FARMINGTON SELECT BOARD Tuesday, June 13, 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 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, Byron Staples, and Dennis O'Neil. Tim D. Hardy, Fire Chief, Phil Hutchins, Director of Public Works, Cornell Knight, Interim Town Manager, Leah Giusti, Executive Assistant, MBTV Camera Operator Kai Stone, 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

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

ITEM 2: To Consider an Expenditure of \$395 for a full-color ad in the Fall 2023 Western Lakes & Mountains Regions Edition of Discover Maine Magazine, to be funded from the Special Projects Account (24-7853)

Selectman Bell makes a recommendation to instead use \$400 from the special projects account toward fireworks on July 3rd. The display will take place on Front Street down by the river. It is sponsored by local merchants/downtown businesses. The total cost will be approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000. This would be a small contribution. Selectman Staples states that fireworks are important, especially after not having them for the past couple of years. Selectman Bunker is not opposed to using funds for the fireworks but would prefer that they do both. The town gets good mileage out of Discover Maine Magazine, it brings in tourists.

Selectman Bell makes a motion to instead use the funds toward July 3rd fireworks; Selectman Smith seconded. Selectman Bunker moves to amend the motion to fund both the ad in Discover Maine Magazine and the fireworks; Selectman Smith seconded. Selectman Bell accepts the amendment to his motion if the board will not consider another expenditure for Discover Maine Magazine again for the rest of the year.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 3: To Approve Donations for the Flag Project at Fairview Cemetery

Debbie Daggett addresses the board. She would like to get the flag pole installed before July 4th. All funds have been raised and it is ready to be installed.

Selectman Bunker asks about the location of the flagpole and asks if it will be up year-round. Ms. Daggett states it is up to the town, but they have selected a center point on the hill. Also,

they may take it down in the winter due to weather but again, leaves it up to the town. The flagpole has a solar panel for lighting.

Selectman Smith made a motion to accept donations; Selectman O'Neil seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To Review and Approve a Contract for Assessing Services

Interim Town Manager, Cornell Knight, met with Nicole Stenberg and Justin Poirier of Dirigo Assessing Group and brings their proposal for assessing services to the board. He had contacted half a dozen assessing firms, most were either too busy or winding down and not taking new clients. Dirigo did respond, they spoke with the previous assessor, came into the office and looked at files, and reviewed necessary items. They are familiar with the programs. Will take 15-20 days and the cost will be between \$12,375 - \$16,500. There are sufficient funds in the account. Nicole Stenberg is a full-time assessor in the Town of Oakland and was given a very good recommendation.

Selectman Bell asks if they will have the time with their other commitments, Mr. Knight advises that they said it was within their time allowance and ability.

Selectman O'Neil states that this is a big step toward getting the tax year commitment done for 2023.

Selectman Bunker asks if taxpayers want to make an appeal on their assessment, would Dirigo be available/make office time for those considerations. Mr. Knight states that would be an addition to the proposal, but they would be available.

Selectman O'Neil asks if we don't have an assessor, do those duties fall to the board of the selectmen in the interim period. Mr. Knight will look into it and get back to the board at the next meeting.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to accept the proposal from Dirigo Assessing Group; Selectman Bell seconded.

| VOTE | AFFIRMATIVE | 5 | MOTION CARRIED |
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- ITEM 5: To hold a Public Hearing and vote on the following renewal application for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permit:
 - Farmington Motel owned and operated by Steven Guerrette; located at 489 Farmington Falls Road (renewal)

Selectman Smith opens the public hearing. There being no questions or comments, Selectman Smith closes the public hearing and brings the item back to the board.

Selectman Smith notes that this entity was not included in the prior hearing as they changed phone numbers and emails, and the Town Clerk was unable to get a hold of them. They were told that if it happens again, they will have to start over on their own.

Selectman Bell made a motion to approve the renewal application for Farmington Motel; Selectman Bunker seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 6: To Approve Transfer of Ford SUV from Fire Dept. to Public Works Dept.

Fire Captain Hardy addresses the board. Public Works mentioned they might have a use for the fire department's stripped 2013 Ford SUV.

Phil Hutchins, Director of Public Works, states that they would have several uses for the SUV. It is more practical than pulling other vehicles out of use to run for parts and construction flies. It will be especially beneficial in the winter when a part is needed overnight. There are no capital funds involved. It will save hundreds of dollars every year. It has 145,000 miles. Selectman Smith asks for an approximate value. Captain Hardy states they paid about \$6,000 for it in 2015-2016 and might get a couple thousand if it went out to bid since it has been stripped out.

Selectman Bell is concerned that it increases the fleet of town vehicles, and that public works will want to trade it in in a couple of years. He suggests that a pickup truck could be utilized more. He asks if there are grants for public works vehicles. Mr. Hutchins does not believe there are many grants for vehicles, the Police Department found one but has not seen any since.

Mr. Hutchins states that the existing vehicles are already old, and having another vehicle helps the department. It will get used, especially for the mechanic as he will have a vehicle available rather than pulling an employee and a vehicle out of the field.

A member of the public mentions that last month public works received permission to add two new pickup trucks. \$120,000 was allotted for the purchase.

Selectman Smith states that they should use the SUV to see if it is needed to have a "part chaser" and track it for 6 months to see what it saves.

Selectman O'Neil asks Mr. Hutchins about the High Street extension and culvert work. Mr. Hutchins says that the State matched 50% of the funds. The bank was eroding, and it has been stabilized.

Selectman Bunker made a motion to transfer the Ford SUV from the Fire Department to Public Works; Selectman Staples seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 7: To review Application for an Extension of Premise License for Ayuh Cidah

Ayuh Cidah is requesting permission for an Extension of Premises License for the United Way Foodie Fest Fundraiser on June 24 at the Farmington Fairgrounds.

Selectman Smith made a motion to approve Ayuh Cidah's application for an extension of premise license; Selectman Bell seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 8: To Approve the Minutes of 05/11/23, 05/17/23 and 05/23/23

Selectman O'Neil notes that the votes were reversed on the 5/11/23 minutes, and would like to be corrected.

Selectman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes with amendment; Selectman Bunker seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 9: To review Application for Renewal of On-Premises License for Big Sky Grill

Selectman Smith asks if this should be a public hearing. Selectman Bunker does not believe that is required.

Selectman Smith made a motion to approve renewal pending that it doesn't need a public hearing; Selectman Bunker seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business

Selectman Smith reads the resignation letter from John Moore. On behalf of the Board, Selectman Smith thanks Mr. Moore for his time and effort.

Selectman Smith made a motion to accept Mr. Moore's letter of resignation; Selectman Bell seconded.

| VOTE AFFIRM | ATIVE 5 | MOTION CARRIED |
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Selectman O'Neil states that the list of openings on town boards and committees are numerous. He appeals to the public to serve on boards and committees. Asks that citizens please consider their civic duty and stepping up to serve the town.

Selectman Bell requests an update from Mr. Hutchins on paving. The following roads have been repaved: Mosher Hill Road, Ramsdell Road, Savage Road, Christian Drive development, and High Street finish overlay. Next will be Baily Hill Road, Davis Road, and Weeks Mills Road. Pike Industries will remobilize to do driveway aprons. Street striping and crosswalks will begin next week.

Public Works is working with FEMA on mitigation from the December event. The State will make a declaration soon for the May 1 event. Potentially looking at a couple hundred thousand dollars in reimbursement from the state.

Selectman O'Neil asks about bills from outside contractors, some were marked as FEMA. Some roads included culverts, are they tied together? Mr. Hutchins stated that road construction started around the same time; invoices will be mixed together because of that. They are being coded accordingly.

Selectman O'Neil asks about bills from the attorney regarding bidding on paving. Mr. Knight states that the attorney is still working on it.

Selectman O'Neil requests clarification on tax-delinquent properties. Mr. Knight states that when the proceedings are complete, they will be advised by the attorney to keep the funds in a reserve account.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Smith moved to adjourn to the executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6) (A) to review Town Manager applications at 7:18 P.M.; Selectman Bell seconded.

| VOTE | AFFIRMATIVE | 5 | MOTION CARRIED |
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ITEM 11: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6)(A) to review Town Manager applications.

Return to regular session at 7:53 P.M.

Selectman Smith moved to adjourn to the executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6)(F) for hardship property abatement; Selectman Bell seconded.

VOTEAFFIRMATIVE5MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 12: To hold an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405 (6)(F) for hardship property abatement as per 36 M.R.S. § 841 (2)(E)

Return to regular session at 8:08 P.M.

Selectman Smith moves for a motion to table the abatement discussed in the executive session until the next meeting; Selectman O'Neil seconded.

| VOTE AFFIRMATIVE | 5 | MOTION CARRIED |
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Selectman Smith moves for a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; Seconded by Selectman Bunker.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE

5 MOT

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leah Giusti.

Byron Staples - Secretary