

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Tuesday, February 23, 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: Stephan Bunker, Michael Fogg, Joshua Bell, and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Police Chief Kenneth Charles, Patrol Officer Christoph Mutschin, and Mt. Blue TV camera operator Abbie Cramer were also present. Member of the press participated remotely as authorized by PL 209, c.617.

**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: Introduction of New Patrol Officer Christoph Mutschin and Update on Personnel Changes in the Police Department**

Police Chief Kenneth Charles reported that Sergeant Michael Lyman resigned last week. Sergeant Lyman accepted a position with the Somerset County Sheriff's Department. Chief Charles stated that we are sad to see Officer Lyman go. He has been with the department for seven years and, as a supervisor, he provided mentorship to other officers. Chief Charles stated that he posted the Sergeant's position in-house, offering the opportunity for a promotion. If the position is not filled in-house, it will be posted outside. Currently the Police Department has three vacant positions: patrolman, sergeant, and detective. Chief Charles stated that he has had some informal conversations with Maine Criminal Justice Academy graduates and is hopeful the Town can fill the positions quickly. Chief Charles introduced new Patrol Officer Christoph Mutschin. Officer Mutschin, who was born in Germany, moved to the United States at the age of six and holds dual citizenship. Officer Mutschin graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in History and a minor in Security Studies and German. Richard Davis and the Selectmen welcomed Officer Mutschin. Matthew Smith thanked Sergeant Lyman for his years of service. Sergeant Lyman served this community well, and he will be missed.

**ITEM 3: To Approve a new Commercial Waste Collectors/Haulers License for Gregory's Disposal, Inc.**

Richard Davis provided a copy of Gregory's Disposal, Inc.'s application. Joshua Bell inquired about the length of the recycling contract with Archie's. Mr. Davis stated that Archie's has completed one year of their three-year contract. Mr. Bell generated a discussion on potential for putting the Recycling contract out for bid.

**ITEM 3: To Approve a new Commercial Waste Collectors/Haulers License for Gregory’s Disposal, Inc. (continued)**

**Scott Landry moved to Approve a new Commercial Waste Collectors/Haulers License for Gregory’s Disposal, Inc.; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

As authorized by a vote of the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager Richard Davis signed the Commercial Waste Collectors/Haulers License.

**ITEM 4: To Approve Amendments to the Town of Farmington Purchasing Policy**

Richard Davis reviewed the draft policy which states that purchases of goods or services in excess of \$10,000 be put out for bid. All budgeted purchases in the amount of \$10,000 or greater must be approved by the Board of Selectmen. At least three quotes shall be obtained for purchases or services costing more than \$5,000 but less than \$10,000.

**Joshua Bell moved to approve the amendments to the Town of Farmington Purchasing Policy as presented; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 5: To Discuss the Possible Installation of Decorative Streetlighting on High Street**

Richard Davis provided a copy of the preliminary project cost estimate from Dirigo Engineering for the High Street Lighting Project. The proposed project includes the installation of 14 decorative lights and a control panel in the TIF District at an estimated cost of \$93,100 and the installation of 15 decorative lights at an estimated cost of \$91,770 in the non-TIF area of High Street. The total estimate for the project is \$184,870. The total estimate includes supply of materials and construction. Engineering is not included. Mr. Davis stated that, initially, the University of Maine Farmington considered offering its financial support for the Non-TIF portion of the project. However, once UMF received the \$93,000 estimate they withdrew their support. Mr. Davis stated that he is meeting with the Downtown TIF Advisory Committee on Wednesday, March 10th to discuss lighting in the Downtown TIF area, which extends from Broadway to Academy Street/Middle Street. Mr. Davis reported that there is approximately \$49,000 in the Downtown TIF Account. When it comes time for the tax commitment this year, the Selectmen would need to appropriate at least an additional \$50,000 into the Reserve Account. The streetlight installation would be done at the same time as the Phase I High Street rehab project that is scheduled for this summer. The project includes new sidewalks with granite curbing and repaving from Broadway to South Street. A lengthy discussion ensued, including foot traffic, reducing the number of lights installed between Broadway and Academy Street, light pollution, light color, color temperature, and getting input from the High Street residents. No action was taken.

**ITEM 6: To Accept a Donation of \$4,700 from the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to the Parks and Recreation Department**

Richard Davis reported that the Parks and Recreation Department was the beneficiary of the 2020 Seth Wescott/Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Golf Classic. The Sugarloaf Golf Club hosts the tournament each year. The funds will be used for improvements to the Dragon's Nest Skateboard Park.

**Michael Fogg moved to accept a donation of \$4,700 from the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to the Parks and Recreation Department; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 7: To Execute a Municipal Quitclaim Deed**

Richard Davis reviewed the Municipal Quitclaim Deed releasing any interest the Town might have on account of undischarged liens on the following real estate: Steven Roderick at 182 Music Road/R17-014-D and R14-014-D-2.

**Joshua Bell moved to approve the Municipal Quitclaim Deed for Steven Roderick at 182 Music Road/R17-014-D and R14-014-D-2; Scott Landry seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

The selectmen signed the Quitclaim Deed.

**ITEM 8: To Discuss the Town Manager's Retirement**

Richard Davis announced that he will retire on Friday, August 27, 2021, his twentieth anniversary as Town Manager. Mr. Davis stated that he has very mixed emotions about retiring. The Town has been very good to him and he has enjoyed his time here. He stated that it is a bit too early to begin the search for a new Town Manager and recommended the Board begin the search in May. Mr. Davis suggested hiring an organization like Maine Municipal Association or Eaton Peabody to assist with the search. The estimated the cost for hiring a firm to help with the process would range from \$6,000 to \$8,000. Advertising would cost an additional \$1,000. Mr. Davis thanked the Selectmen for their support over the years and said it has been a great place to work. The Selectmen wished Mr. Davis good luck and thanked him for his years of service.

**ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of February 9, 2021**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE      5                    MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business**

- A.** Stephan Bunker thanks Steve Kaiser for supplying a list of distress structures. Mr. Bunker asked if the Planning Board approved the New England Clean Energy Connect ( N.E.C.E.C) Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law. Mr. Davis stated that the Planning Board did approve the N.E.C.E.C document at its February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- B.** Joshua Bell asked if anyone planned to attend the NextEra luncheons this week. Richard Davis stated that he did not know if anyone RSVP'd and stated that he would resend the NextEra invitation to the Selectmen. Stephan Bunker stated that there was a change in leadership, and it would be interesting to meet and hear what their visions are.
- C.** Joshua Bell asked if property along the CMP Corridor would be reclassified, since it is no longer farm land. Richard Davis stated that Tax Assessor John O'Donnell is working with NextEra to determine any withdrawal penalties for any properties that being taken out of Tree Growth. Mr. O'Donnell will reclassify the properties involved.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Joshua Bell moved to adjourn at 7:14 P.M.; Scott Landry seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE      5                    MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

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Michael J. Fogg - Secretary