

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.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION 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,

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.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION 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.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION 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.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION 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 AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

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

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.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION 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

**Selectman Smith moves for a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; Seconded by
Selectman Bunker.**

VOTE

AFFIRMATIVE 5

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leah Giusti.

Byron Staples - Secretary