

FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

The conduct of the meeting will include remote access by telephone, video, and electronic means. The public may attend in person or by viewing the live stream at <http://mtblueteve.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> or by calling 207-578-7395

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, Scott Landry, and Byron Staples. Town Manager Christian Waller, Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, WWTP Superintendent Steve Millett, WWTP/MV Clerk Mavis Gensel, Fire Chief TD Hardy, Police Chief Ken Charles, Police Deputy Chief Shane Cote, Officer Ryan Rosie, Police Office Manager Lynne Cary, Berry Talbot & Royer CPA Marc Roy, MBTV Camera Operator Lillie Clark, and members of the press and the public were also present. 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: Police Chief Ken Charles to accept an accreditation award from the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MLEAP).

Farmington Police Department was recognized as the sixteenth law enforcement agency in the state to be fully accredited through the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Police Chief Ken Charles accepted an accreditation award from Dirigo Safety, LLC, Law Enforcement Services Manager Shawn O'Leary. The award recognizes law enforcement agencies that demonstrate compliance with the current best practices for Maine law enforcement. A total of 167 standards must be met to earn the award. O'Leary stated it was not easy; accomplishing this is a big task. Deputy Chief Cote, Officer Ryan Rosie, and Office Manager Lynne Cary were also present to accept the award.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: Mike Wells, VP of New Technology, Maine STREAM Place (MSP), to discuss MSP's mission is to teach children and teenagers technology skills for industry.

Mike Wells provided a brief overview of Maine STREAM Place (MSP), a non-profit organization. STREAM stands for Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts, and Manufacturing. Their purpose/mission statement is as follows: "To foster and facilitate the growth, experience, and proficiency in trades and skills in the fields of STREAM by providing facilities, equipment, and instruction for experimental, traditional and guided learning, To mentor and encourage Maine FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) teams by training how to design, manufacture, assemble, compete and excel in FIRST® competitions. To develop skills such as communication, problem-solving, decision-making, goal setting, planning, budgeting and cost tracking, and entrepreneurship by working with the community and presenting the results. To inspire respectfulness, mindfulness, timeliness, accountability, integrity, perseverance, and continuous improvement through continuous interactions with shop mentors and leaders." Mr. Wells provided a short film of an 8th-grade robot competition and samples of the metal pieces the students had created. Mr. Wells asked that people check MSP out at www.mainstreamplace.org.

ITEM 4: To approve an expenditure of \$21,000 from Fire Equipment Reserve account # SX-7976 and \$10,040 from the Municipal Building Reserve account (total expenditure of \$31,040.00) for purchasing and installing an Airvac 911 Exhaust Removal System in the Fire Bay.

Christian Waller reported that the current system needs repair or replacement. Fire Chief T.D. Hardy reviewed a \$31,040 quote from AIRVAC, “The World Leader in Engine Exhaust Removal Systems for the Fire and EMS Industry.” Chief Hardy stated the quote was all-inclusive (delivery, installation, electrical). At this point, he feels Airvac911 is the most cost-effective option, and it covers the whole bay. Mr. Waller said that the particles that come back on the trucks and equipment after a fire are carcinogenic; this equipment helps clean the carcinogens in the equipment. It will keep the firefighters safer and impact the rest of the public and municipal employees. Matthew Smith asked about filter replacement. Chief Hardy said they would have a box of filters in inventory and replace them when needed. Joshua Bell asked how the system was activated. Chief Hardy reported that system activation is based on the truck’s movement or when the door opens. The system run time is based on the size of the space. It’s recommended that the auto-run be activated after a house fire and run the system overnight while the hoses are drying. Steve Bunker announced he is pleased to say that on April 1st, he will celebrate three years cancer free of the brain cancer (CNS lymphoma) that struck him in the spring of 2020. During his convalescence, he studied cancer, particularly regarding fire service. He learned that more than scene-related deaths, cardiac arrests, and emergency vehicle accidents, cancer is the number one cause of death for firefighters. He joined the Firefight National Support Network, a national non-profit group for cancer survivors. Their goal is two-fold: educate the fire service about ways to avoid unnecessary exposure to carcinogens. And to offer peer support to firefighters afflicted with a similar disease. As a step towards full public disclosure, Mr. Bunker informed the public has a pending Worker’s Compensation claim against the Town under a Maine statute that provides cancer presumption as a work-related injury. He proclaimed that he is far more focused on prevention and eliminating the need for claims. He will continue to teach best practices to avoid carcinogens throughout the state. One of those best practices is to prevent diesel exhaust. In 2012 the International Association for Research on Cancer identified diesel exhaust as the number one carcinogen on their rating scale. It’s not carbon monoxide; prolonged exposure to diesel particulates is the most significant (number one) danger.

Scott Landry moved to approve an expenditure of \$21,000 from Fire Equipment Reserve account # SX-7976 and \$10,040 from the Municipal Building Reserve account (total expenditure of \$31,040.00) for purchasing and installing an Airvac 911 Exhaust Removal System in the Fire Bay; Matthew Smith seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To Approve the Minutes of December 5 and 27, 2022

Scott Landry moved to; Byron Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Discuss Other Business

- A. Christian Waller requested that a discussion on the 2023 Budget be held after adjourning the Board meeting. Matthew Smith agreed.
- B. Byron Staples asked when COLA would be added to the agenda. Christian Waller stated that the COLA numbers come out on January 12th; he is using 6.4%. as a placeholder.
- C. The Department Heads presented their budgetary requests.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 9:51 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE

AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Byron Staples - Secretary