

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith and Scott Landry. Stephan Bunker was unable to attend. 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 hear an Update on the Farmington Solar Project (Aaron Svedlow of Nextera)

Liz Peyton of Nextera held up a permit-level design map of the project area, while Aaron Svedlow reviewed the updates on the project. He explained that they will be filing the project with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection sometime in late April or early May, and with the Farmington Planning Board approximately six weeks thereafter. Two of the largest changes involved are: removal of panels from the Bailey Hill area; and the addition of strategic landscape planning. Mr. Svedlow further explained that if all goes as they expect it to they anticipate approval from MaineDEP and the Planning Board by fall or the end of the year, with some level of construction beginning sometime in 2019, and some continuing into 2020. Ms. Peyton stated that they will be leaving the design map with the Town, and will provide a digital copy for the Town's website. She also pointed out that this is the first project of this scale in the State of Maine. Mr. Svedlow stated that the total acreage of the panel array area is 350 gross acres, which is not total new impervious, and there is no future expansion anticipated at this time. Any future expansion will require going through the whole process again. Grounds and electrical maintenance and related jobs were discussed. Landowner Bussie York spoke of the positive planning that he has experienced through the process thus far, and what a tremendous opportunity it is for Farmington to increase its tax base without a lot of expense or strain on the infrastructure.

ITEM 3: To Review and Approve the Proposed 2018 Sewer Department Budget

Richard Davis expressed his thanks and appreciation to Superintendent Steve Millett and Sewer Clerk Mavis Gensel for the time and effort they put into this budget, which has resulted in a reduction of the proposed 2018 Sewer Department budget in the amount of \$968,043, or \$13,205 (1.35%), from the 2017 budget. Mr. Davis explained that there is a necessity to increase the rate slightly this year due to a reduction in water usage which is what the sewer usage is based on. This has resulted in lower revenues to the extent that there is not enough to cover the expense of running the system. He pointed out that the sewer is an enterprise fund, separate from the Town, so it has to be self-supporting.

ITEM 3: To Review and Approve the Proposed 2018 Sewer Department Budget (Cont.)

\$20,000 in revenue last year and the resulting loss in interest; the loss of septage being hauled to the plant; and the loss of the University of Maine at Farmington debt service contribution. Richard Davis and Steve Millett further explained the shortfall in revenue and rate charge for outside septage disposal. Ms. Gensel pointed out that Farmington's rate structure is very low according to the comparisons that she made; she reviewed those comparisons.

Michael Fogg moved to approve the 2018 Sewer budget in the amount of \$968,043; Matthew Smith seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Stephan Bunker)**

Michael Fogg moved to approve a sewer rate change from 7.28/100 cubic feet to 7.98/100 cubic feet; Matthew Smith seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Stephan Bunker)**

The Selectmen thanked Steve Millett and Mavis Gensel for the time and effort they put into this budget.

ITEM 6: To Approve Municipal Quitclaim Deeds

Richard Davis reviewed two Quitclaim Deeds releasing any interest the Town might have on account of undischarged liens on property of Charles H. Snell, Jr. located at 369 Owen Mann Road, and on property of Cara D. Whipple and David L. Grant located at 970 Farmington Falls Road.

Scott Landry moved to approve Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for Charles H. Snell, Jr., and Cara D. Whipple and David L. Grant; Matthew Smith seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Stephan Bunker)**

The Selectmen signed both Quitclaim Deeds.

ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of March 27, 2018

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of March 27, 2018; Scott Landry seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Stephan Bunker)**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary