

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen – Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2016
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street

Board Members Present:

Charlie King, Chairman

Paula Proulx, Vice Chairman

Jim Horgan

Neil Johnson

Others Present:

Town Administrator Arthur Capello

Rochester resident Matt Scruton

1). Call to Order:

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (King, Proulx, Horgan, Johnson- yes) at 6 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 6:05 p.m.

3). Non-meeting with Town Counsel: 6:05 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.

4). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (King, Proulx, Horgan, Johnson) at 6:40 p.m.

Motion: (Johnson, second King) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 7 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to take a five minute recess passed 4-0 at 7 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

5). Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman King called the public session to order at 7:05 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of the Allegiance.

6). Review of Minutes:

Dec. 14, 2015 Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (King, Horgan) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0.

Non-Public Session B: Amend to include "Selectmen did not commit to a raise in six months".

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to accept the minutes as amended passed 4-0.

Non-Public Session D:

Motion: (Johnson, second Horgan) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0.

Non-Public session E: Amend to include “SEALED” at the top of the page.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to accept the minutes as amended passed 4-0.

Dec.21, 2015 – Public Session:

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to accept the minutes as written passed 3-0-1 (Horgan abstained).

Non-Public Sessions A through E: Amend to include “SEALED” in title at top of the page on Sessions A, D and E.

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to accept the minutes as amended passed 3-0-1 (Horgan abstained).

Dec.24, 2015- Public Session: Amend to spell “buy” correctly.

Motion: (Johnson, second King) to accept the minutes as amended passed 4-0.

Nov. 30, 2015- Public Session:

Motion: (Johnson, second Horgan) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0.

7). Public Input: None.

8). Decision on '79 General Military Trucks:

Selectmen discussed the sealed bid process and the bids received for surplus vehicles. Discussion included the rules for submitting a bid, if e-mail is suitable for sealed bid submissions, additional e-mail bid sent on time was discovered after the Dec.21 opening date, computer “glitch” with the Secretary’s e-mail, e-mail does not meet the requirements stated in the bid posting and acceptance of e-mail bids has been done as past practice.

Matt Scruton told the board that he was the highest bidder for the trucks and asked the board to reconsider accepting his bid. He asked the board not to consider any bids that did not meet the sealed bid requirement and noted that his \$727 bid was twice the stated \$300 reserve price for each vehicle. He added now that the bids have been made public he is at a disadvantage should the vehicles be re-posted and said he hoped the board would accept his bid so he would not have to go to court to resolve the matter.

Chairman King advised Mr. Scruton that the board has the ability to accept or reject any or all bids. He said the scrap value of the trucks is more than Scruton’s bid and the board should do what is best for the town and in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Additional discussion included the board’s options to accept/reject/repost the bids, revise the bid policy and the language for future bid postings. Vice Chairman Proulx asked to continue the discussion in non-public session before making a decision due to the potential for litigation.

Selectmen Horgan and Johnson expressed concerns about e-mail bids not meeting the stated requirement in the posting for a bid sealed in an envelope. Horgan suggested they honor only those bids received in a sealed envelope.

Motion: (Horgan, second Proulx) to accept the bid offered by Matt Scruton failed 1-3 (Horgan-yes, King, Proulx, Johnson- no).

Consensus of the board was to continue the discussion in non-public session before making a decision on the matter.

9). Woman's Club Waiver Request:

Capello told the board the Farmington Women's Club had submitted a request for a waiver of the rental fee for the Recreation Dept. gym for their Chili/Chowder Festival scheduled for Feb. 27, 2016. The group has since withdrawn their request and no action was taken by the board.

10) Welfare Guidelines Update:

Selectmen received a copy of the recommended changes to the Welfare Guidelines for their review. Selectman Johnson asked for better proofreading and spell check for documents sent out to the public. Capello will e-mail the corrected copy to Selectmen and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

11). Additional Board Business:

A). School Board Relocation Committee- Selectman Johnson said he attended several of the recent committee meetings and reported that following a discussion of the possible relocation of the SAU Office, the committee voted to restrict the relocation of the office to the existing school campus. He noted that the committee discussed using available space in any of the three schools, the Little Red Building, the FLA Building as well as the current SAU Office building. Chairman King noted that including the current SAU Office is inconsistent with the motion as the current SAU Office is not located on the school campus. Johnson then suggested Selectmen appoint a representative to the committee.

Motion: (Proulx, second King) to nominate Neil Johnson as the Board of Selectmen's representative to the School Board Relocation Committee passed unanimously.

Capello noted the use of the second floor of the Municipal Building was removed from consideration.

B). Gerry McCarthy Park- Selectman Horgan reported that he was contacted by Conservation Commission Chairman Dave Connolly to discuss the town owned 25 acre lot on Pound Road. He suggested the area be named after the late Selectman who was also the Selectmen's Rep to the Conservation Commission to commemorate his efforts to get the land placed in conservation and turned over to the Commission. Chairman King asked for more information on the map and lot number, which side of the road it is on and what abuts the lot. Capello will provide the information at the next meeting.

C). Town Budget Presentation- Vice Chairman Proulx asked when the town budget would be presented to the Budget Committee. Capello said the committee will begin their review on January 27 and the Public Hearing is scheduled for February 9. Both meetings will be held at the Municipal Building and will begin at 7 p.m. he said.

D). Resignation- Capello reported receipt of a letter of resignation from full time employment with the Police Dept. from Sgt. Ken Tilley. Tilley has accepted a full time position with the Strafford County Sheriff's Dept. but will remain with the Farmington Police Dept. on a part time basis.

Motion: (Horgan, second King) to accept the resignation of Sgt. Tilley passed 4-0.

E). Exit Interview- The board received copies of the exit interview conducted with former Planning Dept. Secretary Bette Gallagher for their review.

F). Town Administrator Evaluation- Capello gave the board copies of the town's evaluation form for Selectmen to complete regarding the possible end of his six month probationary period on Jan.21.

G). Monthly Dept. Reports- Selectmen received the monthly reports for the Recreation and Police Depts.

H). Road Conditions- Selectman Horgan asked if Meaderboro Road had been restored following the heavy rain that flooded parts of the road. Capello said the road was blocked for the night during the flooding and has since been restored. Horgan then asked if the pot holes on Poor Farm Road have been fixed. Capello said he will address the matter with Public Works Director Dale Sprague.

I). Financial Report- Selectman Johnson asked if there are any other unfunded liabilities other than what is put in the Trust Fund as shown on page one of the report. Capello said he will get clarification of the information presented.

J). Financial Assistance- Selectman Horgan asked if the Assessing Clerk has begun performing additional tasks to assist the Financial Administrator. Capello said she has begun working on the town's fixed assets reports on Fridays in preparation for the audit to be conducted in April.

12). Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

13). Non-Public Session C:

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (King, Proulx, Horgan, Johnson- yes) at 7:55 p.m.

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

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

14). Non-Public Session D:

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

Motion: (King, second Horgan) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 8:15 p.m.

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

15). Non-Public Session E:

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (King, Proulx, Horgan, Johnson- yes) at 8:15 p.m.

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

16). Non-Public Session F:

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

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 8:45 p.m.

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

17). Truck Bids:

The board returned to public session and the following motions were made:

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to reject all received bids submitted regarding the 1979 tri-axel trucks, stating inconsistencies with the posting and the town reserves the right to reject any and all bids passed 3-1 (Horgan opposed).

Motion: (King, second Johnson) to repost these two vehicles for two weeks starting as soon as possible; accept sealed bids by e-mail or mail to be directed to the Town Administrator ending at 12 noon on January 25, 2016; the Town reserves the right to accept any and all bids passed unanimously.

18). Adjournment:

Motion: (Proulx, second Johnson) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 8:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

Charlie King

Paula Proulx

Neil Johnson

James Horgan