

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

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 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, Joshua Bell, and Byron Staples. Scott Landry was unable to attend. Town Manager Christian Waller, Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, Fire Chief Timothy D. Hardy, Deputy Chief Timothy A. Hardy, Captain Terry Bell, Deputy Chief Clyde Ross, Lt. Jon Alexander, Parks & Recreation Director Matthew Foster, MTBTV 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

ITEM 2: Town Manager Christian Waller to provide an update on the search for the new Fire Chief

After a nationwide search, receiving over twenty applications, Town Manager Christian H. Waller announced that he, along with the Farmington Fire Chief Advisory Hiring Committee, unanimously selected Timothy D. Hardy as the next Fire Chief of Farmington. While there were several well-qualified candidates, Chief Hardy's community knowledge, technical capacity, and leadership made him the clear choice for chief. Chief Hardy has worked for the Farmington Fire Department for 25 years. He is a 1997 graduate of Mt. Blue High School. He holds the following certifications: Certified Firefighter 1 and 2 (Maine State Fire Academy), Fire Officer 1 and 2 (Maine Fire Service Institute), Fire Instructor (Maine Fire Institute), Licensed Emergency Medical Technician (Maine EMS), Fire Inspector 1 (National Fire Protection Association), and Rescue Systems 1 (New Hampshire Fire Academy). Interim Chief Hardy currently serves as the Training Coordinator for the Franklin County Firemen's Association. Chief Hardy has served as Firefighter, Senior Fire Instructor, Captain, Fire Chief (Livermore Falls), and Emergency Medical Technician (Northstar EMS). He has served as Interim Fire Chief in Farmington for the past eight months.

Fire Chief Timothy D. Hardy confirmed he looks forward to working with everyone and serving the Town. He will build on the long-standing tradition of service that the Farmington Fire Department has. Chief Hardy stated his door is always open, and his phone is always on. Feel free to give him a call if you need to talk. Fire Chief Hardy said he truly appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to serving his hometown.

Matthew Smith thanked Chief Hardy for his patience and diligence throughout the hiring Process, and stated he hopes Chief Hardy's tenure as Farmington's Fire Chief is long.

Stephan Bunker moved to confirm Timothy D. Hardy as Fire Chief; Joshua Bell

ITEM 2: Town Manager Christian Waller to provide an update on the search for the new Fire Chief (continued)

seconded.

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

ITEM 3: To allow Nancy Porter to address the Board regarding the Walton’s Mill Pond Park project

Resident Nancy Porter addressed the Board regarding the plans for Walton’s Mill Pond project. Ms. Porter expressed concerns regarding the location of four parking spaces at the park; she mentioned motorists going off the road and into the woods at that location. Ms. Porter expressed her concern with vehicles being able to see oncoming traffic when exiting the parking lot. The Board and Police Chief Charles discussed Ms. Porter’s concerns.

Ms. Porter questioned the width of the stone path and stated that caterers would have to carry their food to the pavilion and what would happen if they did not carry out their refuse. Would the Recreation Department be responsible for cleaning the park? And who cleans the outhouse? Parks and Recreation Director Matt Foster reported there would be ample room for the caterers to enter the park, and the Parks and Recreation will maintain the outhouse.

Ms. Porter asked if a noise ordinance was implemented for Walton’s Mill Pond Park. She reported that there had been some rowdy parties in the park, and the noise continued after the park had closed. She expressed her concern about drug dealers using the park. The Board reported the Town has a “Nuisance Ordinance” that applies to all parks. Matt Foster stated that in his 11.5 years as Director of Parks and Recreation, he has only received one noise complaint for Hippach Field.

Ms. Porter asked the Board if they have given any thought to changes in the land value of the property owners who abut the pond. She provided a list of abutters and a map. She believes some folks will gain a lot of lands; will they receive updated deeds? Joshua Bell stated the center of Temple Stream (the thread of the stream) is exactly where it always has been. If the deeds read “to the center of the stream, “ no changes are needed.

Ms. Porter proclaimed the Town needs to build sidewalks on Route 43/Temple Road because it is not safe to walk along. Ms. Porter suggested that the speed limit be reduced to 25 MPH on the stretch of road between the bottom of Clay Hill and the dip in the road just across from the bog before Joshua Bell’s house. She also requested that the stretch of the road be monitored for speeders. Joshua Bell stated he has no issues with the speed limit being slower.

Ms. Porter asked if there would be canoe or kayak access. Director Foster stated above the dam, where the ledges are, has a spot to put in a canoe. He believes there will be

ITEM 3: To allow Nancy Porter to address the Board regarding the Walton's Mill Pond Park project

water access at that location. However, he does not know how much canoeing people will be able to do once the pond is gone. Joshua Bell stated there would be access, but whether people will utilize it or not is a different story.

Ms. Porter expressed concern with a large section of sumac located just beyond the historic lookout. She asked if the sumac would take over the dam area. Foster stated the sumac had been there for a long time. Joshua Bell noted that the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) is doing some work with invasive species. Director Foster reported they are planting some native species. Christian Waller stated the Parks and Recreation Department would maintain the park.

Ms. Porter asked if the Town would be charging for the use of the park. The consensus was there would not be a charge; it would be treated like Meetinghouse Park. Residents currently reserve Meetinghouse Park in advance at no expense.

Ms. Porter demanded that the Atlantic Salmon Federation put up a sign crediting the Town's history. She requested a 4' X 4' sign be hung in the park. Director Foster reported that the Historical Society had been part of the park renovation process since the beginning. They've been working on pulling together the historical information; two permanent signs will be posted in the park. Director Foster encouraged Ms. Porter to review the proposed signage in advance.

ITEM 4: To approve the Minutes of July 12, 2022

Joshua Bell moved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2022; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED
(Landry)

ITEM 5: To discuss Other Business

A. Joshua Bell asked if PWD Director Phil Hutchins had added a handicap-accessible parking space on Broadway. Town Manager Christian Waller stated that he has not; it is on his list of things to do.

B. Joshua Bell inquired about lighting on High Street and potential light pollution. He asked if the new lights had been purchased yet, and Mr. Waller confirmed they had been. Mr. Bell noted that other towns had purchased lights with a canopy that deflects the lighting downwards. Perhaps we could consider using canopy lights in the future.

C. Matthew Smith asked if the Town had investigated eliminating some streetlights (CMP lights versus the new decorative lighting). Mr. Waller said he would check into this.

ITEM 6: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6. (C) to discuss proposed acquisition(s) of real estate properties

Joshua Bell moved to go into Executive Session at 7:04 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

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

Joshua Bell moved to extend an offer of \$25,000 to purchase U30, Lot 027, a parcel of land adjacent to Walton’s Mill Pond Park; Byron Staples seconded.

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

Stephan Bunker moved to extend an offer of \$44,000 to purchase U07-002, a 22-acre parcel of land adjacent to Public Works; Byron Staples seconded.

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

ITEM 7: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6. A to conduct the Town Manager’s annual performance evaluation

The Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 9:01 P.M

No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Joshua Bell moved to adjourn at 9:01 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Byron Staples - Secretary