FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Public Works Director Philip Hutchins, Police Chief Jack Peck, Patrolman Michael Lyman, 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 Hear an Update on the Drug Detection Canine Program and other Recent Activities of the Police Department

Police Chief Jack Peck handed out and reviewed a sheet of results to date of the Canine Program, which he feels has been a tremendous success thus far. Officer Michael Lyman reviewed the out-of-town calls that he has responded to with Canine Officer Axel, and how it affects his work schedule with the Farmington Police Department. Richard Davis pointed out that the Police Department has Mutual Aid Agreements with other agencies the same way the Fire Rescue Department does.

ITEM 3: To Accept Funding of \$2,153.70 from the Maine Community College System for the Police Department to enable our Officers to teach a Criminal Justice Program at Mount Blue High School

Police Chief Jack Peck explained that the department has been teaching a Criminal Justice class at Mount Blue High School for a number of years and has now partnered with Central Maine Community College (CMCC) so that the students will now get a college credit upon completion of the program. The \$2,153.70 consists of CMCC's offer to reimburse the department for the teaching officer's salary for 33 classes, plus extra to pay for any special guest speakers that are brought in. Chief Peck pointed out that a contract for this offer will need to be signed.

Michael Fogg moved to accept funding of \$2,153.70 from the Maine Community College System for the Police Department; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Approve an Expenditure of \$65,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account to Convert one of the LESO-Acquired Freightliner Ten-Wheeler Trucks to a Plow Truck

Police Chief Jack Peck explained the proposed conversion of one of the Police Department's LESO-acquired Freightliner ten-wheeler trucks to a plow truck using funds from the Public Works Department's Equipment Reserve account. He further explained that once the truck has been in the Police Department's possession for one year and

ITEM 4: To Approve an Expenditure of \$65,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account to Convert one of the LESO-Acquired Freightliner Ten-Wheeler Trucks to a Plow Truck (Cont.)

comes off the inventory, the plan is to turn it over to the Public Works Department. Until then the truck will be used to aid the Police Department in the enforcement of distracted driving using funding of \$14,000 that the Department was awarded recently through a Distracted Driving Grant. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins handed out a photo of what the vehicle currently looks like as well as a photo of the Town of Sanford's truck that they recently converted into a plow truck. He then explained what the conversion will entail, the cost of which he expects to be \$65,000. Richard Davis pointed out that some of the conversion work will be taking place in-house. Chief Peck stated that he has been transparent with LESO, and they have confirmed that it is an acceptable plan. Chief Peck clarified that the truck can only be driven by someone with a Class B driver's license.

Michael Fogg moved to approve an expenditure of \$65,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve account to convert one of the LESO-acquired Freightliner tenwheeler trucks to a plow truck; Matthew Smith seconded.

Chief Peck verified that there has been no cost to date associated with the LESO-acquired Freightliner as it is in very good condition.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Stephan Bunker pointed out that the newly purchased plow truck is very impressive.

ITEM 5: To Consider a Proposal for Civil Engineering Services for the Front Street Improvements Project

Richard Davis reviewed the proposal from Dirigo Engineering, pointing out that the Town is already under contract with Dirigo for the design of the Front Street culvert project so it would make sense to continue with them for the design of the improvements project. Mr. Davis stated that he and Public Works Director Philip Hutchins feel this is a very good proposal and it is their recommendation to approve it. Mr. Hutchins stated that Dirigo is very familiar with the area, so if the Town starts over with another contractor he estimates an increase in cost of at least \$4,000. Mr. Davis stated that, if approved, he anticipates that this project should be able to be completed within this construction year. Discussion included: relocation of Consolidated Communications', fka FairPoint, cable that is presently in the culvert, as well as increase in fiber optics in anticipation of future growth; periodic closure of Front Street; installation requirements relative to wetlands; crosswalks; sidewalks; and curbing.

Michael Fogg moved to approve a proposal from Dirigo Engineering for civil engineering services for the Front Street improvements project, including the lighting and public meeting, at an estimated cost of \$11,000.00; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Award the bid for Cemetery Mowing

Richard Davis reviewed the one bid that was received, explaining that the bidder is the same contractor who has done the mowing for the past three years. Mr. Davis stated that the cost has increased but he feels it is reasonable and recommended that the bid be awarded to Shane Bartlett of Bartlett Builders. Public Works Director Philip Hutchins praised Mr. Bartlett's work ethic and conscientiousness.

Stephan Bunker moved to award the bid for the 3-year cemetery mowing contract bid to Bartlett Builders at a cost each of the three years of \$9,500 for cemetery mowing and \$2,500 for lot mowing; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Review and Approve the Warrant for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting

Richard Davis reviewed the changes to Articles Fourth, Twelfth, Twenty-Fourth, Twenty-Fifth, Fortieth, Forty-First, and Forty-Second.

Matthew Smith moved to approve the Warrant for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

The Selectmen signed two copies of the Warrant.

ITEM 8: To Hear a Report on the Upcoming Sale of Tax-Acquired Properties

Richard Davis reviewed the list of properties and notice of terms of auction that will be advertised and to be held at the Community Center at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. Auctioneer Adrian Harris will be conducting the auction, the purpose of which is to get the properties back on the tax rolls. In response to Stephan Bunker's inquiry as to the status of legislation relative to liquidating properties, Mr. Davis stated that he has heard that the committee tabled it, but he is following it through Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee. He further stated that he has talked with both Senator Tom Saviello and Representative Lance Harvell, who will be looking into the proposed legislation and getting back to him.

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of January 23 and 25 and February 13, 2018

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the minutes of January 23 and 25 and February 13, 2018; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

A) Stephan Bunker pointed out that he is unable to attend any of the meetings being held for the Superintendent search process. Michael Fogg generated a brief discussion regarding expected attendance at the scheduled meetings.

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- B) In response to Scott Landry's inquiry regarding the status of the Central Maine Power Company transmission line, Richard Davis stated that he forwarded an email invitation to the Selectmen this morning to a breakfast meeting on Friday, March 9th regarding an update on this project.
- **C**) In response to Michael Fogg's inquiry regarding the status of the solar panel project on Bussie York's property, Richard Davis stated that there is nothing on the Planning Board agenda as yet. Matthew Smith stated that he knows that they were still drilling soil test holes approximately three weeks ago.
- D) In response to Joshua Bell's inquiry regarding the status of school board director applicants, Richard Davis stated that there has been one candidate submitted to complete the last two years of Ryan Morgan's three year term, the nomination period of which is now closed, and there are two candidates for the three-year term currently held by Iris Silverstein. However, no one has shown interest in being appointed as an interim director to fill in until June when whoever is elected will begin. Mr. Bell suggested approaching Heather Huish to see if she would be willing to fill in until June as an interim director.
- \mathbf{E}) Joshua Bell reported that he has asked his niece, Grace Bell, who plays for the Mt. Blue Jazz Band, to play the National Anthem on her saxophone at the annual Town Meeting.
- F) Joshua Bell reported that John Abel, troop leader of the local Boy Scout troop reached out to him to see if the troop could be allowed to march in to the Town Meeting and lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He stated that he granted permission for them to do so, and asked that those Selectmen who are able to arrive at 6:30 P.M. in order for the troop members to talk to each of them. This action is in conjunction with the earning of their merit badge.

There being no further business to come before the Board. Matthew Smith moved to

adjourn at 7:37 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.			
VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	5	MOTION CARRIED
Minutes respectful	lly submitted by Linda H. Grant.		
Michael J. Fogg -	Secretary		