

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Michael Fogg, Matthew Smith, and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Sewer Superintendent Stephen Millett, Sewer Clerk Mavis Gensel, 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 Consider Requesting the County Commissioners Release funds that were Approved for so-called Program Grants

Richard Davis provided a copy of a letter from Western Maine Transportation Services (WMTS) dated February 4, 2020 stating that, due to the Franklin County Commissioners decision not to release funds approved by the budget committee, WMTS will have to eliminate or significantly reduce their services in Franklin County. Mr. Davis stated that he normally does not speak out on this type of issue, however, in this case, there is a difference between a philosophy of not wanting to fund and when a budget is approved, and agencies are relying on that money. Mr. Davis asked what action the Selectmen would like to take; send a letter to the Franklin County Commissioners asking why the funds were not being released or send a contingent of Selectmen to show up in person at the County Commissioners meeting and ask them to explain their action or lack of action. The Selectmen agreed with Mr. Davis and unanimously approved a letter to be sent on their behalf stating their collective opinion. The Selectmen agreed to attend the public meeting on February 18th at 9:00 A.M. at the courthouse to express their concerns.

Craig Zurhorst, Community Relations Director for Western Maine Transportation Services was present to answer the Selectmen's questions.

Stephan Bunker moved to send a letter expressing the Selectmen's renewed request to release funds that were approved for so-called program grants and to authorize one or more Selectmen to attend the Franklin County Commissioners meeting on February 18, 2020; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Zurhorst stated that he is humbled by the support WMTS is receiving from the community and agencies on this matter. He thanked everyone for their support.

ITEM 3: To Review and Approve the Proposed 2020 Sewer Department Budget and Establish the Sewer Use Rates

Richard Davis provided a copy of the 2020 Sewer Department budget. Sewer Superintendent Stephen Millett and Sewer Clerk Mavis Gensel were present to answer the Selectmen's questions.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the proposed amount of \$1,002,454 for the 2020 Sewer budget, which is a decrease from the 2019 budget of \$307, or -0.03%; Matthew Smith seconded

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Stephan Bunker moved to establish the 2020 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 4: To Review the Proposed Memorandum of Solar Easement and Solar Easement Agreement pertaining to the Leasing of the Landfill Site

Richard Davis provided a copy of the proposed Memorandum of Solar Easement Agreement between the Town of Farmington, and Boulevard Associates, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. Mr. Davis requested that the Selectmen take the documents home to review and mark them up with any questions they may have. Mr. Davis stated that this item will be on the Town Meeting warrant on March 30, 2020. The Memorandum of Solar Easement and Solar Easement Agreement were reviewed by the Town's attorney and by NextEra Energy's attorney, and they have signed off on the easement and agreement.

Mr. Davis stated that he has been working with NextEra Energy, and they needed to meet a deadline with Central Maine Power (CMP) for an interconnect agreement for this project. Mr. Davis explained that the only way NextEra Energy could meet the deadline was if he gave them authorization to act on behalf of the Town. Mr. Davis stated that he did authorize NextEra to act on behalf of the Town with the understanding that if, for any reason, the project is not approved on March 30, 2020 there is no further obligation on behalf of the Town.

ITEM 5: To Abate Property Taxes Totaling \$197.40 in Order to Correct an Error in Assessment Pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 841.1

Stephan Bunker moved, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 841.1, to abate property taxes in the amount of \$197.40 in order to correct an error in assessment; Matthew Smith seconded.

The Selectmen signed the abatements.

ITEM 6: To Approve a Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition

Richard Davis explained that this is an annual appointment for which he typically serves as the voting delegate representative, and the Chairman has served as the alternate. Mr. Davis stated that he is willing to continue serving as the delegate.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve a Resolution for Membership in the Maine Service Centers Coalition, and to appoint Richard Davis as voting delegate representative and Joshua Bell as alternate; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To Consider an Expenditure of \$404 from the Special Projects Account to Purchase an Advertisement in the 2020 Western Maine Edition of “Paper Talks” Magazine

Richard Davis reviewed a handout from Mike Dumont and Mark Pierce of the “Paper Talks” Magazine for Western Maine which will be released in August 2020. This year’s cover features Percival Baxter and A. Lynn Taylor of Eustis.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve an expenditure of \$404 for an advertisement in the 2020 Western Maine Special Edition of “Paper Talks” Magazine, with funding coming from the Projects account; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Consider the Application of Michael Guerrette to Serve on the Budget Committee

Richard Davis reviewed the application and recommended that, in order to keep the terms staggered, Mr. Guerrette be appointed to a term that expires in 2021.

Matthew Smith moved to approve the application of Michael Guerrette to serve on the Budget Committee; Stephan Bunker seconded.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Guerrette for his willingness to serve on the Budget Committee.

ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of January 28, 2020

Matthew Smith moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2020; Scott Landry seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

A. Richard Davis stated that Steve Kaiser is requesting the Board officially reappoint him to a three-year term as the Health Officer for the Town of Farmington.

Stephan Bunker moved to appoint Steve Kaiser to a three-year term as Health Officer for the Town of Farmington; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

B. Richard Davis provided a memorandum dated February 7, 2020 from himself to the Board of Selectmen. As requested, Mr. Davis arranged a meeting with the Fire Rescue Department personnel to review operations and hear about the department's future plans. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

C. Aiden Alojs Saulnier, a student at the University of Maine-Farmington, stated that the United States is in a recycling crisis since the beginning of 2018 when China passed a recycling ban, and approximately 85% of the refuse that the US was sending to China no longer has a home. Ms. Saulnier stated that Maine is trying aggressively to combat the issue and is currently discussing the Extended Producers Responsibility Bill (LD #2104). Ms. Saulnier presented a letter from the Natural Resource Committee of Maine requesting support for the bill and letters from UMF students expressing why recycling in the Town of Farmington needs to be improved. Richard Davis stated that he is on the Legislative Policy Committee of the Maine Municipal Association, and LD #2104 is one of the bills on which the committee is being asked to take a position. Mr. Davis stated that there are several surveys out now, and he suspects LD#2104 will be fully supported by the Legislative Policy Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Matthew Smith moved to adjourn at 7:11 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary