

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen – Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 28, 2014
5:30PM
Selectmen’s Chambers
356 Main Street

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Town Administrator Keith Trefethen

1. Call to order:

Chairman Scruton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II (a) for the purpose of interviews for the Patrolman position (King, second Proulx) passed on a roll call vote 5-0 (Scruton, King, Proulx, St. Onge, Capello-yes).

Motion to adjourn non-public session (St. Onge, second Capello) passed on a roll call 5-0 (Scruton, King, Proulx, St. Onge, Capello) at 6:12 p.m.

2. Public meeting reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes:

June 23, 2014- Motion to approve with the following amendments (Capello, second King): Addition of the motion and roll call vote to enter non-public session and results, under Public comment-include only "The board discussed a letter from the Farmington Firemen's Relief Association", page 2 date typo (20114 to 2014), motion and roll call vote to enter non-public session at the end of the public portion of the meeting passed 5-0.

July 7, 2014- Motion to approve with the following amendments (Proulx, second King): add second amendment to motion concerning granting a Use Easement to the Farmington 500 Boys and Girls Club prohibiting erecting buildings or signs not related to the allowed uses of the property passed 4-0 (Capello abstained). Motion to approve the non-public minutes (King, second Proulx) passed 4-0 (Capello abstained).

5. Public Comment:

Resident Brandy Sanger came before the board to discuss residents efforts to raise money for fireworks at this year's Hay Day. She explained that after some residents learned that funding for the fireworks had been cut from the town budget, they decided to collect the money needed and created a Facebook page (Farmington News) to help solicit donations. She added that a Selectman had posted comments on the page that she felt were derogatory regarding a town employee and suggested this did not follow the town's new social media policy. Chairman Scruton said the policy only covers the official town websites and social media pages and added that board members are free to post their opinions as private citizens on other sites. Selectman Capello said that he posted comments on the page as a resident after he learned that misinformation had been posted at the site. He explained that \$1500 was originally included in the budget for fireworks but had been reduced to \$500 due to the need for budget reductions. He said the Recreation Dept. Director told the board the money was not enough to do anything with and they should focus on having fireworks in 2015.

6. Farmington Children's Center:

Approximately 35 area parents, administrators and employees attended the meeting to discuss renewal of the center's lease. The majority of speakers urged the board to renew the lease and related the need for children's services, a handy, reliable and safe place for childcare, high quality early education and the lack of options to place the center elsewhere in town. Interim Police Chief Jay Drury told Selectmen the current police station is in rough shape in a tough location with no ability to expand. He suggested that retrofitting the children's center building might be a cost effective solution for the future needs of the police department and requested members allow the department to take over use of the building if a suitable location for the childcare center could be found. Community Action Executive Director Betsey Andrews Parker said she had been unsuccessful in finding a new location in town that would meet state requirements such as the proper amount of square footage per child enrolled in the programs. After some additional discussion about economic and taxpayer impacts, the board closed the public comment session and began board members discussion at 7:20 p.m.

Selectmen had many concerns and questions regarding the cost and feasibility of each of the options. Concerns included the length of a new lease, subsidizing non-resident children, priority for Farmington children wishing to enroll in the program, available space in the school district, availability of grants to purchase land or construct a new facility, possible expansion into a community center, splitting the program into two smaller parts (childcare and Headstart) to facilitate finding a new location and costs to retrofit the existing building for police department use. Motion (King, second for discussion, Proulx) to request legal counsel to draft a 20-yr. lease to include a payment in lieu of taxes based on assessed value, Farmington residents would be granted first right of refusal for openings at the center, Community Action will maintain the building and property and insurance coverage would include coverage for the town failed 1-4 (King yes, Capello, St. Onge, Scruton, Proulx-no). Motion to table the vote to allow Building Inspector Dennis Roseberry to obtain estimates to retrofit the center for use by the police dept. (Capello, second Proulx) failed 1-4 (Capello-yes, St. Onge, Scruton, Proulx, King-no). Motion to table the decision (Capello, second Proulx) to obtain cost estimates to retrofit the building from the Building Inspector and Police Chief Drury and request CAP officials look at additional funding sources for building or expansion of the center passed 4-1 (King opposed). Following a request from Betsey Andrews-Parker to extend the current lease to allow children to finish the school year, a motion to extend the current lease from March 2015 to August 2015 (Capello, second King) passed 5-0. Selectmen will reconvene the matter at the August 25 meeting.

7. Request for Modification of CAP Office:

Betsey Andrews-Parker presented a request to make some changes to the CAP Outreach Office located in the Old Courthouse building on Main Street. Modifications would include securing the Dutch door between the waiting and office areas so that it can be locked to control access to office. They would also like to install a customer service window with a sliding glass window to better serve clients in the waiting area. The window would be installed in a non-load bearing wall and all work would be paid for by CAPSC she said. Motion to approve the request (Capello, second King) with the following conditions: all work performed will be removable, take place on a non-load bearing wall and not effect the historical character of the building passed 5-0.

8. Waiver of Rental Fees:

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Conway presented a request from Alcoholics Anonymous to waive the facility use fee required to use the Town Hall. The group would like to use the Recreation meeting room for their Sunday and Monday night meetings. Motion (King, second Capello) to waive the rental fee contingent on the meetings being open to the public and payment of the staffing charge passed 5-0.

9. Hay Day discussion:

(a) Motion to approve the use of the TD Bank parking lot for amusement rides (King, second Proulx) passed 5-0.

(b)Resident Fireworks Fund raising-Selectmen thanked residents who are conducting fund raising efforts for this year's fireworks. Chairman Scruton read a list of local businesses and residents who have donated to the cause, bringing the current total to \$2,252 of the \$3,000 needed.Anyone wishing to make a donation can send a check to the Recreation Department,531 Main Street,Farmington,NH with "fireworks" in the subject line.Fire Chief Peter Lamb reported on the status of the permits needed for the display.He explained the permit process and said the application is in process and that they are waiting for information from the "shooter"(the company that puts on the display).

(c)Lack of Recreation Department Fund raising-Rec.Director Conway said he was grateful for the public's efforts and noted that the department normally plans several fund raising events to raise funds for the yearly display,but following the budget process,he thought the plan was to forgo the 2014 fireworks and focus on 2015. Selectmen said they thought the lack of funds would be made up through fund raising but found no substantial efforts had been made by the Recreation Dept.It was then determined that there had been some miscommunication between the Town Administrator,the Recreation Department and Selectmen.Members advised Conway to take better advantage of the potential for grassroots involvement and asked Conway to provide a list of fundraisers planned for 2015.Chairman Scruton asked everyone to work harder at communicating better and making their expectations clear.Residents are also considering forming a Fund Raising Committee that will work in conjunction with the Recreation Department.

10.Avitar Assessing/Internet Kiosk options:

Selectmen discussed options that would allow online access to various levels of assessment data from the website developed by Avitar Associates of New England,Inc.Motion to accept option 2 to allow access of assessing data via the Internet for public use(King,second Capello)passed 5-0. This would allow limited assessment information to all online users at no cost to the town.

11.Forest Fire Warden Approval:

Town Administrator presented a request to appoint a Forest Fire Warden. Motion to approve the appointment of Fire Chief Peter Lamb as Forest Fire Warden (King,second Capello)passed 5-0.

12.Status of Auction of Tax Deeded Properties:

Motion to table the matter(Capello,second St.Onge)passed 5-0.

13.Other Business:

(a)Thank you letters sent-Selectmen thanked all those from the Strafford County Work Program involved in the prep work and painting of the meeting room in the municipal building.

(b)Planning Board member for EDC- Selectman St.Onge inquired as to the status of appointing a Planning Board member to the Economic Development Committee.Trefethen reported that no recommendation has been received from the Planning Board.

(d)RFP/Commercial Broker-Members briefly discussed the need to publish an RFP for a commercial broker to market the sale of lots in the Sarah Greenfield Business Park.Trefethen said he held off on publishing the request due to interest in the lots expressed by some businesses.Selectmen King suggested the RFP could be sent out and in the mean time those businesses potentially interested in locating in the park could be invited to speak to the board.Selectman Proulx suggested it may be better to wait until after the decision regarding the Farmington Children's Center,which is adjacent to the lots,is made. No action was taken.

14.Non-public session:

B. Present: Selectmen Scruton,King,Proulx,Capello,St.Onge;Town Administrator Keith Trefethen,Interim Police Chief Jay Drury,Fire Department Chief Peter Lamb.

Motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II(c)to discuss personnel (King,second Proulx)passed on roll call vote 5-0(Scruton,St.Onge,Capello,Proulx,King-yes) at 9:05 p.m.

Motion to adjourn non-public session (St.Onge,second Capello)passed by roll call vote 5-0(Scruton,King,Proulx,St.Onge,Capello-yes)at 9:43 p.m.

C. Present: Selectmen Scruton, King, Proulx, Capello, St. Onge; Town Administrator Keith Trefethen. Motion (King, second Capello) to enter non-public session under 91 A:3 II (b) passed by roll call vote 5-0 (Scruton, King, St. Onge, Proulx, Capello - yes) at 9:44 p.m. Selectmen discussed the performance status of the Recreation Director. No action was taken.

15. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn (St. Onge, second Proulx) passed by roll call vote 5-0 (Scruton, St. Onge, Proulx, Capello, King - yes) at 10 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Chairman, Matt Scruton

Paula Proulx

Arthur Capello

Brian St. Onge

Charlie King