licenses to Operate Games of Chance at the Farmington Fairgrounds for Sports Projects, Inc. of Lewiston, Maine

Richard Davis stated that these are annual applications, and the owner typically donates \$500 of the proceeds to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Matthew Smith moved to approve (2) applications for Licenses to Operate Games of Chance at the Farmington Fairgrounds for Sports Projects, Inc. of Lewiston, Maine; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed two originals.

ITEM 4: To Write off as Uncollectible Property Taxes, Interest, and Costs Totaling \$4,807.95

Richard Davis reviewed a list of accounts provided by Treasurer LucyAnn Cook and explained that most of the properties were trailers that have been moved and therefore, there is no way to collect the amounts due.

Stephan Bunker moved to write off uncollectible property taxes, interest, and costs totaling \$4,807.95; Matthew Smith seconded.

Joshua Bell generated a brief discussion regarding working with trailer park owners in setting up a notification system when a trailer is being moved.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To Authorize the Manager to Enter into a Municipal/State Agreement for Guardrail Replacement at Webster Bridge

Richard Davis reviewed a letter from MaineDOT dated July 19, 2017 regarding guardrail replacement at Webster Bridge, of which MaineDOT will only do the first 25 feet at the approaches. Mr. Davis stated that there is another 100 feet that, according to safety issues identified during a bridge inspection in April, 2017, should be replaced. It would make sense to have MaineDOT replace the Town's 100 feet portion while doing theirs. The Town's share of the replacement cost will be \$10,592 and Public Works Director Philip Hutchins has indicated that it can be funded from the Public Works Department's operating budget.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a Municipal/State Agreement for Guardrail Replacement at Webster Bridge; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Approve a Municipal Quitclaim Deed(s)

Richard Davis explained that besides several Quitclaim Deeds there are some Cemetery Lot Conveyances that were presented to him just prior to the meeting.

Mr. Davis reviewed a Municipal Quitclaim Deed for Joel Bridges, aka Joel Batzell, releasing the Town's interest in undischarged real estate liens from back in 1984 and 1986. Mr. Davis stated that the property has been recently sold.

Matthew Smith moved to approve a Municipal Quitclaim Deed for Joel Bridges, aka Joel Batzell; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the Municipal Quitclaim Deed.

Richard Davis reviewed three Municipal Quitclaim Deeds, two for Michael and Rose V. Grimanis at 122 and 124 Prescott Street, and one for Albert P. Reopell on the Holley Road.

Matthew Smith moved to approve two Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for Michael and Rose V. Grimanis, and one Municipal Quitclaim Deed for Albert P. Reopell; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the three Municipal Quitclaim Deeds.

Richard Davis reviewed two Cemetery Lot Conveyances, one for Dennis and Anathalie Sinskie Croteau in Riverview (sic) Cemetery, and one for Jeffery A. Baumer in Fairview Cemetery. Mr. Davis felt that Riverview (sic) Cemetery on the Croteau Conveyance was most likely a typo and therefore changed it to Fairview Cemetery, stating that if it is not correct the Selectmen can re-sign it at their next meeting.

Matthew Smith moved to approve two Cemetery Lot Conveyances for Dennis and Anathalie Sinskie Croteau, and Jeffery A. Baumer; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the two Cemetery Lot Conveyances.

To sign the updated Town of Farmington All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan

Richard Davis explained that the only changes to the Plan were some contact updates and typo corrections, and requested the Selectmen sign the Plan's signature page.

Stephan Bunker moved to sign the updated *Town of Farmington All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan* and National Incident Management System (NIMS) Proclamation; Matthew Smith seconded.

ITEM 7: To sign the updated Town of Farmington All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan (Cont.)

Richard Davis stated that he did not make copies of the entire Plan again as it is a very large document.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed the updated *Town of Farmington All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan* and National Incident Management System (NIMS) Proclamation.

ITEM 8: To Approve the Minutes of July 25, 2017

Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of July 25, 2017; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis reported that he has authorized Assessor John O'Donnell to calculate the tax commitment as the Town is struggling for money right now and the next RSU 9 validation vote may not be until September or early October. The only alternative to sending out tax bills is to send a bid out for a tax anticipation note and pay bond council, which is all very expensive and time consuming. His suggestion was to set the tax commitment based on the last RSU 9 budget that was presented but voted down. The impact on whatever the difference is on the tax bill will be minimal and will serve to benefit the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB). Mr. Davis stated that Assessor John O'Donnell is prepared to come to the Selectmen's August 22nd meeting to present the different scenarios. He pointed out that if the tax bills aren't sent out soon there will be no money in the Downtown TIF to undertake the West Farmington project.
- B) Richard Davis reported that the \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was approved for Origin Brazilian Jujitsu and has been reserved for Peter Roberts. He further stated that improvements at the business have commenced.
- C) Richard Davis reported that the Town of Farmington was chosen as one of the winners of the Maine Municipal Association's photo contest. "Sunrise at Beaver Bog" by Scott Landry won in the scenic view category. He stated that whoever from Farmington is at the MMA Convention at noon on October 4th will be presented with a framed and matted photograph which will be on display during the Convention. The Town Manager and Selectmen congratulated Mr. Landry, who felt that he would be able to attend the MMA Convention on October 4th to accept the photo himself and bring it back to hang in the Town Office.

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- D) Richard Davis reported that the Town was able to gain four parking spaces on upper Broadway where the tree was removed. Mr. Davis stated that compliments go out to Public Works Director Philip Hutchins who took a piece of the pavement over to Aubuchon Hardware and had them color match the paint to paint out the old stripes, and one can hardly tell that they're there. Scott Landry commented on the amount of traffic in Town this summer, and that it was good to see the four new spaces being utilized.
- E) Stephan Bunker noted that in addition to the hard work the Public Works crew is putting in on the summer road projects, they are also accomplishing some roadside trimming as time allows, and is good to see them utilizing the new adaptive machine.
- F) Matthew Smith reported that back in the spring it was brought to his attention that there was a "For Sale" sign on a cemetery lot and asked if it was legal. Richard Davis stated that all cemetery lot sales need to go through the Town, they cannot be sold privately.
- ITEM 10: To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §841.2.E to Consider an Application for Abatement of Property taxes based on Hardship or Poverty

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 7:38 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:02 P.M.

Stephan Bunker moved to reschedule the consideration of the application to the next meeting the applicants can attend; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

To Hold an Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to discuss a Personnel Matter

Matthew Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 8:02 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 8:14 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE:	AFFIRMATIVE 5	MOTION CARRIED
Minutes respectfull	y submitted by Linda H. Grant.	
Michael J. Fogg – S	 Secretary	