

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

The conduct of the meeting included remote access by telephone, video, and electronic means. The public could attend in person or by viewing the live stream at <http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> or calling 578-7395 EXT 300.

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Scott Landry, Joshua Bell, and Byron Staples. Matthew Smith was unable to attend. Interim Town Manager Cornell Knight, Planning Assistant Cindy Gelinis, Wastewater Superintendent Steve Millett, Parks and Recreation Director Matt Foster, and Dennis O’Neil. MBTV Camera Operator. Cameron Ferrante, Melinda Kinney, Gloria Stinson, and Pam Harnden participated via Zoom.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

ITEM 2: *To approve a Resolution authorizing the transfer of the Bee Line, Inc Franchise to Spectrum Northeast, LLC

Cornell Knight said this resolution is pretty standard and he invited Cameron Ferrante, Attorney for Preti Flaherty to give an overview. Mr. Ferrante said he is representing Beeline Cable, which signed an asset purchase agreement in December 2022 with Charter Communications to transfer all of its franchises in Maine, and they are required to file an FCC Form 394 prior to the transfer that must be approved by the Select Board. Melinda Kinney said she represents Charter Communications of Maine that serves 295 communities with 466,000 customers state-wide, 800 employees based in Maine, a call center for mobile phone products, video cable, broadband, fixed facilities-based phone service, and a new mobile product. She said they have plans to upgrade broadband speeds and expand services, and there will be changes to packages for the new services.

Joshua Bell moved to approve the Resolution authorizing the transfer of the Bee Line, Inc. Franchise to Spectrum Northeast, LLC and he asked that they be invited to give a formal presentation at a later date; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: *To Approve an Application for a Taxicab Business License for Gloria Jaclyn Vinson, d.b.a. Mom’s Taxi

Cornell Knight introduced the application and said it is all in order. Gloria Vinson said she has a partner April Archer. Ms. Vinson said she was a social worker for many years and saw a need for taxi service, which she started about 1.5 years ago in Rumford Maine. Ms. Vinson said she receives many calls for taxi service in Farmington and is looking to expand into this area with an office, two vehicles and two drivers, but she will use a different phone number for the area. She said we are ready to start with hours from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. and we go to Bangor and Portland. Dennis O’Neil asked if the rates were set by the State. Ms. Vinson said rates are set by the company and the rates in Rumford are \$7 for intown, \$5 senior citizens and veterans, but we are thinking of \$8 for intown Farmington and anything out of town would be \$2 per mile, but we are also debating using a meter in Farmington because it is spread out.

Joshua Bell moved to approve the Application for a Taxicab Business License for Gloria Jaclyn Vinson, d.b.a. Mom’s Taxi; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: *To approve an Expenditure of up to \$32,000 from the WWTP Land Improvements reserve account (BX-7601) to purchase a generator for pump station #4.

Wastewater Superintendent Steve Millett said this is part of the climate adaptation plan that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has set for getting all of the Route 2 pump stations equipped with generators that would be phased in over time. He said we have one portable generator and a couple portable pumps, but it is not feasible for four employees to run around to all the stations if there was a major power failure. Mr. Millett said he has a quote from IEC Electric and these generators are currently 56 weeks out from delivery. Joshua Bell said he has no issues with the proposal, but we need to put it out to bid or get three quotes to follow the Town's purchasing policy. Mr. Millett said whoever we use must be three-phase power qualified and some of the sites will be tricky to install a generator because of the lack of land and plowing. Mr. Bell asked why this is coming before us now and not going through the wastewater budget. Mr. Millett said he wanted to do this now because the budget will be taking hits this year because of the biosolids disposal rates, PFAS, etc.

Joshua Bell moved to table the purchasing policy until they go over the Wastewater budget; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: *To approve/set the Registrar hours as March 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Election Day from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Cornell Knight said this is for the Annual Town Meeting and they do this in every municipality. Joshua Bell questioned the need for this.

Scott Landry moved to approve/set the Registrar hours as March 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Election Day from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Byron Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 1 ABSTAIN 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: *To appoint Cornell Knight as Interim Town Clerk, Interim Registrar, and Interim Tax Collector

Cornell Knight said the current Town Clerk Susan Murphy's last day is March 17th and Twila Lycette, who has been helping to train the clerk, will be Deputy Clerk through the Town Meeting, and this will allow me to appoint others.

Scott Landry moved appoint Cornell Knight as Interim Town Clerk, Interim Registrar, and Interim Tax Collector; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: *To approve an expenditure of up to \$25,933.60 for the construction and installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the northeast corner of the Municipal Parking lot at 194 Main Street

Cornell Knight said you have a review by Cindy Gelinis about the project and where it is going and what the cost is with an Efficiency Maine Grant of \$14,000 and the Town's balance due is \$12,203.50 out of the total cost of \$26,203.50. He said a good place to take the funds out of is the Downtown TIF account. Joshua Bell asked if we had approved this project at a prior meeting.

ITEM 7: *To approve an expenditure of up to \$25,933.60 for the construction and installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the northeast corner of the Municipal Parking lot at 194 Main Street (continued)

Stephan Bunker said we did have a prior discussion about this and was told that it was awarded, but this is the first detail with costs we have seen. Mrs. Gelinis said we had first looked at putting it in at the park and ride, but it must be located on Town property, and we then discussed it with Tom Holt at the Farmington Water Department and going in with them on it, but it needed to be available 24/7 to the public. She said she provided the estimates and information to the previous town manager who signed the contract for the EV Charging station. Discussion followed regarding revenue from the unit, rates and fees, additional grants to cover costs, research if it was discussed or voted on at a prior meeting, the signed contract, warranty and maintenance, and using the purchase policy. Joshua Bell said we have allocated the Downtown TIF funds to the bridge. Cornell Knight said he thought the balance was approximately \$170,000 and it hasn't had this year's deposit, this is a good project with a 50% grant, and as the only charger in the downtown it would benefit the merchants.

Scott Landry moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$25,933.60 for the construction and installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the northeast corner of the Municipal Parking lot at 194 Main Street; Stephan Bunker seconded.

Discussion followed regarding researching other grants to cover the Town's cost, infringing on another business, and benefits to downtown businesses.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 2 ABSENT 1 OPPOSED 2 Motion failed

ITEM 8: To approve an expenditure of up to \$6,200 for a recent Repair of the Community Center Heating system and the upcoming repair/replacement of the Community Center water heater from the Community Center Reserve Account (SX-7997)

Matt Foster said the Friday a few weeks ago the temperature plummeted to negative numbers, the heating system wasn't working, and we called Handyman Plus who fixed the pump motor and bearing assembly, which had been repaired 7-10 years ago, along with replacing the relay unit for \$3,126.95. He said we found that the electric hot water heater's mixing valve is broken, which we have been using exclusively since 2007 because the hot water tank off the boiler isn't functioning and antiquated, and the cost to repair and re-pipe is \$2,878. Mr. Foster said the account that we use for such items has been depleted and he is requesting to take the money for these repairs out of the Community Center Reserve account. Scott Landry asked who you are using for a contractor on the repairs. Mr. Foster said Handyman Plus has done the initial repair and for years he has been doing our plumbing and heating repairs that are usually small, and they have been giving us good prices, and older buildings have weird quirks that we have come across. He said we need a whole new heating system and don't want to put more money into this now when we will be changing it within the next year.

Scott Landry moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$6,200 for a recent Repair of the Community Center Heating system and the upcoming repair/replacement of the Community Center water heater from the Community Center Reserve Account (SX-7997); Byron Staples seconded.

Joshua Bell asked if there were anything else other than the boiler. Mr. Foster said the hot water off of the boiler hasn't been functioning and needs to be replaced.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To approve the minutes of 1/17, 1/18, 2/6, 2/14, and 2/27

Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of 1/17, 1/18, 2/6, 2/14, and 2/27; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

- A. Cornell Knight said he put in a letter of support for MaineDOT to rebuild Route 27 from Farmington to Eustis. He said we hired Dena Chesser to fill the position of Counter Clerk/Assessing Assistant who will start March 27th. Mr. Knight said the State's revenue sharing has been posted on their website which is up 8.4%.
- B. Joshua Bell asked why Town Farm Road was posted by the State. Scott Landry said he would get it taken down.
- C. Scott Landry said Nate Webb of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will contact us to discuss ways of relieving the deer population in the community center that has become a problem. He suggested the Odor Committee drive through Skunk Hollow because of the odor. Mr. Landry said this will be my last meeting as a Board member.
- D. Joshua Bell said he contacted the Code Enforcement Officer to request the Zoning Board review the Solar System Performance Standard with regards to the distance to abutters, fencing, aerial power lines, and best practices. Scott Landry said the fencing is federal requirements, a passage through the fence for smaller animals won't help the deer, and there is a mitigation bill being put forth regarding solar farms on agricultural land.

Joshua Bell moved to have the Zoning Board review the Solar System Performance Standard; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

- E. Stephan Bunker said he is looking forward to town meeting and people voting, the Board as a whole supporting the budget, and hearing from the Budget Committee. He asked when the Town Reports would be available. Mrs. Gelinis said they will be in this week.

Joshua Bell moved to go into executive session; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 11: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6) (A) to discuss personnel matter

ITEM 12: *To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6) (E) for a consultation with legal counsel

The Board returned to regular session at 8:25 P.M.

Joshua Bell made a motion to approve the valuation settlement agreement with John Moore as presented; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business to come before the Board, 8:30 P.M. Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Gelinias.

Byron Staples - Secretary