

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Andrew Buckland, Stephan Bunker and Matthew Smith. Michael Fogg was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Police Chief Jack Peck, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Deputy Chief Tim Hardy, Capt. Tim Hardy, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster, Public Works Director Denis Castonguay, Shop Manager Jon Alexander, Mechanic Scott Bouchard, 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 Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2016 Departmental Budgets:

Richard Davis pointed out that there are a few additions, changes to year end expenditures, and encumbrances that have been made that don't show up in the paperwork but will be explained during the presentation.

A) Treasurer / Clerk

Richard Davis stated that Treasurer Diana Young went home as she was not feeling well. He further stated that this proposal has not changed from the initial presentation, and the increase is largely attributable to the Elections and Legal/Advertising line items due to the Presidential election this year, and advertising for Diana Young's replacement, as she is retiring in October.

Stephan Bunker moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$253,665 for the 2016 Treasurer/Clerk budget, which is an increase from 2015 of \$10,781, or 4.44%; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 2: To Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2016 Departmental Budgets: (Cont.)

E) Code Enforcement

Richard Davis stated that this proposal has not changed from the initial presentation, and is a decrease from 2015.

Matthew Smith moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$150,561 for the 2016 Code Enforcement budget, which is a decrease from 2015 of \$605, or -0.40%; Stephan Bunker seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)**

F) Police

Richard Davis stated that this proposal has not changed from the initial presentation, and is a decrease from 2015. Chief Peck was present and again explained his proposal to restructure the department.

Matthew Smith moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$1,214,550 for the 2016 Police Department budget, which is a decrease from 2015 of \$30,787, or -2.47%; Andrew Buckland seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSTAINED 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Stephan Bunker) (Michael Fogg)**

G) Fire Rescue

Richard Davis stated that the new request dated January 11, 2016 for \$440,675 is the request that more accurately reflects the hiring of four (4) full-time fire fighters. Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell was present and stated that he has actually reduced his request again and handed out a spreadsheet with a request for \$434,492. Chief Bell again explained the need for full-time fire fighters versus per diem staff, as well as his recruitment attempts to hire call firefighters and per diem employees.

Matthew Smith moved to recommend the amount of \$401,513, which is the same amount budgeted for 2015; Andrew Buckland seconded.

Discussion continued regarding new avenues that discussion of the different scenarios may open up, and leadership opportunities for Farmington in regionalization. Richard Davis pointed out that one of the scenarios presented by Chief Bell was for the department's staffing to remain as is for the proposed amount of \$387,334, which is a

ITEM 2: To Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2016 Departmental Budgets: (Cont.)

G) Fire Rescue (Cont.)

decrease of \$14,179 from the recommended motion. Mr. Davis suggested that the \$14,179, or some portion thereof, be moved to the Professional Services line item and used to hire an outside consultant to help the Town find some workable solutions to this problem, as the problem is not going to go away. Chief Bell requested that the money not be wasted if the study results are not going to be implemented. Deputy Chief Tim Hardy gave the example of how recent grant money and time were wasted on a regionalization study that never went anywhere despite many meetings and good recommendations. Capt. Tim Hardy spoke on regionalization and the need for a long-term strategic plan. Police Chief Jack Peck spoke on the savings and appreciation his department has realized from the current level of services provided by the Fire Rescue Department at accident and other scenes.

Matthew Smith and Andrew Buckland amended their motion and second to include moving \$14,179 of the recommended amount of \$401,513 to the Professional Services line item.

Andrew Buckland urged Chief Bell to conduct a more aggressive advertising campaign for per diem employees.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSTAINED 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Stephan Bunker) (Michael Fogg)

H) Parks and Recreation

Richard Davis stated that this proposal has not changed from the initial presentation.

Matthew Smith moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$155,640 for the 2016 Parks and Recreation Department budget, which is an increase over 2015 of \$2,900, or 1.90%; Andrew Buckland seconded.

In answer to Stephan Bunker's request for an update on the funding for insulating the Community Center and Public Works garage, Mr. Davis stated that the Public Works garage insulation costs can be funded from the Public Works Reserve account and accomplished this summer. It was thought that insulating the Community Center could be deferred to 2017, as the Fire Truck will be paid off and the debt service will drop by

ITEM 2: To Review and Make Recommendations on the Following Proposed 2016 Departmental Budgets: (Cont.)

S) Other Protections (Cont.)

more proactive in regard to lighting the 99-year lease parking lot. Mr. Davis suggested having a street light installed on a recently added pole at the entrance to Prescott Field at approximately \$21 per month. The Selectmen discussed the number and cost of the existing street lights, including the decorative street lights.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

T) Debt Service

Richard Davis stated that the Fire Truck debt will be paid off this year, which will free up \$47,000.

Matthew Smith moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$151,323 for the 2016 Debt Service budget, which is a decrease from 2015 of \$3,847, or -2.48%; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

U) Legal Reserve

Richard Davis stated that the current balance of this Reserve account is \$12,697.68.

Stephan Bunker moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$15,000 for the 2016 Legal Reserve budget, which is the same amount as budgeted in 2015; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

V) ADA Reserve

Richard Davis stated that the current balance of this Reserve account is \$9,849.58.

Stephan Bunker moved to recommend the proposed amount of \$1,500 for the 2016 ADA Reserve budget, which is an increase over 2015 of \$500; Matthew Smith seconded.

ITEM 3: To Approve a Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition

Richard Davis stated that this is a renewal with no change in the dues. He further stated that in the past he has been the voting delegate and Joshua Bell has been the alternate and both of them were willing to continue serving in those positions.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve a Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition with Richard Davis and Joshua Bell; Matthew Smith seconded.

Mr. Davis verified that the adjustment on the base amount is \$0.12 per capita.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSTAINED 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Joshua Bell) (Michael Fogg)

ITEM 4: To Accept Ryan Haggan's Resignation from the Budget Committee

Richard Davis stated that Ryan Haggan has moved out of town.

Matthew Smith moved to accept the resignation of Ryan Haggan from the Budget Committee; Andrew Buckland seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 5: To Sign the Purchasing Policy as Amended on January 12, 2016

Richard Davis reviewed the revised Purchase Policy that was approved by the Selectmen on January 12, 2016, and the Selectmen signed the Policy.

ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of January 5 and 12, 2016

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2016 and table the minutes of January 12, 2016; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Michael Fogg)

ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

B) Richard Davis stated that the Town has received an Efficiency Maine rebate check for the outer office heat pump in the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Davis asked the Selectmen if they would prefer to accrue it to the general fund or add it to the Municipal Building Reserve account.

