

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

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 live stream at <http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> or by calling 778-5874

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker and Scott Landry. Byron Staples was unable to attend. Town Manager Christian Waller, Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, WWTP Superintendent Stephen Millett, Interim Fire Chief Timothy D. Hardy, Deputy Chief Timothy A. Hardy, Deputy Chief Clyde Ross, Lt. Jonathan Alexander, Fire Fighter David Ballard, Parks & Recreation Director Matthew Foster, E.X.P. Realtor Debbie Joseph, MBTV Camera Operator Lilli Clark, and members of the press and public were also present. Members of the media and public participated remotely.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Joshua Bell joined the meeting at 6:37 P.M.

ITEM 2: To consider increasing the septage receiving rate from \$85 per 1,000 gallons of septage to \$175 per 1,000 gallons of septage

WWTP Superintendent Stephen Millett reviewed a memo dated July 8, 2022, from himself to the Town Manager and Board proposing a septage receiving rate increase from \$85 per 1,000-gallons of septage disposal rate up to \$175. This rate applies to local septage haulers and would not affect the residential sewer rate. The rate increase will defray current and future costs of testing and disposal.

Superintendent Millett explained that due to the recent passage of LD 1911, which lays out the State regulations for treatment facilities and how they dispose of biosolids (sludge) they generate during the treatment process, biosolids from Maine treatment facilities can no longer be turned into compost and spread on fields/land. As a result of this decision, Casella Waste Systems can no longer manufacture compost to be sold as a soil supplement. This has resulted in a \$39.75 per wet ton disposal fee added to the \$10.00 per wet ton fee assessed for PFAS research added by the passage of LD 1911. The Town of Farmington now pays \$159.75 per wet ton for the disposal of biosolids. This charge is being extended to all industrial and municipal facilities in Maine. As a result, many facilities have increased the fee they were charging per 1,000 gallons of septage disposal. Superintendent Millett answered the Board's questions.

Stephan Bunker moved to approve consider increasing the septage receiving rate from \$85 per 1,000 gallons of septage to \$175 per 1,000 gallons of septage; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Staples)

ITEM 3: Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kaiser to present a brief 2021 Year-End Review

CEO Steve Kaiser was unable to attend; item 3 was tabled.

ITEM 4: To consider beginning the process of bidding out the replacement of FRD Engine 2, the 1995 E-One Engine

Interim Fire Chief T.D. Hardy reviewed a memo dated July 7, 2022, to the Town Manager and the Board. He requested the Board’s approval to begin bidding out the replacement of Engine 2, the 1995 E-One Engine. As part of the process, he will finalize the specifications and forward them to the vendors. The Town will also need to determine options for financing this purchase. The truck’s cost is estimated to be around \$850,000. The price was affected by multiple price increases by manufacturers this year. One manufacturer had a 7% increase in January, followed by another 7% increase in May, with additional increases anticipated in the fall. Once the truck is ordered, delivery will take 16 to 18 months. Interim Chief Hardy reported that the Town submitted the application for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant again this year to assist with funding this purchase. He is working to determine the status of the grant. Interim Chief Hardy answered the Board’s questions.

Scott Landry moved to approve beginning the process of bidding out the replacement of FRD Engine 2, the 1995 E-One Engine; Matthew Smith seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Staples)**

ITEM 5: To appoint Board and Committee Members

The Board reviewed the following list of applicants: **Board of Appeals**, John B. Clark (new) and Galen Dalrymple (renewal); **Board of Assessment Review**, Dennis O’Neil (renew) and Michael Otley (renew); **Budget Committee**, Ed David (renew), Betty Jespersen (renew), Wayne Kinney (renew), and Clyde Ross (renew); **Conservation Commission**, Patty Cormier (renew), Peter Tracy (renew), and Jane Woodman (renew), Tom Bissell (new associate), John B. Clark (renew associate), Alexandra Makris (renew associate), James Shaffer (renew associate), and Matthew Smith (renew associate); **Planning Board**, Gloria McGraw (renew), Michael Otley (renew), and Michael McNeil (renew); **Recreation Committee**, Tom Bissell (renew); **Zoning Board**, Terry Bell (new), David Ballard (renew alternate).

Stephan Bunker moved to approve the Committee and Board Members and Alternates applications; Scott Landry seconded.

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Staples)**

ITEM 6: To consider the purchase option of property adjacent to Walton’s Mill Pond Park

Town Manager Christian Waller provided a copy of the tax map for U30, Lot 027. a parcel of land adjacent to Walton’s Mill Dam Music Park. The Town was approached to see if there was any interest in purchasing the property as an extension to the park. Mr. Waller stated that buying the .34-acre property would expand the park and reduce abutter issues. E.T.X. Realtor Debbie Joseph provided the Board with market comps. She said with the park construction underway, the property would be difficult to sell, and the driveway needs to be revamped. Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster reported that park renovation plans include grading and repaving half the driveway. The driveway work and parking lot are scheduled for October. He said that area is growing, and owning U30, Lot 27 would benefit in the long term. The Town could use the property for additional parking, which would help that community in the future. A brief discussion was held. Joshua Bell recommended the Board enter Executive Session at the end of tonight’s meeting. A consensus was reached; the Board agreed to enter Executive Session under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

ITEM 7: To approve the Minutes of June 14, 2022

Scott Landry moved to approve the Minutes of June 14, 2022; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Staples)

ITEM 8: To approve the Minutes of June 28, 2022

Scott Landry moved to approve the Minutes of June 28, 2022; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Staples)

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business

A.) Christian Waller reported that the Town was approached regarding the possible acquisition of the 22-acre lot adjacent to the Public Works facility, which is currently on a 16-acre site. Mr. Waller stated that Public Works Director Phil Hutchins has said that in terms of parking, machinery, and public access to salt, sand, aggregates, and storage, the additional 22 acres would be a useful addition both now and in the future. Christian Waller stated that the Conservation Commission is meeting with the landowner of the 31-acre parcel adjacent to the 22-acre lot that abuts Public Works. It contains Cascade Falls, which he believes the Board has looked at in the past. The landowner approached the Town to see if there was an interest in purchasing the property for conservation purposes. Mr. Waller said he visited the property, which is a unique spot, and the falls would be very impressive in the spring. He wanted to make the Board aware of both properties. Joshua Bell asked the possible acquisition of the properties be discussed further in the future, and Phil Hutchins attend.

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business (continued)

B.) Christian Waller discussed the passage of LD 290, a bill that stabilizes property taxes for individuals 65 or older who owned a homestead for at least ten years. He stated it is an annual application process that needs to be done through the municipality, and the State of Maine will reimburse the municipality. He is still looking into how the State will be reimbursing the Town.

C.) Joshua Bell said he was asked about additional handicap parking near Dick's Barbershop on Broadway a while ago. The sidewalk in that area is relatively high, and most of the handicap spots are on the outer end of Broadway. Christian Waller agreed to speak with Phil Hutchins regarding this request.

ITEM 10: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6. A to conduct the Town Manager's annual performance evaluation

Item 10 was tabled.

ITEM 11: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6. C to discuss the acquisition of real estate property.

Joshua Bell moved to go into Executive Session at 7:07 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Staples)

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 7:52 P.M.
No action was taken

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:55 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Staples)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Byron Staples – Secretary