

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2015

Board Members Present:

Charlie King, Chairman
Brian St. Onge, Vice Chairman
Paula Proulx
Jerry McCarthy
Jim Horgan

Others Present:

Police Chief Jay Drury
Public Works Director Dale Sprague
Tom DeJulio, Chairman and members of the Decorating Committee

1). Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2). Review and approve purchase orders.

3). Approval of Minutes:

June 15, 2015- Public Session:

Motion: (Proulx, second King) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0.

June 15, 2015-Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (McCarthy, second Proulx) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0.

June 15, 2015-Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Proulx, second McCarthy) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0.

4). Police Department Openings:

A). Police Chief Jay Drury introduced Zachary Frye to board. Frye gave brief description of his education and experience which includes a degree in Criminal Justice from Great Bay Community College, more than 120 hours as an intern for the Farmington Police Department and his plans to attend the Police Academy in August. Chief Drury noted that Frye has been attending ride-alongs since January, achieved one of the highest scores on the oral board and has successfully completed his background checks.

Motion: (McCarthy, second St. Onge) to offer a full time position to Zachary Frye with the starting rate of \$17.00 an hour with the standard employment conditions beginning June 28, 2015 passed 4-0.

B). Chief Drury then told the board he would like hire Carl Wagner to fill the remaining part time opening. He said Wagner is a retired Captain with over 25 years of experience whom he has known for

20 years. Due to his level of experience and previous rank of Captain, he recommended Wagner's salary should start at the top level of \$21.00 an hour.

Motion: (King, second Proulx) to hire Carl Wagner at a starting rate of \$21.00 an hour in a part time position with the standard employment conditions passed 4-0.

C). Chief Drury reported the updated signage for Fernald Park has been installed.

He also reported that he and the Public Works Director walked Orange Street to determine the number of signs needed there and their placement. The signs have been ordered and are expected to be received soon he said.

Recess-

Motion: (King, second Proulx) to take a 15 minute recess passed 4-0 at 5:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Selectman Horgan arrived at 6:05 p.m.

5). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (King, second St. Onge) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) Second Interviews for the Fire Chief Position passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Proulx, St. Onge, McCarthy, Horgan- yes) at 6:05 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:35 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to seal the minutes of the non-public session passed 5-0.

6). Planning Consultant Discussion: Tabled until later in the meeting

7). Light Pole Discussion:

Tom DeJulio introduced the members of the Decorating Committee to the board. He said he came before the board to discuss the installation of underground wiring for light poles before the state begins paving in the Main and Central Streets area. He proposed that pipes be installed in three places under Central Street to house the conduit for light poles. Chairman King noted that the last discussion involved awaiting approval from the DOT to install wood poles and asked DeJulio to update the board.

DeJulio said the DOT would not approve the installation of additional wood poles that would only be used once a year to hang Christmas decorations. The committee then decided to look into the cost and types of metal poles available. Their research included the types of decorative poles, using solar power to power the Christmas lights, other types of decorations (flags, wreaths, banners, etc.) and the hangers needed for other decorations. The committee also looked at discontinuing the present street lights and installing decorative poles with lights. Solar power would not be sufficient to power street lights which would necessitate the installation of the underground wiring.

DeJulio said he has been in contact with four companies that manufacture these types of poles but has been unable to obtain a price for the poles. He speculated the cost would be about \$3,000 to \$4,000 per pole. He added that when the cost for prep work, installation of the poles and support, utility connections, repair of the sidewalks and clean-up is included the total cost of the entire project could rise to about \$125,000 and extend from a five year plan to six or seven year plan.

Selectman St. Onge expressed concerns that this proposal is substantially different from the plan approved by voters at Town Meeting. He said the article was amended on the floor of the meeting to set

aside funds for the plan but the amendment does not include installation of poles. He added that this proposal may need to go before the voters to gain their approval before moving forward.

DeJulio said the proposed locations for the underground installation would include from the TD Bank across the street to the Laundromat, from the old Post Office location across the street and from the island at Spring Street across to the Funeral Home. Chairman King asked Public Works Director Dale Sprague for an estimate of the manpower and timeframe involved to complete the trench work.

Sprague said the work would involve contacting DIG SAFE for the locations of utility wires, digging the entrance and exit pits, cutting the asphalt, digging a 24- inch trench across the street, installation of the pipes to house the conduit and then repave the trenches. He said the work for the three locations could be completed in four days by four employees at an estimated cost of about \$5,000 and materials.

Sprague said he does not know when the state plans to begin paving in the area, but noted that a representative from Continental Paving is scheduled to conduct a walk-through next week.

Chairman King said since the entire plan involves digging up sidewalks and installing new street lights, he suggested the committee look into getting a grant to fix all of the sidewalks, improve all of the lighting and put all of the wires underground in the downtown area. He added that there also needs to be a contingency fund to resolve any unexpected issues found during the process.

Selectman Horgan suggested DeJulio get cost estimates for the metal poles in writing, a materials list with pricing and a “big picture” of the proposed five or six year plan.

Chairman King also asked Sprague to get a price for renting a machine to bore under the road and to attempt to find out when the state is expected to begin paving in the area. He said the issue will be included on a future agenda when they have had time to get the requested information.

Sewer Abatement- Sprague also requested a partial abatement of funds paid by the owner of an apartment unit on Orange Street. He explained that after the tenant left, the pipes froze and broke resulting in four times the amount of normal water usage and significant damage to the building. The owner will have to pay for the water used, but will not have to pay the sewer portion of the bill as the water was not processed through the sewer system. He recommended \$1,495.52 be abated.

Motion: (McCarthy, second Horgan) to abate \$1,495.52 to the building owner passed 5-0.

8).Withdrawal from Landfill Capital Reserve Fund:

In a memo to the board, Finance Administrator Pam Merrill requested approval to transfer \$11,587.35 from the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve to Fund 14 which funds expenses for water testing at the landfill. Discussion included yearly receipt of \$52,000 from the state for deposit in the Landfill Capital Reserve Fund, transfer of funds from one fund to another, making one yearly transfer to Fund 14 and if Selectmen are authorized to expend the funds. Selectmen decided to table the matter until next week to determine if the board is the designated agent to expend the funds.

9) Comment Forms:

A). 910 Route 11- A resident complained of yellow water. Sprague said the resident lives at end of a dead end street and has periodically complained about yellow water. He said he has attempted to address the issue by flushing the hydrant there and determined the water does not look yellow.

B). Request to fix the ramp at the town parking lot- Sprague said the ramp has been fixed.

C). Request to cut a tree- A resident requested a tree blocking visibility at the corner of Main and Winter Streets be cut. Sprague said this issue has been addressed and added that he conducts an annual survey of trees needing work or removal. He said there is two days of tree work budgeted and scheduled to be completed this season by a local tree company.

D). Ten Rod Road Update- Selectman McCarthy asked for a status update of the planned closure of a culvert on Ten Rod Road. Sprague said he sent a letter to Mr. Cardinal regarding an improperly installed driveway and culvert under his driveway but did not receive a response. Sprague said Cardinal does not have any paperwork to show that the driveway was properly installed. He said Mr. Cardinal's property is currently an open field so the issue is not a priority. If he starts to develop an orchard there the matter will go to the top of the list Sprague said.

E). Report of an Unsafe Building- A resident requested the Code Enforcement Officer inspect a possibly unsafe garage located across from the Fire Dept. Annex building. Chairman King will discuss the matter with the Building Inspector/CEO.

10). Planning Consultant Discussion:

Chairman King reported that he contacted Interim Planner Mike Garrepy to request he provide staff hours for half a day on Tuesdays. Garrepy replied that he was not available during those hours. Discussion included whether to send out an RFP for another interim or full time planner, how to pay for a full time planner which was not budgeted, if there is a need for a full time planner or request planning services from Strafford Regional Planning.

After some additional discussion, Chairman King said he would e-mail Cynthia Copeland at Strafford Regional Planning to see if anyone is available to provide planning services to the town.

11). New Business:

Selectman Horgan suggested the board approve spending up to \$100 for picture frames for the Municipal Building. The frames would hold parts of the original tin ceiling from upstairs in the building and be put on display on the first floor. The majority of the board said they had no problem with the plan as long as pieces of the ceiling are not being removed to put in the frames. Vice Chairman St. Onge said he did not like the idea or the price and questioned why this is being done. Horgan explained that actual tin ceilings are not in use today and are part of the history of the building. Selectmen's Secretary Megan Taylor-Fetter and her husband have offered to provide the necessary labor for the project he said.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to approve spending up to \$100 to provide frames for pieces of the tin ceiling passed 4-1 (King, Proulx, McCarthy, Horgan-yes, St. Onge-opposed).

12). Any Other Business to Come Before the Board: None.

13). Non-Public Session B :

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, St.Onge, Proulx, McCarthy, Horgan- yes) at 8:55 p.m.

Motion: (King, second St. Onge) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 9:25 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to seal the minutes of the non-public session until the matter is concluded passed 5-0.

14). Non-Public Session C :

Motion : (King, second Horgan) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, St. Onge, Proulx, McCarthy, Horgan-yes) at 9:25 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 9:35 p.m.

15). Non-Public Session D:

Motion: (King, second St. Onge) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, St.Onge, Proulx, Horgan, McCarthy-yes) at 9:35 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 9:48 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to seal the minutes of the non-public session passed 5-0.

16). Adjournment:

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 9:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary