## FARMINGTON SELECT BOARD Tuesday, December 12, 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 <a href="http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-streamfarmington-selectmen.html">http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-streamfarmington-selectmen.html</a> or Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/">https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/</a> or calling 578-7395.

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Stephen Bunker; Joshua Bell; Byron Staples; and Dennis O'Neil. Erica LaCroix, Town Manager; Leah Giusti, Executive Assistant, MBTV Camera Operator; and members of the press and members of 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 request permission for Police Chief Kenneth Charles to accept a charitable donation of a Safe Pace Evolution 15 Traffic Alert Sign (\$3,411.00) from Stephen Bunker

Selectman Bunker noted that Chief Charles had to attend an event and was unable to attend.

Selectman Bunker had the opportunity to provide a radar/speed control unit, which includes a solar presentation of speed and advises to slow down. It is a stationary model that keeps internal statistics and can track the number of vehicles, average speed, etc. Would allow for the Police Department to place where they believe it best to contain traffic control.

Selectman Bell made a motion to accept the charitable donation of a Safe Pace Evolution 15 Traffic Alert Sign from Stephen Bunker; Selectman Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 ABSTAINED 1 MOTION CARRIED (Bunker)

## ITEM 3: To review MBTV Director Report and Financials

Andre Cormier, Executive Director of Mt. Blue TV, approached the Board.

They have seen continued growth and made a lot of progress. They are continuing internship programs with UMF. In 2023, they had 12,000 unique viewers, up from 8,000 the previous year. They have gone from 20,000 total views to 35,000 and covered over 300 events.

Going forward, they will be looking to adjust the antiquated franchise fee structure. As fewer and fewer people have cable, fees are declining. Last year, they diversified to add streaming

revenue. The franchise fees include advertising. Through a charter agreement, it is between 3-5%.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to approve the estimated fees of \$47,740; Selectman Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 4: To review Application for Renewal of On-Premises License for Tuck's Ale House

The Board reviewed the application. Selectmen Bell noted that the application has only beer checked, not wine and spirits. A note will be placed on the application for the applicant's review.

Selectman Bell made a motion to approve the Application for Renewal of On-Premises License for Tuck's Ale House; Selectman Bunker seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

ITEM 5: To approve minutes of 11/28/23

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to approve the minutes; Selectman Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

**ITEM 6:** To Discuss Other Business

The Board welcomed Town Manager Erica LaCroix.

Ms. LaCroix thanked the Board. She noted that there is a great staff. She has met with many of the departments already and will be meeting with Police and Library later this week. Additionally, an application was sent to the Town Manager email address for the Assessor position. She has heard good thing about the applicant and will follow up to schedule an interview.

Selectman Smith noted that Michael MacNeil has sent in a letter of resignation from the Planning Board.

Selectman Bell made a motion to accept Mr. MacNeil's resignation from the Planning Board.; Selectman Staples seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Selectman Smith noted that the next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 26, the day after Christmas.

Selectman Smith made a motion to cancel the Select Board meeting scheduled for 12/26/23.; Selectman Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Selectman Smith made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m.; Selectman Bell seconded.

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leah Giusti.

Byron Staples - Secretary