

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Matthew Smith, Scott Landry and Michael Fogg. Stephan Bunker was unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, 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 Hold a Public Hearing and vote on an Application for a New Liquor License for Creative Energy, LLC d/b/a The Farmington D----, located at 367 Wilton Road**

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 P.M.

There were no questions from the public.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public hearing under Item 2 at 6:32 P.M.

Rachel Jackson was present and answered the Selectmen's questions regarding menu, hours of operation, type of alcohol to be served, and the potential opening date of August 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Matthew Smith moved to approve an application for a new Liquor License for Creative Energy, LLC d/b/a The Farmington D----, located at 367 Wilton Road; Michael Fogg seconded.**

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

**ITEM 3: To Appoint Committee and Board Members**

Richard Davis reviewed the summary of renewal and new Board and Committee applicants provided by Town Secretary Linda Grant.

**Board of Appeals:**

Robert Yorks submitted a renewal application for one of the three 3-year term expirations on the Board of Appeals. No applications were submitted for the other two 3-year term expirations, or for the two alternate 1-year term vacancies.

**Board of Assessment Review:**

Michael Moffett submitted a renewal application for the one 3-year term expiration on the Board of Assessment Review.



**ITEM 4: To Cast a Ballot for the Election of Maine Municipal Association Legislative Policy Committee Members**

Richard Davis reviewed the ballot for three candidates, of whom the Selectmen are being asked to vote for two.

**Scott Landry nominated Richard Davis to serve on the Legislative Policy Committee; Michael Fogg seconded.**

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

**Michael Fogg nominated Dennis Keschl to serve on the Legislative Policy Committee; Matthew Smith seconded.**

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

The Selectmen signed the signature page and thanked Mr. Davis for his willingness to serve.

**ITEM 5: To Review Information related to the Proposed CMP Transmission Line (Senator Saviello)**

The Selectmen tabled Item 5 until Senator Saviello arrives.

**ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of June 12, 2018**

**Matthew Smith moved to table the minutes of June 12, 2018 as they were not yet available; Scott Landry seconded.**

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

**ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business**

A) Richard Davis reported that Walmart is appealing its property valuation. They are requesting an abatement of \$2,309,000 from the current value of \$12,309,000. The decrease in valuation would result in approximately \$40,000 in lost property taxes. Mr. Davis stated that the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) hearing on this appeal is scheduled for Monday, July 9, 2018 at 4:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building Conference Room. This appeal is what Walmart does on a routine basis, as it's their business model, and they go to every town where there's a Walmart. No information has been provided to clearly justify the appeal as yet. Mr. Davis stated that he will ask Assessor John O'Donnell to come to the Selectmen's July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss this appeal. In the meantime, he will familiarize himself with the process if the BAR denies the appeal.

**ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)**

- B)** Richard Davis reported that he received a letter from the Farmington Village Corporation today notifying the Town of their vote for a 25% rate increase effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that he has asked them to delay implementation of the Town's increase until January 1, 2019, at the very least, due to the Town's set budget. Mr. Davis pointed out that the estimated increase for just the fire hydrants is \$79,000. All municipal, business and residential water bills will be affected. The rate increase is due in large part to the new reservoir that they are building. The next Water Department Board of Assessors meeting is Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 6:00 P.M., and they will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 7:00 P.M., the reason for which is not apparent. Mr. Davis stated that he will email a copy of the letter to each of the Selectmen.
- C)** Richard Davis reported that the scheduled road work is progressing, as well as some road work on the Webster Road.
- D)** Matthew Smith reported on his observation of another flashing traffic sign on the sidewalk at the corner of High and South Street. Richard Davis stated that there are two more coming soon, if they're not already at the Public Works Department. He further stated that they are being provided by the MaineDOT at no cost to the Town. The two coming will be positioned farther up on High Street and on South Street.

**ITEM 5: To Review Information related to the Proposed CMP Transmission Line (Senator Saviello)**

The Selectmen returned to Item 5. Senator Saviello was present and reviewed his concerns with the proposed CMP transmission line. He handed out and reviewed a 2-page document, which he explained is a "working document", showing a comparison of benefits of the three Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire companies involved. The Senator stated that, due to his previous meeting with the Farmington and other Town Boards of Selectmen, CMP has taken an interest in information being shared and has sent a letter to Chairman Bell, a copy of which Richard Davis has shared with him. This has prompted him to propose one meeting of all Boards of Selectmen and Managers in Franklin County at 6:00 P.M. on July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Blue Campus, which CMP President Doug Herling and Avangrid project leader Thorn Dickinson will be attending. CMP will give a one-half hour presentation and then there will be an hour of questions and answers from attendees, some of whom he hopes will be Franklin County residents. Attorney Ron Aseltine has volunteered to moderate the meeting at no cost to any of the entities involved. The Senator explained his contact with Thorn Dickinson to date regarding how collaboration can be accomplished, including with Charlie Woodworth of the Greater Franklin Development Council relative to broadband. He further explained how uncomfortable he was feeling about his role in this negotiation and discussion process, so he has approached and received the support and authorization of the County Commissioners and Town of Wilton Selectmen to carry on this conversation on behalf of Franklin County. He will not be able to agree to anything, simply represent them, with

**ITEM 5: To Review Information related to the Proposed CMP Transmission Line (Senator Saviello) (Cont.)**

the assistance of Commissioner Terry Brann, or one of the other two if Commissioner Brann is not available. He has also been authorized tonight to carry on this conversation on behalf of the Town of Wilton Selectmen, and is now asking the Selectmen to also vote tonight to authorize him to represent the Town of Farmington. Discussion continued as to how beneficial this authorization will be for the Town. Resident Elaine Graham asked questions regarding the line distance of the Farmington section, and how many towers there will be within it. Senator Saviello referred Ms. Graham to the website of the Department of Environmental Protection for answers to her questions regarding the environmental aspects of the proposed line.

**Matthew Smith moved to authorize Senator Tom Saviello to represent the Town of Farmington in future discussions of this proposed project; Michael Fogg seconded.**

Senator Saviello invited one of the Selectmen to join him in any or all future discussions, for which Scott Landry volunteered his participation. The Selectmen thanked Senator Saviello for sharing his information with them.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 7:36 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.**

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

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Michael J. Fogg - Secretary