#### FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order in the downstairs meeting room at the Community Center at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Matthew Smith, Michael Fogg, Andrew Buckland, and Stephan Bunker. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Town Clerk Leanne Dickey, Ballot Clerk Shane Cote, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser, Treasurer LucyAnn Cook, 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 Determine whether to Initiate Court Action with regard to the Dilapidated Structure Located at 130 Wilton Road, Map U31 Lot 19

Richard Davis explained that the caption of this Item is only one option of resolution. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Steve Kaiser and Town Attorney Frank Underkuffler were present and reviewed prior action on this property, with Mr. Kaiser referencing his memo and photos to the Selectmen dated November 18, 2016. Mr. Kaiser reported that the property is not in compliance with the Town's November 25, 2014 Maintenance Order, nor is there any legible contact information on the "For Sale" sign on the property, which was a stipulation of the Maintenance Order. Discussion included: current responsible party; lack of contact, including the attorney's service by process; items of non-compliance; attorney preparation for the next step; and review of the numerous options for remedying the problem.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize Attorney Frank Underkuffler to move forward with Court action to seek some remedy of the dilapidated structure located at 130 Wilton Road, Map U31 Lot 19; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

# ITEM 3: To Determine what Action to take with regard to Code Violations at Property Located at 156 Dunham Road, Map R10 Lot 3

Richard Davis reviewed CEO Steve Kaiser's memo dated November 17, 2016 and accompanying photos. Mr. Kaiser reported that significant progress has been made by the property owner, but it is still not in compliance. Additionally, owner Betty Dunham has told him that they have done all that they can this year due to health and financial factors. Attorney Frank Underkuffler stated that this case is already in court, although it is not a perfected lawsuit because the Sheriff's Department has been unable to find and serve Josh Dunham. To take the next step in the lawsuit a Court Order will need to be obtained

# To Determine what Action to take with regard to Code Violations at Property Located at 156 Dunham Road, Map R10 Lot 3 (Cont.)

as to how to get Josh Dunham served. Service will most likely be by publication or an alternate service where the Court may allow the Town to serve Betty Dunham on Josh Dunham's behalf, if it can be proven that she is in contact with him. Guidance is needed before that step is taken. The Selectmen discussed Court action versus an extension of time on the compliance order, and at their request, Attorney Underkuffler explained the process for further Court action.

Stephan Bunker moved to authorize Attorney Frank Underkuffler to move forward with Court action to seek compliance of the code violations on property located at 156 Dunham Road, Map R10 Lot 3; Matthew Smith seconded.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

# ITEM 4: To Determine what Action to take with regard to Code Violations at Property Located at 809 Holley Road, Map R17 Lot 14G

Richard Davis reviewed CEO Steve Kaiser's memo dated November 18, 2016. Mr. Kaiser reported that significant progress has been made on bringing this property into compliance, and asked the Selectmen for guidance on recovery of attorney related costs, as well as obtaining a Court judgment to ensure the property owner remains in compliance. Attorney Frank Underkuffler explained the legal process for enforcement of both issues.

Stephan Bunker moved to proceed as per the recommendations of Town Attorney Frank Underkuffler, with the stipulation that there be no more item accumulation; Matthew Smith seconded.

Attorney Underkuffler estimated that the cost will be approximately \$600-\$700 for filing and insurance fees, and 3-4 hours labor by him.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen recessed at 7:00 P.M.

# ITEM 6: To Hold a Special Town Meeting pursuant to a Warrant Approved on November 8, 2016 and Amended on November 15, 2016 (7:00 p.m.)

Town Clerk Leanne Dickey opened the Special Town Meeting under Item 6 at 7:00 P.M. and called for nominations for moderator under Article First. Paul Mills was declared and sworn in as moderator after receiving the nomination and second, as well as three written ballots.

Article Second, after discussion, was approved by a show of hands.

# To Hold a Special Town Meeting pursuant to a Warrant Approved on November 8, 2016 and Amended on November 15, 2016 (7:00 p.m.) (Cont.)

Article Third, after discussion, was approved by a show of hands.

Article Fourth, after discussion, was approved by a show of hands.

Article Fifth, after discussion, was approved by a show of hands.

Article Sixth, after discussion, was approved by a show of hands.

The Special Town Meeting adjourned and the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen resumed at 8:20 P.M.

### ITEM 5: To Consider engaging the Services of the Buxton Company for Retail Recruitment

Richard Davis explained that this has been a topic of discussion between Farmington, Livermore Falls, Jay, and Wilton for approximately one year, and each of these towns will have this on their Selectmen's agenda for discussion within the next month, with Farmington being the first community to do so. Mr. Davis further explained that since the 3-year agreement comes at a cost of \$50,000 per year, it was felt that it would be more equitable for all four towns to participate in the same agreement with Buxton Company. The cost to each town if all four participate would be \$12,500 per year for three years. If Farmington were to participate in this agreement its portion would be funded from the Franklin Printing TIF Reserve account, which currently has an approximate balance of \$150,000 and is not earmarked for any other particular purpose of any substantial amount. If only three towns participate, the cost to each town would be \$16,667 per year for three years. The cost to each town would increase to \$25,000 per year for three years if only two towns participate. Each Selectman shared positive comments and concerns regarding the proposed engagement and thanked Alison Hagerstrom, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Corporation, for her efforts in presenting this proposal to the four towns.

Stephan Bunker moved to extend the Town of Farmington's willingness to participate in the proposed engagement based on a minimum number of other towns who would likewise participate; Michael Fogg seconded.

Chairman Bell asked for clarification of "minimum". Richard Davis suggested that the minimum would be determined by how many other towns choose to participate. Alison Hagerstrom clarified that Buxton Company was only agreeable to working with an equal divide among the participating towns. She pointed out that regardless of which town any business may end up in, it will benefit the area as well as the town. She also pointed out that Buxton Company has said that each town will have access to the "Scout" Platform, in addition to her. Ms. Hagerstrom recommended going with a minimum of three towns, if they would be comfortable with the amount of \$16,667 per year for three years.

## ITEM 5: To Consider engaging the Services of the Buxton Company for Retail Recruitment (Cont.)

Stephan Bunker amended his motion to include "a minimum of three participants"; Michael Fogg seconded.

Resident Dennis O'Neil spoke in favor of this proposal and encouraged the Selectmen to try it for the three year period. Attorney Underkuffler explained that a contract should be written in order for Farmington to be protected against the possibility of any of the other participating towns backing out before the three year period has ended. Further discussion included: a contract with an opt-out clause; and each town getting access to the Scout Platform.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

### To Authorize the Town Manager to Execute a Credit Enhancement Agreement between the Town of Farmington and Woodlands Senior Living of Farmington, LLC

Richard Davis stated that Attorney Underkuffler has not as yet reviewed this Agreement and even if the Selectmen vote in the affirmative to this authorization he will not execute it without Attorney Underkuffler's approval. Mr. Davis reviewed the Agreement and the corrections he made to it. Attorney Underkuffler stated that he is in receipt of the Agreement but did not want to review it until he knew that it is something the Selectmen wanted to do in principle.

Andrew Buckland moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute a Credit Enhancement Agreement between the Town of Farmington and Woodlands Senior Living of Farmington, LLC; Matthew Smith seconded.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

### ITEM 8: To Accept bids for the sale of Foreclosed Properties

Richard Davis deferred to Attorney Frank Underkuffler, who explained that only two bids were received and it has been found that the Town has no clear ownership of one of the bid properties, as only one of the three owners is listed on the tax lien certificate. He explained the options on both the condo and the Holley Road properties and concluded by recommending that both bids be acknowledged, but not awarded until he has made full disclosure of the problem of each to the perspective buyer and/or their legal counsel, and find out what each wants to do. After further discussion, Attorney Underkuffler changed his recommendation of the Holley Road bid to rejection, as it will take another three months to cure the problem with the tax lien certificate and reiterated the process.

### ITEM 8: To Accept bids for the sale of Foreclosed Properties (Cont.)

Stephan Bunker moved to acknowledge the bid of \$1,500 by C. Richards on Map R11 Lot 038/A1 for the condo on Perham Street, and have legal counsel seek corrective action with the owner, and reject the bids of A. Marble and K. Cullenberg on Map R17 Lot 011 for the property on Holley Road; Andrew Buckland seconded.

### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Richard Davis reported that through the foreclosure process two of the owners were induced to come in and redeem their properties. He also acknowledged the efforts of Gary Bryant in working towards redeeming his property, and recommended that the Selectmen allot him an extended period of time to complete the process. Gary Bryant was present with his attorney, Ronald Cullenberg, who advocated for Mr. Bryant being given an extension of six months on the redemption of his property.

Matthew Smith moved to allot Gary Bryant an extension of six months on the redemption of his property; Andrew Buckland seconded.

The Selectmen commended Mr. Bryant on his redemption efforts and encouraged him to continue.

### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

### ITEM 9: To Delegate Approval of Road Closure Plans to the Town Manager

Richard Davis explained the MaineDOT requirements for road closure for a special event in Town and stated that there are numerous such events over the course of any given year. He further explained that after discussion with Police Chief Jack Peck it was his recommendation that said approval for routine road closures be delegated to the Town Manager, which would be reviewed by both the Police Chief and the Manager before approval.

Andrew Buckland moved to delegate approval of road closure plans to the Town Manager; Matthew Smith seconded.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Consider an Expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the Winter/Spring Issue of *Discover Maine* Magazine, with Funding to come from the Special Projects Account

Richard Davis reviewed the two prior ads that the Town has funded and explained the email/offer dated November 15, 2016.

ITEM 10: To Consider an Expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the Winter/Spring Issue of *Discover Maine* Magazine, with Funding to come from the Special Projects Account (Cont.)

Stephan Bunker moved to approve an expenditure of \$355.50 for a full color ad in the winter/spring issue of *Discover Maine*, with funding to come from the Special Projects account; Matthew Smith seconded.

Andrew Buckland generated a brief discussion regarding the magazine's circulation, in particular the number of locations where the magazine is circulated. Richard Davis did not know but agreed to try to find out for him.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 11: To Approve the Minutes of November 8 and 15, 2016

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of November 8 and 15, 2016; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

**ITEM 12:** To Discuss Other Business

A) Richard Davis stated that the administrative task of formally appointing LucyAnn Cook as Treasurer was overlooked when she started working for the Town and asked the Selectmen to do so tonight.

Matthew Smith moved to appoint LucyAnn Cook as Treasurer of the municipality of Farmington, Franklin County, Maine pursuant to Title 30-A MRS § 2601; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Davis asked the Selectmen to sign the Certificate of Appointment, although the form appears to have been set up incorrectly and he may have to have it corrected.

**B)** Matthew Smith voiced his concern with certain properties that are put out to bid repeatedly but no return is ever realized. Attorney Frank Underkuffler suggested that an auctioneer be hired for the sale of such properties, which the Selectmen discussed.

Stephan Bunker moved to direct the Town Manager to seek a proposal from Adrian Harris for auctioning the remaining foreclosed properties without bids; Matthew Smith seconded.

#### **ITEM 12:** To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

B) (Cont.) The Selectmen discussed just lowering the minimum bid amount. Attorney Frank Underkuffler stated that he will need to research any title issues on said properties before they can go to auction. The question was raised and discussed as to whether a title search should be done on each foreclosed property before it goes out to bid in order to eliminate the problem that has been encountered during this process.

#### VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

- C) Michael Fogg continued the discussion regarding the lien process versus establishing ownership via title search. Treasurer LucyAnn Cook and Attorney Underkuffler joined in the discussion and explained the process.
- D) The Selectmen and Town Manager commended Treasurer LucyAnn Cook for her due diligence and exacting detail in following through with the foreclosure process, as well as her willingness and motivation to learn from Town counsel and the Court system.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Stephan Bunker moved to adjourn at 9:32 P.M.**; **Matthew Smith seconded.** 

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Andrew R. Buckland - Secretary