

Town of Farmington  
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 10, 2017

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Board Members Absent:**

Jim Horgan

**Others Present:**

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator  
Bill Fisher  
Dave Connolly

**1). Call to Order:**

Chairman Proulx called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2). Pledge of Allegiance:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). Public Input:** None

**4). Review of Minutes:**

The board did not receive copies of the minutes for review.

**5). Ambulance Repair Issue:**

Mr. Capello told the board that an ambulance air conditioning compressor failed and it will cost \$3,000 for its repair which will further over expend the Fire Dept. vehicle maintenance budget. He said he approved the repair request as the state requires ambulances to have both heating and air conditioning so the unit must be repaired. The ambulance is currently undergoing repair at Granite Ford and will be ready on Thursday he said.

**6). Easement for Trails at the Public Safety Building:**

Mr. Capello said Dave Connolly contacted him to discuss installing a second access for the new McCarthy Trail at the Public Safety Building from Paulsen Road which abuts the 500 Boys and Girls Club property.

He said that in 2014 the Town gave the club an easement to use Town owned land and then directed the board to page 2, number 7 of the Easement Deed which states that if nothing has happened on the property for 1 year or longer it reverts back to the Town with 30 days written notice. The board now has the option to either send the club a 30 day notice that the land is reverting back to the town or to send a 30 notice that the club can continue the easement but a clause will be added to give the Town rights to pass and re-pass over the property he said.

Mr. King said there is a physical plan that goes with the easement deed showing the location of the easement which was not included in the materials received by the board.

Mr. Connolly came forward and provided the board with a copy of a map of the parcel.

Mr. King said the easement is located on the side of the property before the Vision Park

driveway. He said they may not be able to use the area for an access due to having to cross the wetlands there.

Mr. Connolly agreed the site would need to be investigated for feasibility of putting an access there. He said that a second option would be to use an abutting property (Tax Map R32, Lot 26) which does not have as much wetland area and has frontage on Main Street with the permission of the owner.

Mr. Connolly then pointed out the location of the Main Street property on the map.

Mr. King noted there would be a need for 2 wetland crossings and that he did not know if the area was passable on foot.

Mr. Connolly said that this area would also need to be investigated to see how wet it is and they may be able to use the same type of crossings used on the French property which would only require a Trails Notice to the state.

Mr. Connolly then said another reason for a second access is because of the limited amount of parking at the Public Safety Building for the McCarthy Trail.

Ms. Proulx asked if there is room for a trail head off of Paulsen Road.

Mr. Connolly said he thought the space would be large enough for 5 or 6 vehicles.

Mr. Johnson asked if anyone had discussed the matter with the 500 Club.

Mr. Capello said they had not spoken with the club as they wanted to discuss it with the board first.

Mr. King asked if anyone had actually looked to see if any work has been done by the club on the easement property. He suggested the club be contacted and asked if they have intentions to use the property because the board may be considering other uses for the property.

Mr. Johnson said he did not think they should be asked about long term intentions as they have already had the property for several years with no use.

Mr. Connolly said he was positive that the club has not made any use of the easement property.

Mr. Johnson said he did not have a problem with it if they have intention of using the property but the Town should still pursue using the parcel as a second access to the McCarthy Trail.

Mr. King said that the club's plans may not impact what the Town wants to do depending on where they want to do it so there may be a way to allow both activities. He added that someone needs to walk the property to determine the feasibility of passing on foot or by a foot bridge.

Mr. Connolly said he walked the McCarthy Trail last week and installed the hiking placards along the looped trail route. He said 4 areas have been identified as activity areas and they are working with Home Depot having some items made for the activity areas which should be complete within the next few months.

Mr. Capello said he will send an e-mail to the 500 Boys and Girls Club President asking him about the easement property and noted that the new President may not even know that they have use of the Town property.

## **7). Town Administrator's Business:**

**A). Joint Meeting with the Economic Development Committee and the Planning Board-** Mr.

Capello said representatives of the boards have agreed to meet with Selectmen to discuss

economic development and what form it will take in town. He asked the board when they would like to hold the meeting and suggested they pick a regular Monday Selectmen's meeting night and give the board members the option of 2-3 dates and go with the date when more members are available.

Ms. Proulx asked about the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Capello said it would be a brain storming session to determine which path the Town will choose to take to further economic development. He added that he will ask the Town Planner to attend the meeting.

Mr. King said he will not be able to attend a meeting on Aug. 14 due to a previous business commitment.

Consensus of the board was to offer the members their choice of a July 24<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup> or Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> meeting date.

**B). Propane Contract Proposal-** Mr. Capello said he received price quotes for the next heating season from Eastern Propane and Irving Energy. He asked for the authorization to sign the contract with Eastern Propane who submitted a bid that is 24 cents a gallon cheaper than last year's rate of \$1.95 a gallon.

Mr. Johnson asked for the predicted amount of usage for the season.

Mr. Capello said the records from last year showed that 10,500 gallons were used and noted that the waste water treatment facility is the Town's biggest propane user.

Mr. Johnson asked if they are planning on purchasing the same amount of gallons for this year.

Mr. Capello said they plan to buy same amount as last year. He said that the amount of gallons used should be a little less due to the energy efficiency of the Public Safety Building. He added that until we have a good sense of the actual usage with the new building he didn't want to leave the Town short on the amount of gallons purchased.

**Motion:** (Johnson, second King) to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract with Eastern Propane at a fixed price of \$1.71 per gallon of propane for the period beginning Sept. 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018 passed 4-0.

Mr. Capello said he would have the oil price quotes per gallon at the next or the following board meeting. He said he expected the price to increase by about 3 or 4 cents a gallon from last year's prices.

Mr. Johnson said oil prices are down and are the cheapest they have been in the last 5 years.

Mr. Capello said he would revisit the suppliers and determine if in fact the price will be lower this year.

### **8). Additional Board Business:**

**Street Lights-** Ms. Proulx asked for an update on the non-functioning street lights in town.

Mr. Capello said all of the non-functioning street lights have been reported to Eversource. He said the Selectmen's Secretary has just returned from vacation and he will follow up with her the next day on the status of the repairs.

Mr. King asked what the repercussions would be if the town went against the "new kinder, friendlier energy supplier" (Eversource) for lack of keeping the lights on that the Town is paying

for.

Mr. Capello said the board previously decided they did not want to hold back money from the company and that he could call the Public Utilities Commission to determine if there are other options for the Town.

Mr. King said he was tired of the problem which was happening before the company was sold and that now the problem is even worse than before.

Mr. Capello said the Selectmen's Secretary has been calling the company almost weekly.

Ms. Proulx said the company has been alerted of the problems and that the Town continues to pay the bill no matter what. It is not our fault and we continue to pay them for service we are not getting she said.

Mr. Capello said he would contact the company Vice Present and forward the board's concerns.

Mr. Johnson suggested he also contact the PUC about the issue.

Mr. King said the tax payers are paying for the street lights to be on but they are not on. When we call them they don't care he said.

Mrs. Titus added that the dark areas are safety concerns for the Town.

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

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (d) Acquisition of Property passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, King, Titus- yes) at 7 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 8 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the minutes passed 4-0.

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

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation, Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, King, Titus-yes) at 8 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 8:25 p.m.

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

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, King, Titus- yes) at 8:25 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 8:35 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the minutes passed 4-0.

#### **12). Non-Public Session D:**

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, King, Titus- yes) at 8:35 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 8:55 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Titus) to seal the minutes passed 4-0.

**13). Fireworks:**

Selectmen reported receiving complaints from residents regarding setting off fireworks at late hours of the night.

Mr. Capello said he was aware of some of the complaints and asked the Fire Chief to provide his thoughts on a policy regarding fireworks in Town to the board for consideration.

**14). Next Meeting:** Monday, July 17, 2017

**15). Adjournment:**

Motion: (Titus, second Johnson) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 8:56 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

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Paula Proulx, Chairman

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Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

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Charlie King

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Ann Titus