

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith, Scott Landry, and Michael Fogg. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Linda Grant, Sewer Superintendent Stephen Millett, Sewer Clerk Mavis Gensel, Police Detective Marc Bowering, 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 Approve the Proposed 2019 Sewer Department Budget and Establish the Sewer Use Rates**

Richard Davis thanked Superintendent Stephen Millett and Sewer Clerk Mavis Gensel for their hard work in compiling the 2019 budget in the amount of \$1,002,761. He stated that this budget is an increase over 2018 of 3.59%, or \$34,718, an amount that is easily explained and justified, and will have no impact on the sewer rates. Mr. Millett reviewed the proposed 2019 Sewer budget, explaining that the bulk of the increase is in the payroll and electricity line items. Discussion included: purchase of spare pumps and motors for timely replacement of breakdowns; replace vs. repair of the furnace in the control building; press and influent screenings that will need attention in the near future; use of a camera to identify sewer lines that may need to be repaired or replaced; completion of the ongoing GIS project; and the template that is being developed for the testing of sludge for spreading in light of recent contaminated sludge cases in southern Maine.

**Michael Fogg moved to approve the 2019 Sewer budget in the amount of \$1,002,761; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

**Michael Fogg moved to establish the 2019 sewer use rate of \$39.90 for a minimum of 500 cubic feet and \$7.98 per 100 cubic feet thereafter; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 3: To Determine the Method by which to pay the Unfunded Actuarial Liability of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS)**

Richard Davis reviewed documentation from Treasurer LucyAnn Cook, who was unable to attend this meeting due to illness, which explains the Town’s different options of how to handle the new MPERS 5% unfunded liability cost to offset costs when an employee retires in place. He reported that this cost will go into effect July 1, 2019. Mr. Davis noted that under the current Personnel Policy when an employee retires in place under

**ITEM 3: To Determine the Method by which to pay the Unfunded Actuarial Liability of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS) (Cont.)**

MPERS the Town will continue to contribute matching contributions up to 4% of their gross earnings to the ICMA 457 Plan. He stated that it is his and Treasurer LucyAnn Cook's recommendation, in order not to burden the taxpayers, to require the employee to pick up the entire 5% cost. Det. Marc Bowering, whom this new cost will affect this year, was present and explained his proposal of a 4% and 1% option. Mr. Davis further stated that he will have the Treasurer research the logistics of Det. Bowering's proposal. In response to Stephan Bunker's inquiry regarding how other Towns are handling this new cost, Mr. Davis stated that the trend he is seeing is toward protecting the taxpayers by having the employee cover either the entire cost or the larger portion. Mr. Bunker pointed out the benefits of retention of a highly qualified retired employee, upon which a dollar amount cannot be placed. He also pointed out that, due to his closeness to the situation as well as the personnel, he will be abstaining from the formal vote on this matter. The Selectmen discussed the options, as well as the new Maine Association of Police union requirement of stepping down from ones position in order to be re-hired.

**Matthew Smith moved to table Item 3 until the next meeting to allow time for the Treasurer to gather, and be present to explain, further information; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE                                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 4: To Authorize an Expenditure of \$165.58 from the Treasurer's Computer Reserve Account for Network Server Conversion Work**

Richard Davis explained that this Reserve account is no longer needed as computer costs are now taken from other accounts. He stated that authorization of this expenditure will deplete the funds in this account and it will be removed from the budget.

**Scott Landry moved to authorize an expenditure of \$165.58 from the Treasurer's Computer Reserve account for network service conversion work; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**VOTE                                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 5: To Consider Conveying the Town's Interest in Three (3) Parking Spaces on Front Street to the Owner of the Granary Building, Bjorn Realty Corp.**

Richard Davis reviewed a letter dated March 6, 2019 and map from Jennifer Bjorn and John Moore who have purchased and are re-developing the former Granary building. He stated that the Item's title should have read "To Consider a Request to Convey the Town's Interest...". Mr. Davis explained that the ownership of the three (3) parking spaces is split between the Town's right-of-way and the private property of Ms. Bjorn and Mr. Moore. He further explained that the Town's Attorney has stated that this request could be accomplished with a deed upon a favorable town vote, which could be accomplished at a Special Town Meeting. Jennifer Bjorn was present and explained their

**ITEM 5: To Consider Conveying the Town’s Interest in Three (3) Parking Spaces on Front Street to the Owner of the Granary Building, Bjorn Realty Corp. (Cont.)**

proposal to purchase the three parking spots for \$7,500. She stated that she would pay to have the deed work done. Mr. Davis stated that he has heard from two residents voicing opposition to this proposal. The question of precedent being set was discussed. John Moore was also present and contributed to the discussion.

**Scott Landry moved to place the proposal by Jennifer Bjorn and John Moore to purchase three (3) parking spaces on Front Street on the next Special Town Meeting Warrant; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 6: To Consider Waiving the bid Requirement and Accept a Proposal for Painting a Section of the Roof at the rear of the Municipal Building**

Richard Davis reviewed a quote from Aurora Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$7,500. He explained that the bid threshold is \$5,000, but since it took three years to find a contractor who does this type of work he is requesting that the bid process be waived. He further explained that Aurora Contracting has provided all of the required insurance information and a very responsible proposal, and appears to be a reputable company from what he has determined from their references. Also, they are a local company.

**Stephan Bunker moved to waive the bid requirement and accept a proposal of \$7,500 from Aurora Contracting, Inc. for painting a section of the roof at the rear of the Municipal Building; Scott Landry seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 7: To Approve an Expenditure of \$2,500 from the Franklin Printing T.I.F. Reserve Account to Renew the Town’s Membership in the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce for 2019**

Richard Davis stated that this has been the ongoing practice of funding this membership, and he is bringing this matter to the Selectmen because a letter of request for funding has been received from the Chamber of Commerce.

**Scott Landry moved to approve an expenditure of \$2,500 from the Franklin Printing T.I.F. Reserve account to renew the Town’s membership in the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce for 2019; Matthew Smith seconded.**

Richard Davis clarified for Michael Fogg why this request is different than other outside agency requests. Joshua Bell generated a brief discussion regarding how the Greater Franklin Development Council membership was funded in 2018, as well as the account status of the Reserve account.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 8: To Recognize the week of April 14, 2019 as Maine Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**

Richard Davis explained that State Representative Scott Landry has brought a proclamation from the Governor recognizing the important work that the telecommunicators do, the original of which is in the possession of Stephan Bunker.

**Matthew Smith moved to recognize the week of April 14, 2019 as Maine Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; Michael Fogg seconded.**

Stephan Bunker further explained that this is a national recognition and often is accompanied by a Presidential proclamation, depending on who is in office. The proclamation, facilitated by Representative Landry, will be presented, most likely by the Commissioner of Public Safety if the Governor herself is not able to attend, at the annual conference of the organization that represents dispatchers across the State at the end of this month. Mr. Bunker asked that an amendment be made to the motion and second to include that a letter of thanks on the Selectmen's behalf be sent to the Franklin County Communications Center by the Town Manager.

**Matthew Smith and Michael Fogg amended their motion and second to include that a letter of thanks on the Selectmen's behalf be sent to the Franklin County Communications Center by the Town Manager.**

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of March 26, 2019**

**Stephan Bunker moved to approve the minutes of March 26, 2019; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business**

- A) In response to Scott Landry's inquiry as to when Rte. 43 will be repaired, Richard Davis stated that he believes it is on this year's Maine Department of Transportation work plan.
- B) Richard Davis clarified for Michael Fogg that the bridge on the Russell's Mills Road is in Farmington but that it is owned by the Maine Department of Transportation, which is currently in the process of determining whether to rebuild the bridge.
- C) Joshua Bell pointed out an email of complaint that the Selectmen received from a Clover Mill Road resident, and asked when that road is scheduled for repair. Richard Davis stated that he had not received the email. Mr. Bell agreed to forward it to him. Mr. Davis stated that he believes the repair is scheduled for 2021. Mr. Bell generated a brief discussion regarding the possible coordination between the Town and Atlantic Salmon Federation for installation of two culverts on Clover Mill Road.

**ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)**

- D)** Stephan Bunker pointed out the discussion on revenue sharing is at the top of the Legislature's debate list. Richard Davis generated a brief discussion on the local sales tax proposal and the dramatic impact it would have in lowering the mill rate if Towns were given the option to tax themselves locally.

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

**VOTE                      AFFIRMATIVE      5                      MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

---

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary