

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Chairman Ryan Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Dennis Pike, Joshua Bell and Jessica Berry. Andrew Hufnagel was absent. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Budget Committee member Stephan Bunker, Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell (6:30-7:15 P.M.), Assessor Mark Caldwell (7:00-8:02 P.M.), Channel 11, and members of the press and public were also in attendance.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Ryan Morgan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing and Vote on Amendments to the M.M.A. Model General Assistance Ordinance, along with Appendices A through I

Chairman Ryan Morgan opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:30 P.M.

Richard Davis reviewed the amendments. Resident Nancy Porter questioned the Town’s general assistance budget. Mr. Davis stated that the budgeted amount has increased with demand over the years, and pointed out that the Town is still receiving 50% reimbursement from the State for its expenditures.

Chairman Ryan Morgan closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:35 P.M.

Jessica Berry moved to approve the amendments to the M.M.A. Model General Assistance Ordinance, as well as Appendices A through I; Dennis Pike seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Andrew Hufnagel)

The Selectmen signed the General Assistance Ordinance.

ITEM 3: To Discuss the Status of the Initiative to Bring Natural Gas to Farmington

Richard Davis stated that it is his understanding that the project to bring natural gas to Farmington is on hold, awaiting a decision from the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) relative to an RFP that was sent out for energy purchase. Mr. Davis reviewed the Summit, Inc. verbal agreement, map coverage area, and potential cost savings. Ryan Morgan expressed his concerns with this project not even being on the schedule for 2014 and the effect of that on not only Farmington, but Wilton, Jay and Livermore Falls.

ITEM 3: To Discuss the Status of the Initiative to Bring Natural Gas to Farmington (Cont.)

Laurie Gardner , UMF Executive Director for Finance and Administration, introduced herself and thanked the Selectmen for their invitation to this meeting. She also introduced Chip Gavin, Director of Facilities Management and General Services for the University of Maine System. Mrs. Gardner indicated that they are very willing to answer any questions that they can, but because they are under an RFP process they have to be very careful with their answers. Mr. Gavin acknowledged that the RFP process has not been accomplished within the originally scheduled timeframe and apologized for that, but assured the Selectmen that the process is extremely active and will not be abandoned. He also stated that they cannot speak to the outcome of the RFP process but they are committed to a fair outcome, which they are in hopes to bring to a conclusion within the calendar year. Mr. Gavin again assured the Selectmen that they believe in a transparent process and he will give them updates as he is able. The Selectmen discussed the opportunity before them, emphasizing that according to Summit, Inc. the University is the anchor of the project. Senator Tom Saviello was present and joined in the discussions of community needs and Town options. Mr. Gavin referenced the evaluation criteria with the RFP numerous times during the discussion. Chairman Morgan thanked Mrs. Gardner and Mr. Gavin for coming to the meeting and encouraged a continued open line of communication henceforth.

ITEM 4: To Discuss Proposals for Disposal of Bulky Waste

Alan Archibald of Archie's Inc. was present and passed out and reviewed his bulky waste pricing proposal. Mr. Archibald was not comfortable disclosing what he is paying for tipping fees, but did state that he would be disposing of waste wherever it was the least expensive. Richard Davis pointed out that the Town has a good working relationship with the Crossroads landfill in Norridgewock, and given the most recent proposal by Waste Management for tipping fees of \$56.50/ton, it is his recommendation to sign a renewal agreement with Waste Management. Mr. Davis reviewed his research of tipping fee costs, Town hauling costs, facility disposal availability, and potential savings of \$5,000.00 for the Town and its residents. He also pointed out that it is his understanding that under Mr. Archibald's proposal the Town would become a regional waste disposal facility and he believes public hearings and a Town Meeting vote would be required in order to authorize that type of facility. Mr. Archibald agreed that \$56.50 is a very favorable tipping fee and is less than he pays. Mr. Davis reminded the Selectmen that the deadline for signing the Waste Management renewal agreement for disposal of construction waste, bulky waste, and demolition debris is November 1st. He suggested having a discussion with Mr. Archibald about his proposed recycling disposal operation after Sandy River Recycling provides the Town with their new recycling fee schedule. Mr. Davis expressed his appreciation to Mr. Archibald for his proposal but stated that he does not feel there would be any benefit to the Town by accepting it.

ITEM 4: To Discuss Proposals for Disposal of Bulky Waste (Cont.)

Jessica Berry moved to sign a renewal agreement with Waste Management for the tipping fee cost of \$56.50/ton; Dennis Pike seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Andrew Hufnagel)**

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Archibald and emphasized that they will be contacting him in the near future regarding recycling.

ITEM 5: To Consider Applying Jointly with the Town of Chesterville for Grant Funding to Purchase a 2014 Tanker Truck

Richard Davis reviewed Chief Bell’s memo dated October 15, 2013. Chief Bell was present and further explained the proposal, including the benefits this opportunity would provide for the Town of Farmington. Mr. Davis agreed that this is a rare opportunity.

Dennis Pike moved to authorize the Fire Rescue Chief to apply jointly with the Town of Chesterville for grant funding to purchase a 2014 tanker truck; Joshua Bell seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Andrew Hufnagel)**

ITEM 6: To Consider Requests for Streetlights on Anson Street and Meadow Lane

Richard Davis stated that along with the request for additional streetlights on Anson Street that was brought up under Other Business at the last Selectmen’s meeting, he has received a verbal request from a gentleman to add streetlights in the Meadow Lane subdivision. A written detail of the proposed Meadow Lane streetlights was requested but has not yet been received. Mr. Davis reviewed his suggestions for the placement and cost of two streetlights on Anson Street, and the two cutoff options. The Selectmen’s discussion included the safety issue, budgetary concern, and possible relocation of an existing streetlight. Assessor Mark Caldwell contributed to the discussion as a resident, stating that the area is indeed in need of additional lighting.

Dennis Pike moved to authorize the placement of two new 70 watt cutoff high sodium streetlights on Anson Street; Mr. Davis clarified that the cost will be approximately \$287.00 per year for two 70 watt streetlights, and the annual streetlight budget is approximately \$68,000.00; Jessica Berry seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 OPPOSED 1 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Joshua Bell)(Andrew Hufnagel)**

ITEM 7: To Review the Property Appraisal of the Former Town Garage lot

Richard Davis reviewed the appraisal by Tom Mellen of Property Appraisal Services. The Selectmen discussed the appraisal of \$58,000.00 and Mr. Mellen's recommendation, if it is decided to sell the property, to market it as residential property.

Dennis Pike moved to retain said lot as Town property until further review; Jessica Berry seconded.

Joshua Bell asked Assessor Mark Caldwell for a taxation value of the property, which he was unable to provide at that time. Richard Davis stated that if this vote is approved and the property is kept in municipal ownership, it would be his suggestion that the Selectmen discuss in the near future what the possible uses of the property might be. Joshua Bell and Richard Davis suggested including an Article on the Town Meeting Warrant to authorize the Selectmen to sell or dispose of this property on whatever terms advisable, which would give them more latitude, and possibly generate discussion and ideas.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Andrew Hufnagel)**

ITEM 8: To Accept Grant Funding from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$1,500 for the Purchase of Electronic Equipment

Richard Davis reviewed the Walmart grant for which the Town applied and was approved. He also reviewed the proposed electronic equipment that he would like to purchase and how it will be utilized.

Dennis Pike moved to accept grant funding from Walmart in the amount of \$1,500 for the purchase of electronic equipment, with appreciation; Jessica Berry seconded.

Ryan Morgan also expressed his appreciation of this grant funding.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Andrew Hufnagel)**

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of September 24 and October 8, 2013

Dennis Pike moved to approve the minutes of September 24 and October 8, 2013; Jessica Berry seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Andrew Hufnagel)**

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

- A)** Richard Davis handed out a copy of State Statute 20-A §1254 Vacancies relative to the appointment of an interim school board director. He apologized for giving the Selectmen incorrect information, which information he discovered applies to municipal school departments, rather than school districts. The correct information is that the Selectmen have the authority to select an interim director to serve until the next election. Mr. Davis stated that he has informed the RSU 09 Superintendent so that the directors do not have to discuss this matter at their meeting tonight. Mr. Davis also stated that director Robert Flick has recommended that former director Ray Glass be approached to fill the interim position. The Selectmen discussed the need for an interim director, as well as Ryan Morgan's recommendation to appoint Stephan Bunker to this position, which nomination Mr. Bunker accepted after careful consideration. Mr. Davis suggested that the Selectmen postpone their vote until the November 12th meeting in order to accept the application of any who might be interested in this position. It was the general consensus of the Selectmen to table the appointment of an interim school board director until their next meeting on November 12th. Dennis Pike expressed his appreciation for Mr. Davis' research.
- B)** Joshua Bell asked for the status of the application of more gravel on the Webster Road, as previously discussed. Richard Davis stated that he has spoken with Public Works Director Denis Castonguay and the additional application of gravel is expected to be accomplished before the ground freezes. Mr. Bell also inquired as to whether any further ditching will be accomplished this year. Mr. Davis encouraged the Selectmen to let him know if there are any specific areas that need to be addressed and he will pass them on to Mr. Castonguay.
- C)** Recycling sub-committee member Stephan Bunker reported on a workshop on solid waste that he attended at this year's MMA Convention. He encouraged the Selectmen to invite an Association member to attend a future meeting to discuss this matter further. Richard Davis suggested reconvening the Town's Recycling Committee and at the very least, discuss adjusting the fees charged at the facility downward. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Bunker if he would consider chairing the Recycling Committee, and he accepted.
- D)** Joshua Bell asked for, and received from Richard Davis, clarification of the length of the Waste Management renewal agreement.
- E)** Dennis Pike expressed his appreciation to those in Administration and Public Works who were responsible for the installation of the guardrail in the back parking lot of the Municipal Building.

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)

- F)** Ryan Morgan reported on the benefit concert for Lac Megantic, which was held on October 19th and raised approximately \$3,020.00. Mr. Morgan recommended that the Relief Fund account at TDBank be left open for a few more weeks. Mr. Morgan also reported that the Fire Departments that traveled to Lac Megantic that day were honored at the benefit, with Farmington Fire Rescue Department receiving three plaques. Joshua Bell thanked Ryan Morgan and Senator Tom Saviello for their leadership with this benefit.
- G)** Richard Davis handed out Assessor Mark Caldwell's memo dated October 22, 2013 summarizing the recent revaluation. Mr. Caldwell was present and encouraged any Selectman who has questions to drop by his office.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Dennis Pike moved to adjourn at 8:02 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

Dennis C. Pike - Secretary