

ITEM 3: * To allow and grant permission for the Farmington Historical Society to use grant funds to construct a trail around the Riverside Cemetery

Chairman Matthew Smith invited Jane Woodman President of the Farmington Historical Society (FHS) to present the project. Ms. Woodman said it was an honor to have the Annual Town Report dedicated to her and she thanked the community and the Board. She said the FHS is applying to the Onion Foundation, which is a private charitable foundation established by Fritz and Susan Onion, for the Equitable Outdoor Access Grant to fund the Community Heritage Trail within Riverside Cemetery. Ms. Woodman said, with this grant and the Board's permission, we will upgrade two interior roads and install a parking area within Riverside Cemetery as seen in the Google map and photos included in the packet that includes letters of support. She said the eight-foot-wide grassy center of the roadway will be leveled and covered with geotextile weed block and finished with four inches of packed crushed stone dust with an additional 40'x40' space at the end nearest the Town Office will be created for accessibility vehicle parking. Ms. Woodman said the grant will pay all the expenses for the project and will be at no cost to the town, and she further explained the project. Joshua Bell asked about the trail location and parking lot. Jane Woodman said the main trail will run along the maintenance road parallel to Route 2 with one up the middle, and it won't go along the upper back because you can't dig near an ancient cemetery, but this may be shortened depending on the cost, and Deb Probert has been putting this together. Phil Hutchins said he spoke with her, and it being a private grant makes it much easier, and this is a good project. Ms. Woodman said the grant is from \$5,000 up to \$30,000 and if the cost is over that we may have to shorten the distance.

Stephan Bunker moved to grant permission for the Farmington Historical Society to use such grant funds to construct a trail around Riverside Cemetery; Dennis O'Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: *To Review and Approve the Proposed 2023 Sewer Department Budget and Establish the Sewer Use Rates

Wastewater Superintendent Steve Millett said we will be requesting a rate increase this year, which is the first since 2018, and the budget has gone up due to equipment, labor, parts, but mostly because of the bulky waste disposal rates for biosolids. Mr. Millett said this is a state-wide problem caused by the legislature passing bills that disallow bulky waste coming in from out of state to mix with biosolids to stabilize landfills because we don't generate enough. He said the Town has a contract with Casella to take our biosolids until 2025, which generates one 17-ton dumpster every week being hauled to New Brunswick Canada, and Casella has increased the rate twice in the prior 1.5 years, whereas we have not increased our rate. Discussion followed regarding other contractual services, yearly building maintenance, GIS, Capital Improvement projects, delinquent accounts, pump station electricity, and the minimum consumption. Joshua Bell asked about purchasing a loader with forks, vehicle reserve account, and the skid steer. Mr. Millett said he may be able to purchase a new loader out of the budget next year and increase the reserve accounts because the skid steer isn't big enough to pick up the phosphorus totes. Discussion followed regarding the vehicle reserve account, rates vs budget, and planning for the future.

Dennis O'Neil moved to accept the budget without the Capital Improvement Plan at \$1,243,464 and the minimum bill at 500cuft or \$48 per quarter and \$9.60 per 100cuft thereafter as proposed; Steve Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To get an update on the Community Resilience Grant

Parks and Recreation Director Matt Foster said we have plans to install an HVAC system on the Community Center roof once it has been renovated, and have been conditionally approved for the \$50,000 grant, but the system we had budgeted for must be electric to comply with Efficiency Maine standards. He said we contacted the administrator for the program Brian Ambrette who said we can amend the application to install heat pumps at the Hippach Field House and weight room and offices at the Community Center. Matt Foster said we have contacted heat pump installers for quotes, and we will amend the application to submit it before the May 1st deadline. Discussion followed regarding the HVAC system.

ITEM 6: *To Review an expenditure of up to \$25,933.60 for the construction and installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the northeast corner of the Municipal Parking lot at 194 Main Street

Matthew Smith said he asked that this be put back on the agenda tonight because there was a contract signed and if we are not going forward with the project that we need to null and void the contract with no penalty. Mrs. Gelinis said she contacted Bob Spatz with Carbon Day and he had put a hold on the shipment, and she will confirm with him tomorrow.

Joshua Bell moved to null and void the contract; Byron Staples seconded.

Discussion followed regarding other grants, Downtown TIFF funds, the additional quotes, and the Downtown TIFF Committee meeting held in January.

Joshua Bell and Byron Staples rescinded both the motion and second.

Stephan Bunker moved to table this until the timely meeting of the Downtown TIFF Committee to review the project; Matthew Smith seconded the motion.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: *To appoint Michael Deschenes and Peter Tracy to the Appeals Board, and Kyle Terrio to the Conservation Commission

Dennis O’Neil moved to appoint Michael Deschenes and Peter Tracy to the Appeals Board, and Kyle Terrio to the Conservation Commission; Joshua Bell seconded the motion.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: *To Approve the Amended Resolution authorizing the transfer of the Bee Line, Inc. Franchise to Spectrum Northeast, LLC

Cameron Ferrante from Preti Flaherty representing Beeline Cable said this is a corrected resolution as shown in the additional paragraph 4., stating it is selling substantially all of its assets to Charter Spectrum except for the Madison business office and will not provide technical and in-person support to the operation of the public access channel, but the town would still receive the financial contributions to support the channel but not the studio and equipment. Discussion followed regarding the current agreement, contributions, contacting Mt. Blue Access TV, and the Madison office.

Matthew Smith moved to Approve the Amended Resolution authorizing the transfer of the Bee Line, Inc. Franchise to Spectrum Northeast, LLC; Byron St seconded the motion.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 OPPOSED 2 MOTION CARRIED
(Stephan Bunker and Dennis O’Neil)

ITEM 9: *To sign the Industry Fire Service Agreement

Fire Chief Tim D. Hardy said the Town of Industry voted at their town meeting to move forward with the agreement to work with us for fire protection services. He said we sent it to the Town's Attorney Amanda Meader, who reviewed it and she added some language, and this was sent to the Industry Select Board to review at its meeting next week to decide whether to approve or deny at their meeting next week. Discussion followed regarding cooperative fire protection and dispatch communication.

Matthew Smith moved to sign the Industry Fire Service Agreement; Dennis O'Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Approve the Minutes of 02/8/23 and 03/14/23

Matthew Smith moved to Approve the Minutes of 02/8/23 and 03/14/23; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4

**ABSTAINED 1
(Dennis O'Neil)**

MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business

- A. Cornell Knight said we hired Leah Giusti to fill the executive assistant position who will start in two weeks; Treasurer Tammy Bureau is working with Marc Roy on getting QuickBooks and updating our records; Zoning Board is meeting April 4th at 6:00 P.M. to review the Solar Energy Systems performance standards; the Board is meeting April 5th 6:00 P.M. with David Barret to review the town manager applications who will provide them with booklets. Joshua Bell asked for an email reminder of the Zoning Board meeting, and Matthew Smith asked that the Board be emailed when the booklets are available.
- B. Stephan Bunker said the U.S. Air Traveling Orchestra and Singing Sergeants will be playing at the Mt. Blue High School gymnasium on April 2nd at 3:00 P.M. and the American Legion Post will be presenting the colors, and he was asked to have a proclamation written to present. He said Shannon Smith has had over 850 requests for tickets.

Joshua Bell moved to write a proclamation for the event; Dennis O'Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

- C. Joshua Bell asked that Phil Hutchins provide the Board with a list of the roads scheduled to be done this year.
- D. Dennis O'Neil wanted to register for MMA workshops, and he also asked where to find Town by-laws. Cornell Knight said recommended the Elected Officials workshop for him and he would handle the registration and get him the information on the by-laws.

ITEM 12: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6) (A) to discuss personnel matters

Joshua Bell moved to go into executive session at 8:15 P.M.; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to regular session at 8:30 P.M.

ITEM 13: To Appoint Diane Dunham as Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters

Matthew Smith moved to approve the appointment of Diane Dunham as Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters; Stephan Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business to come before the Board, 8:32 P.M. Dennis O'Neil moved to adjourn at 8:32 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Gelinias.

Byron Staples - Secretary