

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen
Monday, June 15, 2015

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Public Works Director Dale Sprague
Interim Fire Chief James Reinert
Rochester residents Jacob Parlin, Andrea Pickett

1). Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2). Review and Approve Purchase Orders.

3). Approval of Minutes:

May 18, 2015, Non-public sessions A, B and C: Amend Session C, first paragraph, fifth sentence; sentence should read “which should include outreach efforts to recruit future enrollment for daycare.”

Motion: (Proulx, second King) to approve the minutes of non-public sessions A, B and C as amended passed 5-0.

June 1, 2015- Public Session-

Motion: (King, second Proulx) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0-1 (St. Onge abstained).

June 1, 2015- Non-public sessions A, B and C-

Motion: (Proulx, second King) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0-1 (St. Onge-abstained).

June 8, 2015-Public Session-

Motion: (Proulx, second King) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0.

June 8, 2015- Non-public sessions A, B and C-

Motion: (Proulx, second King) to approve the minutes as written passed 5-0.

4). Public Comment:

A). Andrea Pickett and Jacob Parlin came before the board to request an extension of the time allowed to store a camper on a vacant lot. They explained that they purchased a lot in the Lancelot Shores development at 25 Merlin Drive and have clear cut the site, excavated there and then had to halt construction due to financial and personal difficulties. They said they have been using a camper for storage of materials at the site, but are not living in the camper. They were informed by Building Inspector Dennis Roseberry that he had received a complaint that someone was living in the camper and improperly disposing materials on the ground. Both issues were disputed. They received notice to remove the camper from the property

by June 23 but noted the town regulations allow for a camper to be stored on site through October. Parlin said the association agreed to allow the camper to remain on site for one year. Ms. Pickett added that they have nowhere to take the camper to store it.

Discussion included the camper is unregistered, the deed for the lot has not been transferred or recorded, collection of taxes is not allowed if the payer's name is not on the deed or invested in the property, expiration of the Association's deed, zoning regulations regarding storage of campers and the lack of response from the Building Inspector.

Chairman King said he would contact Roseberry to discuss the matter and determine the next steps. The couple said they plan to register the camper this week. Chairman King said Roseberry may agree to grant an extension to removal order if the couple shows they are being proactive in resolving the situation.

5). DOT Paving:

Public Works Director Dale Sprague came before the board to discuss the Department of Transportation's plans for paving in town this summer. He told the board the state now plans to pave Main Street from Elm Street to Central Street and Central Street from Main Street to Spring Street. Previously, DOT determined this was the town's summer responsibility, but apparently there has been a new interpretation of the town's responsibility he said. Plans call for a paving company to install a top coat "white line to white line". Sprague said he asked for clarification and was told the surfaces will be 24 feet wide. If there is a little strip of asphalt outside the white line the state would probably pave it but the town will responsible for any areas that widen out and for parking areas. Sprague said he has budgeted for paving the shoulders and parking areas. He said he does not know when the state paving work will begin.

Discussion also included sewer covers, catch basins, infrared and grinding work as well as current and future additional street work. Consensus of the board was to authorize the Public Works Director to continue with the road work as planned.

6). Non-Public Sessions:

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) Town Administrator Candidate Interviews. The motion passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Proulx, McCarthy, St. Onge, Horgan-yes) at 6:15 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Proulx) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:45 p.m.

Motion: (Horgan, second St. Onge) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Proulx, Horgan, St. Onge, McCarthy-yes) at 7:45 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:05 p.m.

7). Discussion with Fire Chief:

A). ComStar Contract Renewal- Chief James Reinert came before the board to continue the discussion regarding the renewal of the contract agreement for ambulance billing. Discussion included the cost for an ambulance trip, cost for the trip in other towns, percentage of amount owed that is collected by ComStar, collecting from Medicare and Medicaid patients and ComStar's billing process to the town for their service.

Selectmen also discussed the proposal to opt out of the Anthem agreement. At the previous meeting, Selectmen had questions about some of the contract language and the results of opting out of the contract. The Fire Department Secretary was unable to get a response from Anthem. Concerns included if the ambulance department can charge the same rates as an out of network provider if they opt out of the agreement, other town's experiences after leaving the plan and fraudulent claims. The board requested a written answer to their questions from Anthem.

Motion: (Horgan, second Proulx) to enter into a new contract with ComStar with the listed changes and authorize Chairman King to sign the agreement passed 5-0.

B). Annex Building- Chief Reinert then discussed plans for storage of Fire Dept. vehicles when the building is demolished. He

said Car 1 and the SUV utility vehicles can be stored outdoors at the station. Public Works Director Dale Sprague has agreed to allow the fire dept. to use a second bay at the highway garage for vehicles that must be stored indoors due to security reasons or during cold weather. The bay needs a Knox box which is a secure metal key box that allows for quick access in the event of an emergency. Reinert said he looked at purchasing a Quonset hut to store vehicles in, which would shield them from the elements but would not protect them from cold temperatures. He also reported that the tanker had to be moved out of the Annex as the leaking roof has caused the sheet rock in the ceiling to disintegrate and fall to the floor.

C). Firehouse Software- Chief Reinert told the board the dept. is not happy with the software and the lack of a quick response from the company's tech support. The software is a program used to track calls and the information is used to apply for grants. Discussion included opting out of the Firehouse contract, what software companies provide similar programs, buying the program license outright or paying yearly update fees. Chairman King said he would contact Town Counsel regarding opting out of the contract and asked the Chief to research alternatives and report his findings to the board.

8). Police Department Openings:

A). Resignation- In a memo to the board, Police Chief Jay Drury told the board that Officer Gough has resigned his position with the department and has returned to his home town in Massachusetts. Chief Drury said he would like to replace Gough with Zachary Frye with a start date of June 29, 2015. He noted that the board met with Frye last December and gave him a conditional offer pending the outcome of the Gough/McNeil trial. Consensus of the board was to authorize Chief Drury to present a conditional offer to Zachary Frye.

B). Fill Remaining Part Time Position- Chief Drury also requested permission to fill a part time position with Carl Wagner, a retired Captain from Windham, NH with 25 years of experience. Consensus of the board was to authorize Chief Drury to hire Wagner and ask the Chief to provide a recommendation for starting salaries for the officers in time for a vote on the matter at the next board meeting.

9). Contract Planning Discussion: Tabled until the next meeting.

10). EPA Request for Access onto Town Property:

Chairman King reported receipt of a letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seeking access to nine town owned properties including the former Collins and Aikman Plant Superfund site and properties across Route 11 that are part of the Sarah Greenfield Business Park. The agency plans to conduct a remedial investigation and a feasibility study which will allow the EPA to know the extent of the contamination in the area and evaluate long-term clean up strategies.

The letter said that entry to the properties is allowed by federal law and if a timely response from the town is not received, the agency will take other steps to gain access, including bringing action in federal court. Selectman Proulx said she found the tone of the letter to be a little "chippy" and suggested it is not necessary to threaten the town with court action if an answer is not received in 10 days. She suggested the Project Manager change their communications to a more co-operative tone.

Motion: (King, second St. Onge) to authorize Chairman King to sign the consent for access to town property passed 5-0.

11). Any Other Business to Come before the Board:

A). Rec. Dept. Maintenance Policy- Selectman Horgan suggested the board ask Recreation Department Director Rick Conway to draft a maintenance policy regarding the installation and maintenance of cameras to be installed in Fernald Park. He said he is concerned about town employees climbing trees and using ladders and other equipment to install the cameras and maintain them. He added that he wanted to see both the town and the employees protected.

Chairman King agreed and said there should be a written procedure that addresses who will perform the tasks and proper procedures and safety issues.

Vice Chairman St. Onge asked if the town has a similar policy for cameras used by the Police Dept. or the Conservation

Commission. Horgan noted that Conservation Commission members are volunteers, not town employees. He suggested the board consider looking at some sort of “hold harmless” agreement for volunteers at a later date.

Motion: (Horgan, second McCarthy) to request the Recreation Dept. Director develop a rough draft of a maintenance policy for cameras passed 5-0.

B). Land Swap- Selectman McCarthy asked about the status of land swap between the town and Cameron’s Home and Garden Center. Chairman King said the swap has been completed and the deed has been signed over to the town. He said he would check on the progress of the property being placed under the care of the Conservation Commission.

12). Adjournment:

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 9:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Charlie King

Paula Proulx

Brian St. Onge

James Horgan

Gerry McCarthy