FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Matthew Smith, Scott Landry and Michael Fogg. Chairman Joshua Bell was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Deputy Fire Rescue Chief Clyde Ross, Assessor John O'Donnell, Police Chief Jack Peck, Channel 11, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing on a new Lunch Wagon Permit for R.J.'s Hotdogs, owned by Matthew Rooney

Richard Davis explained that this is a new Lunch Wagon Permit application because the ownership of R.J.'s Hotdogs has changed.

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 7:30 P.M.

Owner Matthew Rooney was present and gave a brief overview of his personal background, work experience, and future prospects for the Lunch Wagon. Mr. Davis reported that all applicable department heads have reviewed and signed off on the application.

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker closed the Public hearing under Item 2 at 7:33 P.M.

Matthew Smith moved to approve a new Lunch Wagon Permit for R.J.'s Hotdogs, owned by Matthew Rooney; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

The Selectmen signed the Permit. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Rooney to touch base with Town Clerk Leanne Dickey as to when it can be picked up.

ITEM 3: To Review the 2017 Tax Rate Scenarios

Richard Davis pointed out to the Selectmen two documents provided to them, which Assessor John O'Donnell will be reviewing with them. Those documents were titled Farmington 2017 Tax Rate Choices and Farmington 2017 TIF Tax Choices. Mr. Davis reminded the Selectmen that it is the Assessor's purview to establish the tax rate and do the tax commitment. However, input from the Selectmen is necessary, particularly in terms of how much they wish to appropriate for the Downtown TIF projects. The floor

ITEM 3: To Review the 2017 Tax Rate Scenarios (Cont.)

was turned over to Assessor John O'Donnell, who reviewed the two aforementioned documents. Other than tax rate and TIF tax choices, his review included an explanation of "overlay" and why he did not feel scenarios for overlay were necessary this year as in previous years; explanation of what amount was used for the school budget calculations, which process has not yet been finalized.

Matthew Smith moved to approve a \$125,000 TIF with an overlay of \$28,065, resulting in a tax rate of 0.01994; Scott Landry seconded.

In response to resident Dennis O'Neil's question as to what the tax rate will do to property values in Town, John O'Donnell explained several factors, being the Town's Assessment Ratio as per the Town's 2013 limited scope revaluation, the Homestead Exemption, tax exempt properties, and the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE).

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

John O'Donnell stated that he expects to be committing taxes on Thursday, August 24th.

ITEM 4: To Authorize the Purchase of SCBAs from the Fire Equipment Reserve Account

Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell explained that all of the grants that his department has applied for over the last several years to replace its air packs have been unsuccessful. He stated that the twenty air packs were purchased from the 2001 and 2002 budgets and there have been three upgrades since their purchase. He further explained that the air pack is made up of three pieces, a backpack, a bottle, and a mask, with an air bottle having a shelf life of only fifteen years, at which time it must be taken out of service. All twenty of Farmington's air bottles are now out of service, but one of the department's vendors has loaned them forty bottles this year to use, twenty of which account for a spare bottle for each pack. If they had been awarded the recently applied for Federal Fire Act Grant they would have only paid \$6,000/air pack, but per Senator Susan Collins' office it does not appear that they will be receiving the grant. Chief Bell stated that the total cost amount used in the grant application was \$137,830, which was to replace all twenty air packs, but he is not in a position to reveal the current purchase cost at this time because of the bid process. He stated that he has an excellent quote from a vendor that they use frequently, but it is the Selectmen's decision as to whether to put it out to bid or accept the vendor's quote. He also stated that the current air packs are not trade worthy, but there is an online site that will pay \$50 per air pack. Chief Bell asked for the Selectmen's guidance, pointing out that the Fire Rescue Department's Equipment Reserve account balance presently stands at \$191,051.89. He added that the only other expenditure from the Equipment Reserve account this year would be the potential for a joint vehicle purchase with the Police Department, and the next large truck purchase isn't scheduled until 2020 to replace the 1995 E1 pumper truck, but they should have the air packs cost replaced by then. Richard Davis pointed out that one other option would be to schedule a Special Town Meeting to appropriate the cost from the Unassigned Fund

ITEM 4: To Authorize the Purchase of SCBAs from the Fire Equipment Reserve Account (Cont.)

Balance, which is at a sufficient level at this time. He also pointed out that the Town will have to borrow money for the 2020 truck purchase. The Selectmen discussed creating a separate Reserve account in the future for apparatus.

Scott Landry moved to schedule a Special Town Meeting to appropriate funds for the purchase of twenty new air packs from the Unassigned Fund Balance; Michael Fogg seconded.

The Selectmen discussed whether to accept the vendor quote or put the purchase out to bid. Chief Bell stated that it is the best quote he has received and they deal with this vendor frequently with the utmost satisfaction in service.

Scott Landry and Michael Fogg amended their motion and second to include going with the preferred vendor.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

Deputy Chief and Budget Committee member Clyde Ross spoke in favor of Reserve accounts. Richard Davis pointed out that this Equipment Reserve account is one that has not decreased over the years, but instead has increased each year as the Debt Service decreased.

ITEM 5: To Consider an Appropriation of Approximately \$800 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account to Sealcoat the Parking Area in front of the Fire Station

Richard Davis explained that once the new pad was poured in front of the fire bays it was apparent that an effort should be made to preserve the rest of the parking area, so Chief Bell got an estimate on just purchasing the liquid asphalt to sealcoat the paved portion of the parking area, with his crew doing the application. The cost of the liquid is approximately \$800. Mr. Davis stated that he is in hopes that the sealcoat will preserve the parking area for a couple of years until he is in a position to put out a bid to sealcoat both the front and back parking areas.

Matthew Smith moved to approve an appropriation of approximately \$800 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account to sealcoat the parking area in front of the Fire Station; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

ITEM 6: To Accept a \$1,500 Grant from the Healthy Community Coalition for O.U.I. Enforcement and "Fatal Vision" Glasses

Police Chief Jack Peck explained that the Healthy Community Coalition applied for and were awarded a Substance Abuse Prevention grant, \$1,500 of which they have offered to give to the Farmington Police Department. Chief Peck stated that half of the funds will be dedicated to underage drinking details and half dedicated to the purchase of a pair of educational "Fatal Vision" goggles. Chief Peck explained how the goggles work, and stated that they plan to use them at the Foothills Festival.

Matthew Smith moved to accept a \$1,500 Grant from the Healthy Community Coalition for Underage Drinking Enforcement and "Fatal Vision" Glasses; Scott Landry seconded.

Richard Davis pointed out that he incorrectly put O.U.I. Enforcement in the title of this Item where it should be Underage Drinking Enforcement.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

To Approve an Application for a License to Operate a Game of Chance at the Farmington Fairgrounds for Johnson Cox Post 78 American Legion of Strong, Maine

Richard Davis explained that the application from this organization is an annual occurrence.

Michael Fogg moved to approve an Application for a License to Operate a Game of Chance at the Farmington Fairgrounds for Johnson Cox Post 78 American Legion of Strong, Maine; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

The Selectmen signed the Application.

ITEM 8: To Schedule a joint Hearing pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §3106-B and 17 M.R.S. §2851 et seq. to Determine whether the Building located at 176 Croswell Road, Map U1 Lot 33, is Abandoned and/or Dangerous within the Meaning of said Statutes

Richard Davis reviewed paperwork on this matter received from Attorney Frank Underkuffler who has been working with Code Enforcement to try to resolve this situation. The fire at the Falls General Store was apparently arson and due to an issue between the insurance company and property owners the debris has not been cleared.

ITEM 8: To Schedule a joint Hearing pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §3106-B and 17 M.R.S. §2851 et seq. to Determine whether the Building located at 176 Croswell Road, Map U1 Lot 33, is Abandoned and/or Dangerous within the Meaning of said Statutes (Cont.)

Mr. Davis explained the two Statutes that pertain to this situation. He recommended that the joint hearing be scheduled to take place at the Selectmen's September 26, 2017 meeting in order to give ample time for notification of the hearing and service on the owners.

Matthew Smith moved to schedule a joint Hearing for September 26, 2017 pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §3106-B and 17 M.R.S. §2851 et seq. to determine whether the building located at 176 Croswell Road, Map U1 Lot 33, is abandoned and/or dangerous within the meaning of said Statutes; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

The Selectmen signed the four required documents.

To Schedule a Meeting for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 to Countersign the Warrants for the RSU #9 Budget Meeting on September 5, 2017 and Budget Validation Referendum on September 12, 2017

Richard Davis explained that the Selectmen need only stop in and sign the Warrants tomorrow, if it is convenient. Since there could potentially be a majority of Selectmen present at the same time it will have to be advertised as a public meeting, and to accommodate the Town Secretary asked the Selectmen if it would be convenient for this to be scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 5:00 P.M.

Matthew Smith moved to schedule a Selectmen's meeting for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. to countersign the Warrants for the RSU #9 Budget Meeting on September 5, 2017 and Budget Validation Referendum on September 12, 2017; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

ITEM 10: To Discuss the Process for Conducting the Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation

Richard Davis distributed a blank evaluation form which the Selectmen have typically used in the past, and includes his comments. He stated that he will email the blank evaluation form to each of them tomorrow for their comments, which they need to return to Chairman Bell by September 18th so that he can have the consolidation of the evaluations ready for discussion at the September 26th Selectmen's meeting.

ITEM 11: To Approve the Minutes of August 8, 2017

Matthew Smith moved to table the minutes of August 8, 2017 as they had been sent to the Selectmen too late for them to have a chance to review them; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

ITEM 12: To Discuss Other Business

- A) Richard Davis reported that MaineDOT has appointed a resident inspector for the sidewalk project, which started in the Hippach Field parking lot today and is estimated to be completed within 4-5 weeks. He stated that the cost of the inspector is \$25,000, \$5,000 of which is the Town's share.
- **B**) Richard Davis reviewed and handed out a program to the Selectmen for the Origin USA celebration that is taking place on Church Street tomorrow.
- 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 7:37 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 8:30 P.M.

Matthew Smith moved to abate the 2013 and 2014 property taxes on the subject property in the total amount of \$1,595.16; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

There being no further business to come before the Board, Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.; Michael Fogg seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED (Joshua Bell)

Minutes respectfully submitted	by Linda H. Grant
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Michael J. Fogg – Secretary	