

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

The meeting was conducted through remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public was able to attend by viewing the livestream at <http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> and/or calling 778-5874.

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg and Scott Landry. Matthew Smith and Joshua Bell were unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Deputy Police Chief Shane Cote, and Mt. Blue TV camera operator Tom Martin were also physically in attendance.

**Votes were taken by roll call.**

**ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Vice Chairman Stephan Bunker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ITEM 2: To Approve the Following Police Department Items:**

- **Accept a \$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart to help with costs Associated with the K9 Program**
- **Approve an Expenditure of up to \$894 from the Downtown TIF Reserve Account to Replace two Non-functioning Cameras and add up to four more**
- **Accept an \$8,000 Homeland Security Grant from the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency to Purchase Additional Weapons for the VirTra® Use of Force Virtual Training System**

Richard Davis provided an email from Deputy Chief Shane Cote, who was present and explained the proposed use of these funds. The \$1,000 from Wal-Mart would be deposited into a new account to be used for K9 related expenses and donations. The funds will help offset the cost associated with the K9 program. K9 Hook has digestive issues and was prescribed specialty dog food, which is available at Wal-Mart. Deputy Chief Cote explained that two downtown cameras are no longer working and need to be replaced. Michael Fogg asked if the cameras were effective. Deputy Chief Cote stated that the cameras are very effective and reported that through video footage they were able to solve several disputed traffic accidents. A theft suspect was also positively identified. Deputy Chief Cote explained that an additional four cameras installed at various angles will allow for better coverage of the downtown area. Some area businesses have agreed to supply the internet and electricity for the cameras. Deputy Chief Cote stated that the purchase of additional weapons for the VirTra® Use of Force Virtual Training System would include an SIRT pistol and an adaptor for a Glock pistol, which is carried by many agencies in Franklin County. They would also purchase non-lethal training items such as a Taser® adapter and OC spray, which would provide the officers with more use of force options while training with the system.



**ITEM 5: To Approve six (6) Municipal Quitclaim Deeds**

Richard Davis stated that there were five (5) Municipal Quitclaim Deeds. Mr. Davis reviewed the five (5) deeds releasing any interest the Town might have on account of undischarged liens on the following properties: four deeds to Sharmilla Das-Wattley at 185 Temple Road and 199 Temple Road; and one deed to Knowlton Estates at 615 Knowlton Corner Road.

**Michael Fogg moved to approve the Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for the following properties: four deeds to Sharmilla Das-Wattley at 185 Temple Road and 199 Temple Road; and one deed to Knowlton Estates at 615 Knowlton Corner Road; Scott Landry seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote –Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(Smith, Bell)</b>		

The Selectmen signed the Quitclaim Deeds.

**ITEM 6: To Approve the Minutes of October 13, 2020**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the Minutes of October 13, 2020; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote –Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(Smith, Bell)</b>		

**ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business**

A. Richard Davis reported that after thirty-one years of service, Chief of Police Jack Peck will resign on November 12, 2020. Chief Peck has accepted the position of Assistant Director at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Mr. Davis stated he appointed Deputy Chief Shane Cote Interim Police Chief. Mr. Davis announced that he will appoint a Committee to search for the Town’s next Chief of Police. In addition to Matthew Smith, who volunteered to join the search committee, the committee will likely consist of an experienced law enforcement professional from outside of the area, two Farmington residents, and an experienced Police Chief. Deputy Chief Cote recommended inviting someone from Safe Voices, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Service, or Sheriff Nichols to join the search committee. Michael Fogg stated that, he too would like to be considered for the committee. Mr. Davis encouraged any interesting citizen to contact him at 207.778.6538 if they would like to serve on the search committee. Mr. Davis stated that the Chief of Police position will be advertised.

**ITEM 7: To Discuss Other Business – continued**

- B. Richard Davis announced that the new fire truck has arrived and invited the Selectmen to view the new apparatus after the meeting. He mentioned that the Pierce Company donated a silver bell in memoriam of Captain Michael Bell. The bell is attached to the front of the truck and is operable from inside the cab.
  
- C. Michael Fogg inquired about the speed limit warning signs. Mr. Fogg stated that the flashing signs appeared to be quite effective in slowing traffic down. On several occasions he has witnessed the vehicle in front of him hitting their brakes as they approached the flashing speed limit sign. It made the driver aware of just how fast they were traveling. Deputy Chief Cote stated that the Town owns two speed limit signs. One is retired because it is no longer in working order, and it costs more to repair it than the cost of a new sign. The sign on Perham Street was recently removed because they do not fare well in cold weather. The signs freeze and cease to work. The speed limit warning sign will be re-activated in the spring. Officer Brandon Sholan manages the sign from a laptop in his cruiser. Mr. Fogg stated that the speed limit warning sign does act as a deterrent and suggested that the Police Department investigate obtaining grant funds to purchase a second sign.
  
- D. Scott Landry stated that Perham Street looks very nice. Richard Davis agreed that the reconstruction project went well, and the street and sidewalks look nice. Mr. Davis stated that he had one resident express concern with speed. In response to the concern Mr. Davis had white fog lines added to the road to define the travel lanes and slow traffic.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:08 P.M.; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote –Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(Smith, Bell)</b>		

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

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Michael J. Fogg - Secretary