

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 15, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

Gerry Vachon, Chairman
Charlie King, Vice Chairman
Ann Titus
Doug Staples

Board Members Absent:

Penny Morin

Others Present:

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Vachon called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m.

2).Non-Public Session A:

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Staples, Titus-aye) at 5:28 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 5:33 p.m.

3). Non-Public Session B:

Motion: (King, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples-aye) at 5:33 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 5:52 p.m.

4). Non-Public Session C:

Motion: (King, second Staples) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples-aye) at 5:52 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 6:01 p.m.

5). Reconvene Public Session:

Chairman Vachon reconvened the public session at 6:06 p.m.

6). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

7). Public Input: None

8). Review of Minutes:

May 1, 2023-Public Minutes- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to accept the public minutes of 5/1/23 as written passed 4-0.

May 8, 2023-Non-Public Sessions A & B – No errors or omissions

Motion: (Titus, second Staples) to accept the non-public sessions A & B minutes of 5/8/23 as written passed 4-0.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to seal the Non-Public Session A minutes for 60 days as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples-aye).

9). Old Business:

Good Energy, LP/Standard Power Memorandum Of Understanding- Mr. Dickie said this is back on the table after they had a discussion with legal counsel last week and asked if the board wanted to act on it.

Mr. Vachon asked if this is just for them to do an audit to see how much power the town uses and there are no strings attached.

Mr. Dickie said yes and that is why he had Town Att. Keriann Roman review it and there are no strings attached even if they sign it and enter into it if they don't like it we can opt out at any time.

Mr. King said he was okay with the discussion from Att. Roman and it doesn't seem that we're liable for anything if we do not want to proceed and if they want to proceed in a different direction they're not bound to go with this company and then made the following motion:

Motion: (King, second Titus) to authorize Ken Dickie to sign on behalf of the Board of Selectmen the MOU agreement for the study;

Discussion: Mr. Vachon said he thought the attorney added something so they could back out and that they're not liable.

Mr. King asked if the copy the board received is the revised version that Att. Roman worked on.

Mr. Dickie said yes and that he made sure the changes were in there.

Vote: the motion passed 4-0.

Recycling Project Update- Mr. Dickie said he knew Mr. King spoke with Jeff Greenhalgh and he met with him at the Town Hall because he had him come in and do a walk thru as they are trying to get a CDBG grant for the Town Hall. He said Mr. Greenhalgh is also working on a quote to handle everything and is getting some quotes if they were to do everything and he is waiting for those quotes to come in for the recycling building.

Mr. King said he mentioned that it sounded like the requirements are changing and it has gone from a cold building to a warm building and asked if they are looking for a 40' x 60' building.

Mr. Dickie said it was 30' x 60' and he asked if that was going to be enough room and asked him to look at a 30' x 80' building and to see what the price difference was.

Mr. King said they will see what the quotes are and if it's going to be a heated building there's a big difference in **Insulating Concrete Forms'** efficiency. He said a steel building has some merits if you do a 4' frost wall and you'd have more durability but you would have to add some

protection for the ICF on the inside say plywood on the inside for the first 4' or 8' but its better insulated and would cost us a lot less if we're going to heat it.

Mr. Dickie said he has to meet with the Building Inspector to see if there are any designs for the Transfer Station as to where the power, water and sewer lines are because they need to know where they can and can't dig and they need to notify Dig Safe as well.

Mr. King said they couldn't have the new building in the area where the other building was because it was in the area of the cap so they may have to ask NHDES where a suitable location is in that area. He said there was some stuff that had to be moved because it was in the area that had to be capped and they didn't want any permanent structures in the capped area. Hopefully we can find that information and hopefully we have a substantial area outside that to put this building up he said.

Mr. Staples said where they were baling before is up and over where they capped it and the cap ends right where the fence is.

Mr. King asked if the proposed area is outside of that.

Mr. Staples said it's on this side and its right by the HAZMAT building.

Mr. Dickie said he will reach out to him.

Mr. Vachon said he thought the original plan was to put it where the HAZMAT building is right where the oil and stuff goes.

Mr. Staples said they planned to take that building out and put the new one there.

Mr. King asked if the use of this building was going to be for recyclables and HAZMAT storage or if they would be relocating them (HAZMAT).

Mr. Staples said right now the storage is up top and that people walk up and put it in front of the building and then the guys put them in the Gaylords and put them up top.

Mr. King asked Mr. Dickie if during his discussions with Mr. Greenhalgh if they talked about the ramp area (at the Town Hall) and getting somebody to do that.

Mr. Dickie said no and they have a design already thru Gelinas Engineering and he has to get with Mr. Tiffany and Mr. Brannan to see if they can get that out for quotes so they can get a contract to get that done.

Mr. Vachon asked if that would be a Request for Proposals or a Request for Bids.

Mr. Dickie said it would be a RFB to get it constructed to the design.

Seasonal Project List- Mr. Vachon said Mr. King wanted to touch base on some of the items on the list.

Mr. King said Mr. Brannan was not here and he was fine with picking it up next week.

Mr. Dickie said they need to take another look at it and if they have enough manpower to complete what they have on there and his gut is telling him they may have to outsource more.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to table the seasonal project list to next week passed 4-0.

Poor Farm Road Update- Mr. Dickie said they heard Mr. Brannan say just before the meeting started they have the excavator and the culvert up there with everything ready to go. He said

they tried a pump from PIP Rental it started working fine and then all of a sudden it started running rough so they brought it back and got a Town pump from the Fire Station and it started working and then it stalled out and they couldn't get it going.

He said they went back to PIP and got a bigger pump and if they can get the water under control the old culvert will be dug out and the new one will go in. They have the stone up there and everything is ready to go it's just a matter of controlling the water he said.

Bridges- Mr. Dickie said he has the new contract with Hoyle Tanner and passed out copies for the board to look at.

Mr. King asked if this was just finalizing what they had discussed.

Mr. Dickie said yes with option #2 and it just came in today.

Mr. Vachon asked Mr. Dickie if had gone over the contract to make sure the changes they requested are in it and the scope is what they wanted.

Mr. Dickie said yes and they had requested to change the scope and on one of the pages it is looking for a lump sum payment of \$29,000.

Motion: (King, second Titus) to authorize Ken Dickie to sign on behalf of the board passed 4-0.

Chaos & Kindness Update- Mr. Dickie said it's still the same as last week and he has been waiting and waiting and they have a meeting tomorrow night. He said they had a staff meeting just to get the wheels turning because he wants to be ahead of it not behind it.

He said when this does come in its probably going to be fast and furious so he had the Rec. Dept., Police, Fire and the Road Agent get together and one of the things they are trying to understand is what the meaning of volunteer is which will be coming up tomorrow night at 5 p.m. when they have the meeting with the volunteers and the Town's side. He said part of volunteer means they are going to help get the program going, get it organized and then go see the show or is it where they're going to continue to help park cars, take tickets and monitor the hallways. I don't know what the extent of volunteer is and this is stuff we need to understand because if it's not helping all the way through then we may have to change the way we're doing the per diem it to get them to cover the full amount which is going to cost more than what we thought with the \$10,000 he said.

He said when they looked at Hay Day Police Chief Scott Orlando brought up that he plans for Hay Day by strategizing with the his guys and says you take this day off and I'll let you work the weekend but at straight time not time and a half. He said not knowing when this is coming they can't really plan that way. I'll know more tomorrow when we have our meeting with the volunteers what the extent is.

He said he also needs to reach out to Ruth Ellen (Vaughn-SAU Superintendent) to see what the school's portion is going to be and see if they have volunteers that want to help us as well and they can monitor the hallways and do that side of. He said he knew that the School Board voted to let them use the high school but he is not sure what the volunteers are from the school side. Mr. Vachon said so they have no date, no nothing yet.

Mr. Dickie said nothing it's been "radio silence". As soon as I know you guys will know he said.

Hay Day Update- Mr. King asked when the next scheduled meeting is for the Hay Day planning and if there is one scheduled.

Mr. Dickie said it would be at the beginning of June.

Mr. King asked if they had one in May.

Mr. Dickie said he thought there was one at the beginning of May.

Mr. King said Hay Day is in August so there are only 2 meetings between now and Hay Day.

Mr. Staples asked if any vendors have signed up.

Mr. Dickie said not what they were hoping for but they have a few. He said he had an informal meeting out on the building's front steps but they need to have a formal meeting at the beginning of next month.

Mr. King asked to have the board kept up to date as it is getting closer.

Mr. Dickie said after this coming meeting they may have to double or triple up on the meetings.

10). New Business:

Community/Paramedic Intercept Service MOU- Mr. Dickie said Frisbie Hospital had signed an agreement with the Town and now based on costs and strain they want to opt out of it and start charging \$500 per ambulance call that we need to have an EMT meet us half way because of the medical coverage we can't provide because we have paramedics not EMT's or if we need them to cover because we're out on call somewhere else. He said Fire Chief James Reinert is trying to fight it and they don't know all of the details yet but he wanted to bring it before the board to let them know this is coming and it's in the contract that as long as they give us a 30 day notice they can opt out. He said they tried to play the card that we have our budget set and because we're in a low income town a lot of these (charges) are not collected in time so it hits our budget.

Mr. King asked who they are charging-us or the patient.

Mr. Dickie said yes and yes. He said they bill the Town which goes to the patient because we have a third party billing company that we push the bill to.

Mrs. Titus asked if what Rochester wants to do is if they come in here to meet us they are going to charge us not the patient.

Mr. Dickie said yes and the Town has to bill the patient.

Mrs. Titus said she didn't know why they couldn't get the information and have the patient pay Frisbie.

Mr. King said they want to bill us because we have to pay and if the patient is not able to pay we eat the difference. He said this will take our ambulance service which is cash positive to cash negative and will have to be raised through taxation for ambulance services. He said it's raised now but we get reimbursed by the revenue they take in to cover that. He asked if Chief Reinert knows what the cost sharing is now and what they are getting now for these intercepts.

Mr. Dickie said for the ambulance runs it has been around \$200,000.

Mr. King said he meant when Frisbie comes out to meet us and we are going to need to know that because say if they are getting \$250 now and we have a share of that responsibility and it's going to \$500 so they can estimate the impact on our budget.

He asked if the MOU has been sent to the Town Attorney to see what the Town's options are for fighting it.

Mr. Dickie said he sent it to her but she hasn't responded yet.

Mrs. Titus asked what the process is if they had 2 paramedics on duty.

Mr. King said they would have to be able to hire them first. He asked how many paramedics we have that are per diem or full time.

Mr. Vachon said we have one paramedic level person but the fire station itself isn't equipped for paramedic level because then you have to have drugs on board, inventory, security and it's not just hiring a paramedic.

Mr. Dickie said there's a lot more to go through an EMT status and there is a significant cost to get that.

Mr. King said they are running to other towns and asked if they are doing the same thing to those towns.

Mr. Dickie said yes and we are one of the last ones they haven't done it to.

Mr. King asked if they have already gotten out their contracts with Milton and Middleton.

Mr. Dickie said they are already collecting the \$500 per ambulance run from their towns. We are one of the last ones not paying yet he said.

Mr. Vachon said last month we requested their assistance 9 times for paramedic intercepts.

Mr. King said that's \$4,500 and times 12 would be over \$50,000 a year.

Mr. Vachon said that's still cheaper than hiring paramedics to cover the whole time.

Mr. Staples asked how this would work where we're doing mutual aid all the time and we're transporting from Middleton, New Durham, etc. He asked if the ambulance has to pull over and the patient is from New Durham if we are paying the \$500.

Mr. Dickie said he would have to look into it but if the patient is from New Durham it should go to New Durham not Farmington.

Mr. Vachon said the monthly report says we went mutual aid to cover for Frisbie Hospital twice and asked if we can charge them \$500 every time we roll to help them. He asked if that offsets for them and every time we roll we don't get charged the \$500.

Mr. King asked if they are going to be charging us only when its paramedic or for all calls.

Mr. Dickie said he is hearing that it would be for all calls.

Mr. King asked him to double check because if it's for all calls and if they go through we're going to reciprocate. Maybe we should increase our rate to \$1,000 he said.

Mr. Vachon asked if this was just an informative item letting them know that it's coming.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Water Issues- Mrs. Titus asked Mr. Vachon if he wanted to explain the water issue she saw on

Face book today.

Mr. Vachon said the Water Dept. is out flushing and if you have little to no water pressure in the middle of the night they're flushing hydrants which draws more water than your service will draw and water seeks the path of least resistance so if they have a hydrant open you're not going to have water at your $\frac{3}{4}$ inch service coming off the main it's going to be blowing out of the cap on the hydrant. He said you may see some dirty water which should clear and you may have some air in your lines which should also clear but they are flushing the hydrants for maintenance on the water lines.

April Monthly Fire Dept. Report- Mr. Vachon asked if they went through the insurance company for the front bumper on ambulance A1.

Mr. Dickie said we replaced it at the Highway Dept. garage but he was never notified about it.

Mr. Vachon asked if he knew if a Police report was filled out.

Mr. Dickie said he would have to look into it.

Mr. Vachon asked him to let him know and read from the report that it was from an incident over the winter.

Mr. King asked if the damage to the scene light was also damage related to that incident because that would bring it to \$1,600 total.

Mr. Staples said at that point there should be a Police report.

Mr. Vachon said there should be one anyways it's a Town vehicle.

Mr. Staples asked what they hit.

Mr. Dickie said he thinks they hit the Public Safety Building.

Mr. Staples asked about the damage done to the building.

Mr. Dickie said he didn't think it much damage to the building and it just dented the bumper.

Mr. Vachon asked him to look into it and give the board more information next week. We have insurance for a reason and we pay them quite a bit of money to cover everything he said.

11). Next Meeting: Monday, May 22, 2023

12). Non-Public Session D:

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples-aye) at 6:36 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Titus) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 7:05 p.m.

13). Non-Public Session E:

Motion: (Titus, second King) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (I) Emergency Functions passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples-aye) at 7:05 p.m.

Motion: (Vachon, second Staples) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 7:17 p.m.

14). Non-Public Session F:

Motion: (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation

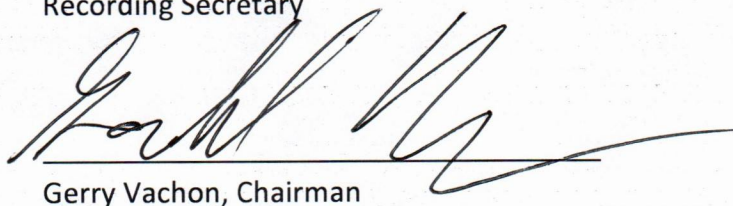
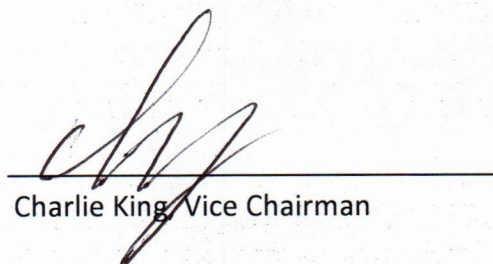
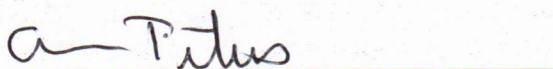

passed 4-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, King, Titus, Staples-aye) at 7:17 p.m.

Motion: (King, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 4-0 at 7:28 p.m.

15). Adjournment:

Motion: (Vachon, second King) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 7:28 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary


Gerry Vachon, Chairman
Charlie King, Vice Chairman
Ann Titus
Douglas Staples