

Town of Farmington  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 30, 2017

**Board Members Present:**

Charlie King, Chairman  
Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman  
Jim Horgan  
Paula Proulx  
Ann Titus

**Others Present:**

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator  
Police Chief Jay Drury  
Residents Linda McElhinney, Bobbie Stormann, Matthew Stormann

**1). Call to Order/Pledge:**

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2). Public Input:**

Some residents requested to speak to the board regarding the lack of economic development in Town and a full time professional Economic Developer.

Mr. King explained the board decided to take an existing part time staff member and increase her hours to full time and expand her duties to include tasks assisting other depts. and the Capital Improvement Plan and Economic Development Committees. He said some people and tasks have been moved around and the aggregate staff hours are now close to what the Town has had historically.

Ms. Proulx added the Finance Dept. has been overworked while the Assessing Dept. was underworked so the Assessing Clerk has been assisting with some financial tasks.

Mrs. Stormann asked the board if they thought economic development is a huge concern for residents of the Town.

Ms. Proulx said economic development is important to the town but added "if done right".

Mr. King said that as a small business owner, he is pro-business but noted there is a misconception that bringing in a big business will have the greatest impact but there is also a big impact in costs to the Town. He said his answer is to encourage small to medium sized business to come to Town to minimize the cost impact to the Town.

Mrs. Titus said she is very much for economic development in Town and noted that she is a member of the Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Stormann said the Welfare Director's position has been increased to full time, there was an increase to the budget but there is no economic development.

Mr. King said the Welfare Director is a valued employee who has helped the Town to comply with state regulations while decreasing welfare payouts. He said she was offered more money for the same work elsewhere and Selectmen saw this as an opportunity to keep a capable employee and assist with other tasks.

Mrs. Stormann said she felt residents were misled by the way the position was sold at the 2016 Town Meeting. She said voters should have been told this story about the reason the Welfare Director was made full time instead of leading residents to believe it was for full time economic development.

Mr. Johnson disagreed with her assessment of the Town Meeting discussion and said the

Chairman told residents the Welfare Director would be working with the Economic Development Committee not as an Economic Developer.

Mrs. Stormann cited the example of Dollar General expanding the number of stores in the area and said they would have chosen to come to Farmington if there was someone to invite them to come to Town.

Mrs. Titus said that 2 agents contacted Dollar General to discuss available properties in Town and were told they were not interested in coming to Farmington. She added that the Welfare Director/Administrative Assistant has also been working on getting the TIF District Advisory Board started.

Ms. Proulx said the assistant actually went door-to-door trying to get members for the board but was unable to find any volunteers.

Mrs. Titus recognized Mrs. Stormann's interest in business development and strongly encouraged her to become a member of the Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Stormann said it is the board's job to market the Town to businesses and developers. She then said she felt residents were being "stone walled" as there have been no updates on what is being done to bring new business to Town.

Discussion then turned to what type of feedback residents are looking for and the various means of communication available to them including attendance at public meetings, televised board meetings, meeting minutes, the Town website and e-mail.

Mrs. Stormann requested that the annual dept. reports and the library reports be included on the Town website.

Mr. Capello said he will include the dept. reports when available and would include the library reports if they are sent to him.

Mr. King asked if there was any progress on the proposed Town Face Book page.

Mr. Capello said the policy regarding the page has not been completed or approved by the board.

Ms. Proulx agreed if residents don't understand what the board is trying to do then there is a breakdown in communication somewhere that needs to be cleared up.

Mr. King said the board will work on improving communication with the public.

### **3). Non-Public Session A:**

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Johnson, Horgan, Proulx, Titus- yes) at 6:20 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Horgan) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 6:35 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to seal the minutes until the case is adjudicated passed 5-0.

### **4). Non-Public Session B:**

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Johnson, Horgan, Proulx, Titus – yes) at 6:35 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 6:50 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to seal the minutes until the matter is resolved passed 5-0.

### **5). Non-Public Session C:**

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Johnson, Horgan, Proulx, Titus- yes) at 6:50 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:05 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the minutes passed 5-0

Recess- Chairman King called a 5 minute recess at 7:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

**6). Non-Public Session D:**

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Johnson, Horgan, Proulx, Titus- yes) at 7:10 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:15 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the minutes until negotiations are completed passed 5-0.

**7). Non-Public Session E:**

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Johnson, Horgan, Proulx, Titus-yes) at 7:15 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:25 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the minutes until the matter is resolved passed 5-0.

**8). Non-Public Session F:**

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (King, Johnson, Horgan, Proulx, Titus-yes) at 7:25 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:30 p.m.

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

**9). Reconvene Public Session:**

Chairman King reconvened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**10). Additional Board Business:**

A). Follow-up on Resident Complaint- Mr. King said he had received another e-mail from resident Stan Freeda regarding on street parking in front of his Main Street residence. He said he tried unsuccessfully to address Mr. Freeda's questions/concerns and was bringing the issue back to the board.

Mr. King said in his response he told Mr. Freeda that parking is allowed everywhere in Town except where restricted which is known as a permissive style ordinance. Mr. Freeda has now asked for a copy of the ordinance so he can read it for content he said.

Mr. Capello said he will provide a copy of the RSA defining permissive ordinances to Mr. Freeda.

Mr. Horgan said he researched the state files in Concord and could not find anything that applies to parking in that area.

The board also discussed Mr. Freeda's request to have the proper lines painted to avoid blocking driveways if parking is allowed or to erect "No Parking" signs if parking is not allowed. Consensus of the board was that these actions are unnecessary.

Mr. Johnson reiterated his previous advice that if Mr. Freeda is having a problem with people blocking his driveway that he should call the Police.

Mr. King said that Mr. Freeda also stated in his e-mail that this is a safety issue and if the board chooses to ignore the issue they should make it public at a Selectmen's meeting so the public

knows Selectmen are choosing not to address a safety issue.

Mr. Capello said he met with dept. heads regarding this issue and visited the site with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and DPW Director and found no safety issues near Mr. Freeda's residence.

Mr. Capello will provide a response to Mr. Freeda on behalf of the board.

**B). Stipends for Board Members-** Mr. Horgan said he had a request from Planning Board Vice Chairman David Kestner for Selectmen to consider giving an annual \$100 stipend to Planning Board members to compensate them for expenses.

Discussion included board members volunteer at their own expense, difficulty getting and keeping members, what is the total cost to pay stipends to all committee members, whether to pay stipends to just Chairman and Vice Chairman and the bookkeeping "nightmare" of paying an acting Chairman.

Selectmen took the matter under advisement and took no action on the matter.

**C). Town E-mails-** Mr. King suggested the Town consider official e-mail addresses for board members for Town business. He said board members would still be able to communicate with the public and conduct Town business while keeping their personal e-mails private if desired. Mr. Capello said the Local Government Center recommends board members do this and G Mail accounts could be set up for members if approved by the board.

Mr. Capello said the e-mails could also be set up to filter through the Town Administrator's e-mail address if they wished him to do so.

Consensus of the board was to handle the matter individually.

**D). Solar Power Update-** Mr. Horgan asked if a representative of NH Solar Garden would be available to provide a presentation of the plan to generate solar energy at the Town landfill at a board meeting or at Town Meeting in March.

Mr. Capello suggested a presentation be held at Town Meeting as a warrant article to approve a long term land lease with the company will be under consideration by voters. He said he will contact the company and see if a representative is available to make a presentation that day.

**E). Sale of Town Property-** Mr. King asked that an update on the status of the old Fire Station property and Town properties for sale be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

**11). Next Meeting:** Monday, February 6, 2017.

**12). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (King, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

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Charlie King, Chairman

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Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

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Jim Horgan

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Paula Proulx

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Ann Titus

