

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen – Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 23, 2014
5:30PM
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street

Members Present:

Matt Scruton-Chairman
Charlie King-Vice Chairman
Arthur Capello
Paula Proulx
Brian St.Onge

Others Present:

Town Administrator Keith Trefethen
Representatives of Community Action of Strafford County/ Residents

Chairman Scruton convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion to enter non-public session(Capello,second King)under RSA 91A:3 II(b)for the purpose of discussing the Chief of Police position passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.(Scruton,King,Proulx,St.Onge,Capello-yes) Following the session,members voted to seal the minutes of the non-public portion of the meeting until such time it is deemed appropriate to unseal them.Motion to seal the minutes(Capello,second King)passed 5-0(Scruton,King,Proulx,St.Onge,Capello-yes).

Chairman Scruton reconvened the public session at 6:50 p.m.

Campground license renewals

Selectmen reviewed the application for license renewals for the Garland and Beaver Pond Campgrounds.Members discussed the number of weekly units,year-round sites and inquired if site plans for the properties were on file with the town.Building Inspector Dennis Roseberry's inspection revealed only minor deficiencies and recommended the board approve the application. Motion to approve the license renewal for the Garland and Beaver Pond Campgrounds based on the Building Inspector's recommendation(Capello,second St.Onge)passed 5-0.

Public Comment

The board reviewed a letter from the Farmington Firemen's Relief Association. No action was taken.

Farmington Children's Center

Community Action Executive Director Betsey Andrews Parker and Child and Family Service Director Melissa Adams presented a request to renew the 20-year lease agreement for the childcare center at the 120 Main Street site.Parker detailed the establishment of the center,state and federal funding available,services provided and how affordable childcare supports low to moderate income families and local businesses.She added that the facility employs 16 staff members who receive decent salaries that includes benefits if they work 30 hours or more per week.Parker said she hoped Selectmen would make a decision by August to give them time to

apply for program funding due in January and plan funding for maintenance and repairs needed to the building.

Adams described the Head Start and school age programs, how fees and funding are determined and how state subsidies are received.

Economic Development Committee member Joan Funk told Selectmen that there is a need affordable childcare in town and it is a factor when attracting new business to town. She urged the board to consider the possible impact to the tax base and the town's Economic Development plans when making their decision.

Selectmen stated they have not made a decision about renewing the lease and scheduled the discussion to receive feedback on the issue. Members said they need time to consider the highest and best use for the property and whether the town's needs have changed over the years. Other items under consideration include a shorter lease time to give the town more flexibility over the property, requesting the center pay a larger fee instead of the present \$1.00 fee and any legal liability imposed on future boards by a long term lease agreement. Department heads will also be consulted for possible alternative uses for the building and the matter will be included on a future agenda.

Water/Sewer Abatement

Public Works Director Dale Sprague came before the board to discuss a request to abate a water use bill for an apartment located at 23 Mechanic Street. Sprague agreed the meter recorded that a large amount of water had been used, but the meter appeared to be operating correctly and there were no apparent signs of any leaks. Building manager Scott Spewalk told members there was a large jump in water use recorded even though the apartment had been vacant since December. He said he checked the property every 2-3 weeks and there were no signs of "squatters", leaks or water damage. Sprague replied that the meter would have read less if it was broken and recommended the board deny the request. Motion to deny request for abatement (Capello, second St. Onge) passed 5-0.

Waiver of Building Permit Fee/Eagle Scout Request Selectmen received a request for a waiver of the \$25 building permit fee for an Eagle Scout project involving the redesign of the sign at the Goodwin Library and other work behind the building. Motion to approve the waiver request (King, second Proulx) passed 5-0. The project still requires a permit even though the fee has been waived.

Farmington 500 Boys and Girls Club

Conservation Commission Chairman Dave Connolly appeared before the board to report the commission's support of the 500 Boys and Girls Club proposed use of a 3.5 acre section of town owned land adjacent to club land off Paulsen Road. Selectmen questioned whether the proposal called for allowing the club access to the section by easement, lease agreement or subdivision by lot line adjustment and noted there are legal differences between the types of agreements. After some further discussion, members decided to request a physical plan with supporting documents for the proposal. Motion to table the issue until a club representative is available to make a presentation to Selectmen (Capello, second Proulx) passed 5-0.

Draft Social Media Policy

Members reviewed a draft of a social media policy presented by Town Administrator Trefethen. St. Onge suggested that the phrase "objectionable comments" be added to the section describing items to be removed from any of the town's social media pages.

Motion to approve the policy as amended (Capello, second St. Onge) passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Monday, June 9, 2014- Selectmen amended the minutes to reflect that the meeting was "reconvened" following the non-public session. Motion to approve the minutes as amended(St.Onge,second King)passed 5-0. Motion to seal the non-public session(St.Onge,second King)passed 5-0.

June 2, 2014- Motion to approve the public and non-public minutes as submitted(Capello,second Proulx)passed 5-0.

May 28, 2014- Motion to approve as submitted(Capello,second Proulx)passed 5-0.

May 19, 2014- Motion to approve non-public minutes(Capello,second St.Onge)passed 5-0.

May 12, 2014- Motion to approve public and non-public minutes(Capello,second King) passed 5-0.

April 28, 2014- Motion to change members present(Capello,second King) to reflect that Scruton was not present for the meeting.Motion to approve as amended(Capello,second King) passed 4-1 with Scruton abstaining.

Other Business

Members approved an expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund for recent road improvements. Motion to expend up to \$62,000 from the Capital Improvements Fund for paving with Selectmen named as agents to expend(Capello,second Proulx)passed 5-0.

Paul Parker inquired if a fund deposit form or Selectmen approval was needed to make a deposit to the Kevin and Deb Scanlon Fund resulting from student fund raising.This does not fall under the board's authority members said.

A letter from a Meadorboro Road resident stated that excavation on his property revealed barrels and debris buried at the site. He inquired if the board had any knowledge of what may be buried there or the availability of funds for cleanup.Selectmen said the property was not used by the town as a land fill and suggested the debris may have come from a previous owner.He will be directed to contact NH DES for more information about the property and any funding available.

In a letter to the board,the Police Department reported receipt of free exercise equipment and requested permission to use the space above the CAP office as an exercise room.Motion to allow all town staff to use the space above the CAP office as an exercise room providing they first sign liability waivers(Capello,second Scruton)was withdrawn after some discussion. Member concerns included liability,lack of a user policy,access issues and security,so the board decided to table the matter until the issues can be addressed and a risk assessment can be obtained from the town's insurance company.

The Economic Development Committee requested Selectmen appoint a Planning Board member to their committee.Selectmen explained they would appoint a Planning Board member to the EDC if provided with recommendation from the Planning Board. Motion to have the Selectmen's representative to the Planning Board inquire if a planner would be interested in becoming the Planning Board representative to the EDC and submit a recommendation to Selectmen for appointment(King,second Scruton)passed 5-0.

Motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II(a)for the purpose of discussing the Teamsters' contract,Wage adjustments for administrative staff and Fire Chief agreement (King,second Proulx) passed 5-0(King,Scruton,Proulx,St.Onge,Capello-yes) at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Chairman, Matt Scruton

Paula Proulx

Arthur Capello

Brian St. Onge

Charlie King