

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 29, 2022
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

Ken Dickie, Chairman
Gerry Vachon, Vice Chairman
Doug Staples
Penny Morin
Charlie King

Others Present:

Mike Farrell, Interim Town Administrator

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Dickie called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Non-Public Session A:

The board held a "non-meeting" with Attorney Mark Broth from 5:09 p.m. to 6:09 p.m.

4). Reconvene Public Session:

Chairman Dickie reconvened the public session at 6:12 p.m.

5). Public Input: None

6). New Business: None

7). Old Business:

Strafford Regional Planning Commission – Mr. King said the board received an e-mail telling them that a rep from SRPC would be attending their Sept. 19 meeting regarding the Level One Site Assessment done at the old fire station property.

Mr. Dickie said the meeting with SRPC is scheduled for Sept. 12 and they are scheduled to discuss the levee on Sept. 19.

Mr. Farrell said there will be a site walk of the levee before the meeting and asked the board what time would work for everybody.

Mr. King said the FEMA and Hoyle Tanner reps would probably plan to do the site walk and then stay for the board meeting and asked Mr. Farrell to find out how long the site walk is expected to take and to ask to schedule the walk at that amount of time before the meeting.

Levee Grant- Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Farrell if he received the information on a storm water

mitigation/restoration grant for the levee that he sent him this week.

Mr. Farrell said yes and that he has had it for a while.

Mr. Vachon said the levee may qualify for the grant due to storm water being the reason that it might breach. He said he sent to the board also and it's a grant they are trying to use in Somersworth for headwalls and culverts where the river comes up due to storm water so why wouldn't the levee qualify. There is a section of the grant that can be used for engineering and it has a rolling deadline for submissions and there's a big pot of money that just keeps rolling over he said.

Mr. Dickie said he received the information and would look into it.

Water Fountain- Mr. Vachon asked if anyone noticed that the water fountain in front of the Municipal Office Building has been completely overhauled and was sandblasted, primed and painted.

Mr. Dickie said he did see it and they did an outstanding job with it. He said they took it up to the Town garage, stripped it down, sandblasted, treated the bowl with a pool liner type of material to prevent rust and then painted it black so it now looks like it is back to its original condition. He said we need to look decent and there should be a sense of pride when people come here and if we have a fountain that was donated that used to sit in the square that's sitting there rusting shame on us for not keeping it up so he asked them to address that. I really want to thank the Highway Dept. and Chuck (Tiffany) for making it happen he said.

Election Coverage- Mr. Vachon said he has both Sept. 13 and Nov. 8 off so he is available both days to attend the "festivities".

Mr. Staples said he is also available.

Mr. Dickie said he was pretty sure his wife will be there (Town Clerk Becky Dickie) so he was pretty sure he would be there.

Mrs. Morin said she was pretty sure her husband would be there (Town Moderator Mike Morin) and she would be there after 4 p.m. as it is the first week of school where she works.

Salaried Employees-Mr. Staples asked to have legal counsel's input on if there is a minimum salary the Town has to pay salaried employees.

Mr. King said that they didn't need to ask the attorney because that is part of the labor laws and that answer should be easy to get.

Mr. Staples asked that they check to see if there is one because he was told they might be in violation of something.

Mr. Vachon said the minimum wage is \$7.50 an hour and at 2,080 hours a year the minimum salary is \$15,600 that they have to pay somebody per the labor law.

Mr. Farrell said there is a federal minimum and a state minimum.

Mr. King said he thought there is a different number under salary that may be higher or lower than that and he agreed with Mr. Staples that they should look into that.

Mr. Staples said it was just brought to his attention so he told them he would bring it to the

board.

Town Budget Review- Mr. Staples asked if Finance Administrator Lisa Kimball could attend their next meeting so they can go over what has been spent that wasn't budgeted and try to figure out a slot to put it in because he was concerned about the \$175,000-\$200,000 that they spent that wasn't budgeted.

Mr. King asked what areas he was referring to.

Mr. Staples said fuel and energy is going to be a huge problem but paying out the former Town Administrator and the Police Chief, the investigations and the audits for the DPW and the Police Dept. and Primex is way off. He said looking at what they had planned and looking at the budget they have the only way they'd be able to try to come up with that money if they didn't take it out of the **American Rescue Plan Act** fund would be to not pave Bay Road as that is the only significant chunk of money left in that budget.

Mrs. Morin asked if they have a purchase order for that.

Mr. King said they have issued the PO for that but he wasn't saying they couldn't cancel it.

Mr. Dickie said he believed that with old Bay Road they still have a \$100,000 residual after that's been paid for based on what they signed for a contract. He said by not sifting gravel and sand there's another \$30,000 or \$40,000 that could be allocated.

Mr. King suggested having Ms. Kimball answer some questions on where they are at and the decisions on what they are not going to do is up to the board.

Mr. Staples said he is worried about what has already been spent and with winter coming salt is going to "kill" us and potentially over time the energy and diesel costs.

Mr. Dickie said we are going to need 330 tons of salt to carry us from Oct. to Dec. until the new budget season kicks in on Jan. 1.

Mr. Staples said there is \$12,000 in that account.

Mr. Dickie said they have been working with Morton Salt and got their numbers from Mr. Vachon and recalled that salt is \$68 a ton.

Mr. King asked that Ms. Kimball also bring them what we have for payables that are not reflected in...assuming that the payables are booked once the invoice comes in but it may not be due say it's a net 30 invoice. He said it may be logged as a payable so we can get what has been spent to that period but also what is in payables that has been logged. He said you could the current year expenditures is \$200,000 but they could be \$43,000 in payables that are on the books and coming due. That number at times we don't see but it would be good to know what that number might be he said.

Mr. Dickie agreed and that we might be further in the hole than we think.

Mrs. Morin asked if they are at the point where they should hold off on Bay Road.

Mr. Staples said that is why he asked to have Ms. Kimball come in and go over everything with the board so they could make an educated decision.

Mrs. Morin asked when they are scheduled to do Bay Road.

Mr. Vachon said it is scheduled for the end of Sept. and they have a signed contract so unless they want to breach a contract...

Mrs. Morin suggested asking if they could bump it out to next year.

Mr. King said they could say no we're going to make you do it or they could say they have other stuff lined up so they could broach the question unless there's a cancelation charge in the contract.

Mr. Staples asked Mr. Farrell that if the Finance Administrator goes on vacation if he could try to make sure that monthly budget reports for the Budget Committee are done before she leaves.

Mr. Farrell said that was a problem and when they are short handed it's hard to do. He said she made sure that the committee knew that she wasn't going to be able to get it done in advance.

Thank You! - Mrs. Morin said thank you for the flag and getting it up and repaired and gave a shout out to whoever helped Mr. Vachon with completing that task. She said it looks great and it was nice sitting downtown and seeing the flag flying again.

Mr. Vachon said that would be Nick Johnson Jr. and Mike Morgan who volunteered to spend some quality time with him downtown on Saturday. He thanked them for the brand new ropes and that it should be all set now for a while.

8). Town Administrator's Business: None

9). Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2022

10). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (King, second Vachon) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Dickie, Vachon, Staples, Morin, King-aye) at 6:27 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 6:49 p.m.

11). Non-Public Session C:

Motion: (King, second Morin) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) Compensation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Dickie, Vachon, Staples, Morin, King-aye) at 6:49 p.m.

Motion: (Morin, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 6:58 p.m.

12). Non-Public Session D:

Motion: (Morin, second Vachon) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (e) Litigation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Dickie, Vachon, Staples, Morin, King-aye) at 6:58 p.m.

Motion: (Morin, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 7:03 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Morin) to seal the minutes of this non-public session and the Public Works Dept. Personnel Review of July 2022 for a period of 20 years as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 5-0.

13). DPW Union Contract Negotiations:

Mr. Dickie said he was contacted by the union rep who requested that the board enter contract negotiations early to avoid any lapse in the contract.

After some discussion consensus of the board was to approve beginning negotiations 3 months prior to the expiration of the present contract (3/21/23) during the preparations for the 2023 Town budget.

14). Adjournment:

Motion: (Morin, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:11 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Ken Dickie, Chairman

Gerry Vachon, Vice Chairman

Douglas Staples

Penny Morin

Charlie King