

## FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

6:30 P.M.

**The conduct of the meeting will include remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public may attend in person or 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 778-6538**

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 Christian Waller, Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, Treasurer LucyAnn Cook, and Mt. Blue T.V. Executive Director Andre Cormier. Tri-County Mental Health Services Chief Development Officer Jamie Owens, Public Works Director Phil Hutchins, members of the press and public participated remotely as authorized by PL 209. C.617.

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

**ITEM 2: To allow Tri-County Mental Health Services (TCMHS) Chief Development Officer Jamie Owens to address the Board regarding allocating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.**

Jamie Owens, who participated remotely, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. TCMHS, which originated in Androscoggin County in 1951, opened in Farmington in 1972. TCMHS's Farmington office is located at 144 High Street and employs nine (9) full-time staff. Six (6) are direct service employees. They are the first federally funded community health center in Maine and the second nationally. TCMHS provides services for hundreds of Farmington clients each year, with over 2,500 clients served last year in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, and Oxford Counties. Farmington services include Behavioral Health Home case management, mental health and substance misuse counseling, and Opioid Health Home Services. The COVID-19 pandemic from 2019 -2021 impacted Farmington TCMHS in the following ways: forty-two percent decrease in residences seeking services; 100% increase in uninsured/under-insured clients; waitlist increased by thirty percent; the unit cost is up; and revenues decreased by 27% from \$609,000 to \$445,000. Reimbursement is stagnant from all payer sources (private insurance, MaineCare, Medicare, and federal, state, and private grants). Fundraising has suffered, donations are down, and all events have been canceled with uncertainty for future events. P.P.P. loans were used to cover wages and benefits. The financial gap between revenue and expense has increased. In March 2020, TCMHS closed their office to face-to-face visits, and they transitioned to telehealth; this increased the negative revenue to expense gap. Currently, TCMHS provides a mix of telehealth with face-to-face services.

Clients served are down, and their need is up, as evidenced by the waitlist and increased substance misuse and suicide. Opioid overdoses are on pace to exceed 9,000 overdoses and 600 deaths in Maine. Youth suicide is the leading cause of death for female teens. TCMHS currently has four (4) open positions that they are struggling to fill due to the labor shortage: therapist, nurse care manager, behavioral health home coordinator, and a peer support specialist. Ms. Owens asked the Board to allocate \$50,000 of the Town's ARPA funds to TCMHS. The funds would help them cover the gap in operating expenses. Provide a means to pay sign-on bonuses to help recruit direct service staff. And support the unfunded service needs of the uninsured/under-insured individuals who seek services at the Farmington office. Ms. Owens answered the Selectmen's questions. The Selectmen thanked Ms. Owen's for her presentation and stated that when they allocate the ARPA funds, TCMHS's request will be considered. The Selectmen expressed their gratitude for the services TCMHS offers citizens of Farmington.



**ITEM 5: To Consider the Application of Michael MacNeil to Serve a one-year term as an Alternate Member on the Zoning Board**

Christian Waller reviewed Michael MacNeil's application to serve as an alternate member on the Zoning Board. Mr. MacNeil currently serves on the Budget Committee and the Planning Board.

**Scott Landry moved to appoint Michael MacNeil as an Alternate member on the Zoning Board; Michael Fogg seconded.**

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

**ITEM 6: To Approve a Corrective Cemetery lot Conveyance**

Christian Waller reviewed the following Corrective Cemetery lot Conveyance: Allison Watson, four (4) graves in Fairview Cemetery.

**Scott Landry moved to approve a Corrective Cemetery lot Conveyance to Allison Watson for four (4) graves in Fairview Cemetery; Michael Fogg seconded.**

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

The Selectmen signed the Corrective Cemetery lot Conveyance.

**ITEM 7: To Approve the Minutes of November 3, 2021**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the Minutes of November 3, 2021; Matthew Smith seconded.**

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

**ITEM 8: To Discuss Other Business**

A) Christian Waller proposed a mandate for wearing masks in the Municipal Building in accordance with Maine C.D.C. guidelines. Masks protect the individual as well as those around them from the spread of COVID-19. Matthew Smith reminded the Selectmen that the Town had mandated masks once before. Mr. Smith stated that with a new town manager, the Board should mandate the wearing of masks.

**Matthew Smith moved to approve a mandate for wearing masks in the Municipal Building; Michael Fogg seconded.**

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

B) Christian Waller stated that he is looking forward to discussing ARPA funding at the December 14 Board meeting, and he will be conducting additional research regarding the use of ARPA funds. The ARPA discussion will be the focus at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ITEM 8: To Discuss Other Business (continued)**

- C) Matthew Smith reported that in honor of Veterans' Day, Christian Waller and Scott Landry would speak at 10:40 A.M. Followed by the American Legion laying a wreath at the WWI Memorial at 11:00 A.M. The group will then proceed to Meetinghouse Park where Senator Black and Governor Mills will speak, and a wreath will be placed. Mr. Smith encouraged all veterans to attend the free luncheon in their honor at the American Legion.
- D) Stephan Bunker messaged Matthew Smith via Facebook Live and requested that the public forward suggestions and ideas regarding the expenditure of ARPA funds to the Selectmen. They welcome all recommendations from the public.

**ITEM 9: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to discuss personnel matters related to salary and recruiting for Town positions.**

**Scott Landry moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6. E to discuss personnel matters related to salary and recruiting for Town positions at 7:37 P.M.; Michael Fogg seconded.**

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

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 8:26 P.M.

No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 8:26 P.M.; Michael Fogg seconded.**

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

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Michael J. Fogg - Secretary