

FARMINGTON SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, Byron Staples, and Dennis O'Neil. Kenneth Charles, Police Chief, Tammy Bureau, Treasurer, Leah Giusti, Executive Assistant, MBTV Camera Operator Kai Stone, and members of the press and the public were also present. Interim Town Manager Cornell Knight participated via Zoom. Members of the press and public participated remotely as authorized by PL 209, c.617.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Matthew Smith led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To approve the expenditure of \$34,428 from the Police Department Training Reserve Account, SX-7982 for Police Academy reimbursement to the Town of Jay for the hire of Officer Rex Schweighofer.

Police Chief Kenneth Charles approaches the board. Mentions that the information in the agenda packets includes information about where the expenditure amount comes from. States that they are lucky to have reserve account for this purpose. Last hire we did not receive an invoice. Chief Charles welcomes the Board's questions. The Board has no questions.

Selectman O'Neil moved to approve the expenditure; Selectman Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To approve the expenditure of \$52,515.80 from Police Department Vehicle Reserve Account, SX-7983 for an outfitted 2022 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle.

Chief Charles reminds the Board that they went under contract back in November for two vehicles – one is being paid for out of the operating budget, and this second is coming out of vehicle reserve. Chief Charles is requesting approval of this expenditure.

Selectman Bell moved to approve expenditure; Selectman Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To review petition of Jon Bubier to name road

Chairman Smith reads request from Mr. Bubier. Mr. Bubier is not present. Selectman Bunker asks if there has been a sign-off by the 911 addressing officer. Selectman Smith notes that there is no mention of this in the documents received from Mr. Bubier. Selectman Bunker would like to have confirmation from the addressing officer prior to approval.

Selectman Bell moved to pass over the petition until such time as the request is verified by the 911 addressing officer; Selectman O’Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To approve the recommendation of Town Clerk to change the Voter Registration hours prior to and on Election Day, June 13

The Town Clerk recommends that the board change the Voter Registration Hours to register new voters and to change any addresses or name changes prior to and on Election Date, June 13 as follows: June 6 – 10 from 9 AM to 5 PM and at the polling location from 7 AM to 8 PM on June 13. The Clerk also recommends that the Board set the polling hours and location as 7 AM to 8 PM at the Community Center, 127 Middle Street.

Selectman Bell moved to approve the Town Clerk’s recommendations; Selectman Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To update the Board on the Assessor’s opening

The Interim Town Manager, Cornell Knight, addresses the board. There have been no applications received to date for the open Assessor position. Mr. Knight reached out to John O’Donnell to see if he would be available to contract, but he is too busy with clients and revaluations. The next step that he recommends is to speak to KRT Appraisal who will be doing the town’s revaluation and see if they are willing to add assessing contract work in order to complete commitments by August.

Selectman Bell asks if an RFP can be put out for tax assessing service. Mr. Knight states that we can, but time is a concern. There are a number of assessor openings on MMA website, it is a problem in a number of communities. He can put an RFP together, but as he is concerned about time he would prefer to try KRT first.

Selectman Bunker agrees with Mr. Knight and would like him to approach KRT as an interim step. Selectmen Smith and Staples agree with Selectman Bunker.

Treasurer has gone through this process before and states she did find a template for bids that she can use. The Treasurer will review and prepare a time frame for the Board.

Selectman Bunker asks about the 3-year criteria. Selectman O’Neil believes it is a recommendation. Would like to see the scope of what is available. Selectman Bunker would like to see where we are 3 months from now once new employees are settled in.

ITEM 9: To hear proposal from Beckie Bowering of Franklin Savings Bank

Ms. Bowering, Business Solutions Officer at Franklin Savings Bank, approaches the Board. Ms. Bowering thanks the Board for the opportunity to speak with them. She has been with Franklin Savings Bank for 23 years. Franklin Savings Bank is requesting an opportunity to make a proposal to the Town of Farmington with the goal of expanding their relationship. Franklin Savings Bank is the only bank headquartered in Franklin County. They have a special relationship with Farmington. They invest heavily in local education and economic development. In 2022, the Bank donated an excess of \$300,000 to local communities in Franklin County. It is their continued commitment to be a community bank. In 2022, Franklin Saving Bank participated in a dozen community events. When banking with Franklin Savings, funds stay local, build new businesses, and create new jobs in Farmington. Franklin Savings Bank would like to participate in RFP when the Town decides the time is right.

The Board thanks Ms. Bowering.

ITEM 10: To hear request from Farmington Conservation Commission to proclaim the third week of May as Arbor Week

Bill Haslem, Chairman of the Farmington Conservation Commission, approaches the Board. The proclamation is part of Farmington’s participation in Tree City USA. Requests that the Chairman sign the proclamation

Chairman Smith states that as a member of the conservation commission, he is amazed with the amount of work that gets done, and thanks the commission for their commitment to the town.

Selectman Bunker moved to proclaim the third week of May as Arbor Week; Selectman O’Neil seconded. Chairman Smith signs the proclamation.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 11: To approve donations from Northern Lights and Byron Staples for banners on Main Street and Broadway

Selectman Bell states that he spoke with Patti Hagen of the Downtown Association. The installation of these banners will finish off Main Street and Broadway and complete the banner

Town Attorney for review; Selectman O'Neil seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Selectman Bell to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.; Seconded by Selectman Bunker.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leah Giusti.

Byron Staples - Secretary