

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
6:30 P.M.

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.

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg and Scott Landry. Stephan Bunker and Joshua Bell were unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Mt. Blue TV camera operator Abbie Cramer, and members of the press and public were also present.

Votes were taken by roll call.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Matthew Smith led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Confirm the Appointment of Kenneth A. Charles as Chief of Police

Richard Davis introduced Kenneth A. Charles. Mr. Charles was present and thanked the search committee, Mr. Davis, and the Selectmen for the opportunity to serve as Chief of Police. Mr. Charles stated that he has a lot of pride in the law enforcement community that we have serving in our area. He acknowledged that Deputy Police Chief Shane Cote and the Farmington Police Department have done an outstanding job during a time with a lot of social strife, the pandemic, and staffing shortages. Mr. Charles and Matthew Smith thanked Deputy Police Chief Cote for stepping in as interim chief the past several months. Mr. Charles reported that as Police Chief he will focus on recruiting the absolute best officers and work to increase officer retention. Mr. Davis and the Board welcomed Mr. Charles and wished him much success.

Matthew Smith moved to confirm the appointment of Kenneth A. Charles as Chief of Police; Michael Fogg seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT	2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bell, Bunker)		

ITEM 3: To Consider a Request to Include a Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution on the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Richard Davis provided copies of the proposed Warrant Article, Maine Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution, and a summary of the H.R. 763 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 from Congress.Gov. The bill, if enacted, would place a carbon fee on coal, oil, and natural gas as such energy sources enter the U.S. economy. The rate starts at

ITEM 3: To Consider a Request to Include a Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution on the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (continued)

\$15.00 per ton of CO₂ in 2019 and increases by \$10 every year until Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are reduced by ninety percent. If emission cuts do not meet mandatory targets, the annual increase can be raised to \$15. The fees must be deposited into a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund and used for administrative expenses and dividends to U.S. Citizens or lawful residents. Sherry Jencks, a forty-five-year resident of Farmington and University of Maine Professor of Geology Doug Reusch addressed the Board in support of the Resolution. There are currently ten different carbon-pricing bills set to come before Congress, and it is a pretty sure thing that some form of carbon-pricing legislation will be adopted. The cash back carbon-pricing bill is the only bill that distributes the fees collected, less 8% administration costs, to all U.S. citizens in the form of monthly dividends. Other bills being proposed would designate the funds collected for things like infrastructure, job training and renewable energy investments. Ms. Jencks stated that the carbon cashback legislation is supported by economists, scientists, and recently by the national Chamber of Commerce. Professor Reusch and Ms. Jencks stressed that the Board is not being asked to support carbon-pricing; they are being asked to allow the citizens of Farmington to have an opportunity to express their support for this legislation through a collective voice. Michael Fogg stated that \$1.5 trillion collected over ten years and divided by 328 million people equals \$450 per person. Mr. Fogg stated it makes more sense to him to divide the \$1.5 trillion by fifty States and give each state \$47 billion dollars. The \$47 billion could be used for infrastructure. Professor Reusch stated that he likes the way Mr. Fogg thinks. As a scientist, it is his goal to get people involved and thinking about climate change.

Scott Landry moved to approve the request to include a Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution on the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Michael Fogg seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: No, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	2	OPPOSED	1	ABSENT	2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Fogg)		(Bell, Bunker)		

ITEM 4: To Consider the Application of David Ballard to Serve a one-year Term as an Alternate Member on the Zoning Board

Richard Davis reviewed the application. David Ballard is a UMF Student and a Student Representative to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. Mr. Davis also reported that Mr. Ballard currently serves as a volunteer fire fighter for the Town of Farmington.

Scott Landry moved to approve application of David Ballard to Serve a one-year Term as an Alternate member on the Zoning Board; Michael Fogg seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT	2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bell, Bunker)		

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Ballard for serving on the Zoning Board.

ITEM 5: To Approve the Minutes of February 4, 2021

Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021; Matthew Smith seconded.

Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT	2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bell, Bunker)		

ITEM 6: To Discuss Other Business

A.) Scott Landry stated that the employees are doing a very good job managing the Recycling Center and they have some good ideas. Mr. Landry recommended that Richard Davis invite the Recycling Center employees to a Board of Selectmen’s meeting. Mr. Davis reported that he has received a lot of positive comments regarding the improvements at the Recycling Center.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:10 P.M.; Michael Fogg seconded.**

Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT	2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bell, Bunker)		

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary