

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
6:30 P.M.

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, and Matthew Smith. Michael Fogg and Scott Landry were unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Police Chief Jack Peck, 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 Amendments to the M.M.A. Model General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A - D and H

Richard Davis stated that this is an annual occurrence, and generally there are some small adjustments made to the maximums in each category. Mr. Davis distributed and reviewed the M.M.A. 2019 - 2020 General Assistance Maximums provided by General Assistance Administrator Leanne Dickey.

Chairman Joshua Bell opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:34 P.M.

Chairman Joshua Bell closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:34 P.M.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the amendments to the M.M.A. Model General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A - D and H; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(M. Fogg; S. Landry)

The Selectmen signed the signature page for the amended Ordinance.

ITEM 3: To Hear an Update from Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC)

Richard Davis stated that Town has been funding GFDC for the past few years through the Franklin Printing TIF, which allows us to fund marketing and economic development agencies. Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Council, gave his heartfelt thanks to the Town of Farmington for their support and provided an update. Mr. Woodworth stated that the modern economy is shifting, and you are able to live wherever you would like to and work remotely. Mr. Woodworth stated that the GFDC is working towards bringing high speed internet to the region, which would attract workers and young families into the community. Mr. Woodworth reported that he met with Congressman Jared Golden, who is working on a broadband bill, and discussed how slow internet speed is hindering local business growth, students pursuing higher education degrees, and Franklin Memorial Hospital's tremendous opportunity to offer telehealth care to isolated patients. Mr. Woodworth stated that the GFDC will continue to work towards bringing high speed internet to the region, and that

ITEM 3: To Hear an Update from Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Council (GFDC) - cont

all twenty-two (22) towns signed on to supporting the GFDC. Mr. Woodworth stated that the ball is moving very slowly, but there is progress, and there is engagement from away, and that he is very optimistic. Mr. Woodworth reported that the GFDC is working with the Western and Central Maine Workforce Development Board, which is the conduit for receiving federal dollars that get deployed out for regional workforce efforts. Mr. Woodworth stated that these funds allow the GFDC to work with the Department of Labor and area career centers. They also allow the Western Maine Community Action Center to have additional staff in Wilton. Mr. Woodworth reported that the final meeting for the Arts, Cultural, and Heritage Plan is November 6th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. at the North Church. They will give a review of the last year, and they will present future plans to members of the public.

ITEM 4: To Determine the Process for Selecting an Interim School Director

Richard Davis provided a resignation letter from Iris Silverstein, and an application from J. Wayne Kinney. Mr. Kinney was present and stated that he spoke with outgoing school director Iris Silverstein and a couple other school board members, and that he is ready to listen, learn and help where he can.

Stephan Bunker moved to accept the application of J. Wayne Kinney to serve as the interim school director; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(M. Fogg; S. Landry)

ITEM 5: To Accept Homeland Security Grant Funds in the amount of \$23,759.61 for a Use of Force Training Simulator and Byrne/JAG grant funds in the amount of \$2,558.00 for Additional Simulator Equipment

Richard Davis reviewed a memo from Police Chief Jack Peck dated October 16, 2019, which outlined the anticipated purchases and costs, which will be 100% grant funded. Police Chief Peck gave an overview of the simulator: This is a video simulator for use of force, which offers one-on-one training with up to 600 scenarios for the officer. Depending on how the officer responds, the trainer can change the scenario. The simulator can be used for Taser, firearms, officer presence and command training. Eventually, the site would be opened up to the public, and they could come in and try it, allowing them to experience what the officers see and train for. Joshua Bell asked if there would be any ongoing cost. Chief Peck stated that yes, 10% of the regular cost, an estimated \$2,300 per year for program licensing.

Stephan Bunker moved to Accept Homeland Security Grant Funds in the amount of \$23,759.61 for a Use of Force Training Simulator and Byrne/JAG grant funds in the amount of \$2,558.00 for Additional Simulator Equipment; Matthew Smith seconded

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(M. Fogg; S. Landry)

ITEM 6: To Approve an Expenditure of \$5,513.95 from the Police Building Reserve Account to Replace Fencing at the Police Department

Richard Davis reviewed a memo from Police Chief Jack Peck dated October 17, 2019 which provided the following three estimates for replacing the 8' cedar stockade fence, which is rotting: All Around Fence Company \$7,687.06; Allen Farm Fence Company \$7,215.30, and ADA Fence Company \$5,513.95. Chief Peck recommended that the Town hire ADA Fence Company. Chief Peck stated that the ADA Fence Company is the only company that is willing to dispose of the original fence.

Matthew Smith moved to approve the expenditure of \$5,513.95 from the Police Building Reserve Account to replace the fencing at the Police Department; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(M. Fogg; S. Landry)

ITEM 7: To Consider Expenditures of up to \$3,800 from the Center Meeting House Trust and up to \$400 from the Butterfield Trust for repairs to Cemetery Stones

Richard Davis reviewed an email from Albert Stehle dated October 18, 2019 which described the need for stone repairs on ten (10) gravestones that are broken and the need to reset the base and the headstone on many gravestones that are leaning heavily at the Court House Cemetery. Mr. Stehle's email also stated a need to repair three (3) stones at the Butterfield Cemetery. Mr. Davis stated that Mr. Stehle was highly recommended by Deborah Probert, Maine Old Cemetery and by the Town of Friendship for the quality of his work. They stated that Mr. Stehle takes great pride in his work, and he is very economical.

Joshua Bell asked if we foresee additional work in the future. Mr. Davis stated that if the Town is happy with the results at the Court House Cemetery and at Butterfield Cemetery, the Town could do additional repairs on the cemeteries that have trust funds. Joshua Bell stated that if successful, the Town could budget for additional work at other cemeteries.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve Expenditures of up to \$3,800 from the Center Meeting House Trust and up to \$400 from the Butterfield Trust for repairs to Cemetery Stones: Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(M. Fogg; S. Landry)

ITEM 13: To Discuss Other Business - cont

- D)** Joshua Bell asked in regards to the peninsula, do we have a permit to take sand for an extended amount of time. Richard Davis stated the Town is in its second year of a five year permit.
- E)** Joshua Bell read a letter from Julie Morin, Mayor of Ville De Lac-Megantic offering her condolences on the LEAP tragedy. Mayor Morin expressed her compassion to the community and the families during this difficult time.
- J)** Stephan Bunker stated that he was selected to be a presenter at a 911 conference in Halifax, and the topic that he chose was a review of the Lac-Megantic train rail fire disaster of July 6, 2013. Mr. Bunker stated that he is visiting Ville De Lac-Megantic and will meet with the Lac-Megantic public safety group and ask them about lessons learned.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Stephan Bunker moved to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED
(M. Fogg; S. Landry)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary