

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 27, 2021

Board Members Present:

Paula Proulx, Chairman
Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman
Ken Dickie
Doug Staples
Gerry Vachon

Others Present:

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
Blanche Tanner
Bruce Bridges

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Proulx called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Input:

Resident Bruce Bridges said that something needs to be done about the condition of Ten Rod Road and showed the board photos of a trench alongside the road that he said is not supposed to be there. He said the water is washing out the road in front Bob Morgan's house and that York raking the road isn't doing any good because it is too far gone. He said it is difficult to see it when it is shady or dark and suggested a traffic cone be placed there until it is corrected.

Mr. Capello said he would find out if the Highway Dept. plans to grade the road one more time before winter and that they were probably using the York rake to get out what they can first.

Mr. Bridges said the road usually gets raked 3 times a year but it has only been done twice this year. He said they are talking about sending traffic down his road with the weight limit on Hornetown Road and the bridge and conditions are now that he has to come to a complete stop to enter his driveway.

Mr. Dickie said he could confirm what Mr. Bridges was saying and that there are some deep potholes that also need to be taken care of.

Mr. Bridges said he would appreciate it as would others who live on and use that road.

Resident Blanche Tanner asked for an update on the test results and reason for the colored water coming from Town Well #5.

Mr. Capello said the water has tannins in it from the peat moss but it is tested weekly and is safe to drink. He said installing a tannin filter would be an expensive process and they have been working with a consultant to find out what else can be done about it and currently the Water Dept. Supervisor is trying to dilute it with water from Well #6.

Ms. Tanner said that it is better than it was and it was pretty brown at one point.

She said at the last meeting the board discussed getting bids for several projects and asked

what the procedure is to solicit bids and how the companies are contacted.

Mr. Capello said the request for bids are posted on the Town website and contractors the Town has used in the past are contacted and invited to bid on relevant projects.

Ms. Tanner asked if they hear about a project if they could contact him and get the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Capello said yes and suggested that area businesses should sign up for the e-mail alerts from the Town website to receive those notices when they are posted.

Ms. Tanner said during a previous meeting Fund 20 was mentioned and asked what that is.

Mr. Capello said it is an internal account number and it contains the COVID money.

Ms. Tanner said people like to complain and go on Facebook and criticize the Town for their handling of the Hornetown Road Bridge and suggested that instead of complaining that they go on Facebook to ask people to slow down especially if they know who is doing the speeding and leaving black marks on the road and the bridge. She said maybe it is not Farmington residents doing this and they don't care about the bridge but if it is Farmington residents then shame on them as they are costing the taxpayers and they will really be frustrated if the bridge is closed. She thanked the Rec. Dept. for the Rolling Smiles flag raising event at the Municipal Office Building and the spaghetti dinner at the Rec. Center this past Saturday. She said that people were asking when is the Rec. Dept. going to open and it is now open with activities for all ages. She urged residents to get involved and help out with Hay Day and that the big fabulous Hay Day people want to see will not happen without some help.

Ms. Tanner said she has been watching the Selectmen and School Board meetings and does not understand the animosity between the 2 boards and why there isn't better communication. She suggested that people check out the Spirit Book at ourdailybread.org where they will find some interesting reading for 09/ 21. There are 4 letters- MYOB (mind your own business) that people should do more of especially if it's negative and they may have a better outlook she said.

Mr. Capello said that there was a good turnout for the Rolling Smiles flag raising and that Captain America was on hand to raise the new flag. He said there was also a good turnout for the spaghetti dinner and that more events are planned for the future.

He said there are still some openings in the after school program and it will cover snow days and teacher professional development days as well.

Ms. Tanner said she heard of a "controversy" where the Rec. Dept. spaghetti dinner would take away from the turnout for a dinner planned by one of the grades at school and downplayed their concern because nobody says they would only eat spaghetti once a year and if the school was holding a spaghetti dinner this week she would go. These little things bug me she said.

4). Review of Minutes:

The minutes were not available for review at this time.

5).DPW Truck Repairs: Mr. Capello said the local company they were waiting for has decided not to submit a bid as it is too much work. He recommended the work be spread out between the remaining 2 bidders and if approved the money for the repairs would come out of the truck repair line in the Highway Dept. budget not from the Capital Reserve Fund.

He said the 2006 GMC ¾ ton pickup (truck #101) that has major (frame, cab and bed) rot was taken off the road that day and added that the Ford Explorer SUV will go the Code Enforcement Officer as his current Town vehicle will not pass inspection.

Mr. Dickie asked what this truck is used for.

Mr. Capello said it has minor use as a plow and is used for transporting tools and materials.

Mr. Dickie asked for the number of 1 ton trucks the dept. has.

Mr. Vachon said the dept. has 4 one-ton trucks with one out of service.

Mr. Dickie questioned if this truck is needed.

Chairman Proulx suggested they could remove the bed and make a flat bed truck out of it.

Mr. Vachon said that would be cheaper than the estimate they received to repair it (\$8,109).

Chairman Proulx said that is something they have done in the past and asked if anyone has looked into it.

Mr. Capello asked Mr. Vachon to provide some information on the cost to do that.

Mr. Vachon said he would like to have the Town's mechanic present when discussing vehicle repairs so he could talk to the "hands-on" person.

Mr. Capello said he would ask the mechanic to attend with the dept. head if he's available.

Chairman Proulx said it depends on if the price is right to do it in-house and if the vehicle is needed.

Mr. Vachon estimated it would cost about \$1,500 to do the work in-house.

Chairman Proulx asked Mr. Capello to look into it and asked the board to put the matter on hold for now.

Mr. Capello said they looking to have truck #305 (2007 International 10-wheeled dump truck) at DiPrizio's (\$4,633.48) and trucks #302 (2005 International 6-wheeled dump truck) and #304 (2004 International 6-wheeled dump truck) at Allegiance Trucks (\$15,608.44).

Mr. Vachon asked why they were proposing to spend another \$1,000 to go to another place for the transmission work.

Mr. Capello said it was because DiPrizio's can't guarantee to have that work completed and have the truck back in time before winter because they recently lost 3 employees.

Mr. Vachon asked for the completion date for the work to be done Allegiance Trucks.

Mr. Capello said it was a week out to start the work and none of the bidders gave a completion date.

Motion: (Dickie, second Vachon) to award the bid for repair work for truck #305 at a cost of \$4,633.48 to DiPrizio Trucks passed 5-0.

Mr. Capello said they were trying to be preventive and Allegiance said they couldn't guarantee

to get the truck back before winter due to the time it takes to get parts.

Chairman Proulx suggested they contact DiPrizio again to see if they will be able to get the trucks back in time.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to award the repair work for trucks #302 and #304 not to exceed \$15,608 to Allegiance Trucks contingent on checking with DiPrizio first and they are unable to do the repairs and they are the only choice passed 4-1 (Vachon opposed).

6).EDC Appointment:

Mr. Capello said he received an application from Angela Hardin requesting to be appointed to the Economic Development Committee.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to appoint Angela Hardin as a regular member of the EDC for a one year term passed 4-1 (Johnson opposed).

7). COVID-19 Update:

a). Possible Uses of Funds – Mr. Capello proposed that the board consider expending American Rescue Plan Act funds to replace the security cameras and install a cable drop at Fernald Park. He said he received a quote from Tech Soup2Nuts LLC to install 4 security cameras at the park to be set up inside the new shed and at the gazebo (\$3,265 for 4 cameras, parts and materials, battery backup and internet data).

Mr. Johnson said he had no idea what they were trying to do there as the quote is just a list of parts.

Mr. Dickie asked if the battery backup would work during the winter.

Mr. Johnson said there would be no problem as it is a lead acid battery. He asked if the cable company would install a drop there.

Mr. Capello said yes but there would be a recurring monthly cost.

Mr. Johnson asked why they wouldn't hook up to the wireless node there.

Mr. Capello said he didn't know who owns it or how long it would be there and they have to make sure they are able to do cable there.

Mr. Johnson said he did not like the design plan and that \$3,000 worth of parts in a shed is a target (for thieves and vandals).

Chairman Proulx asked if he knew of a better way to do it.

Mr. Johnson said he had not thought about it and had no ideas right now.

Mr. Capello said that they don't have to do this now and his intent was to get the conversation started and they have plenty of time to spend the money. He said they have had vandalism issues at the park and he was trying to curb it and help the Police Dept.

Chairman Proulx said she has also heard about other problems at the park and wanted the kids to have a place to play and not be stepping on drug paraphernalia.

Mr. Johnson asked how the equipment would be secured in the shed.

Mr. Capello said he would find out.

8). Town Administrator's Business:

a). No Meetings – Mr. Capello said no meeting is scheduled for 10/04 or 10/11 (Columbus Day). He said the board will begin reviewing employee pay scales the following week and the 2022 budget in November.

b). Mobile Home Park License Approval- Mr. Capello said the issues raised by the board at the last meeting have been corrected and the Building Inspector/CEO recommends the mobile home park license renewal for Peaceful Pines be approved.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to approve the Mobile Home Park license renewal for Old Wave LLC, Peaceful Pines Mobile Home Park for 2021 passed 5-0.

c). Bond Cost – Mr. Capello said the board asked for information on the cost to issue a bond for the cost to replace the Hornetown Road Bridge and that he contacted the NH Municipal Bond Bank and requested the estimated schedules for 10 year and 15 year bonds for \$1.7 million. He said after the first year the tax impact would be 36 cents for a 10 year bond and 29 cents for a 15 year bond.

Chairman Proulx said it would be a significant impact and extremely expensive if the Town was to take this on with no help (from other funding sources).

Mr. Johnson suggested they hold this matter until they start discussions on next year's budget.

Mr. Capello said the discussion should early because it is a lengthy process to issue a bond.

d). COAST Bus-Mr. Johnson said he didn't waste his time reading all of **Cooperative Alliance** for Seacoast Transportation stuff provided in their packets and asked if there was anything they should know.

Mr. Capello said the Town's contribution for next year will be the same as this year's.

Mr. Johnson asked if they are not predicting an increase in the subsidy.

Mr. Capello said no because of all the federal funds COAST received so they are using that to subsidize their expenses.

Mr. Johnson said all they were looking for was the bottom line but he didn't see any financial information that would be useful.

9). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Johnson, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (I) Consideration of Legal Advice passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 7:06 p.m.

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

10). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of Public Employees, Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 7:25 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:15 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to implement the following wage increases to become effective at a future date: Police Chief-\$46 an hour; Fire Chief-\$34.25 an hour; Road Agent- \$32 an hour; Water/Waste Water Supervisor- \$33.25 an hour; Town Administrator- \$46 an hour and Transfer Station Supervisor- \$24.50 an hour passed 5-0.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to move the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's wage rate to \$30.20 an hour passed 4-0-1 (Dickie abstained).

11). Non-Public Session C:

Motion: (Johnson, second Dickie) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of Public Employees, Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 8:17 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:33 p.m.

12). Non-Public Session D:

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, c) Compensation of Public Employees, Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye) at 8:33 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 8:56 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Johnson) to seal the minutes as disclosure would render the proposed action ineffective passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Dickie, Staples, Vachon-aye).

Motion: (Johnson, second Vachon) to approve the amounts discussed in non-public session pending negotiations with the union passed 5-0.

13). Next Meeting: Monday, October 18, 2021

14). Adjournment:

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 9 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

Paula Proulx, Chairman

Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

Ken Dickie

Douglas Staples

Gerry Vachon