

Town of Farmingdale Select Board Minutes  
May17, 2017

Members Present: James Grant – Nancy Frost - Wayne Kilgore—Others Present: Rose Webster- Shenna Bellow – David Cyr and Amy Cyr

Meeting opened by Jim Grant at 6:30 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Grant welcomed Shenna Bellows from Maine Senate District 14. Shenna previously attended the Small Town roundtable for a discussion on School funding issues at the State level. Jim noted that the State still is not funding at the 55% level, enrollments are declining, but the cost of education is skyrocketing.

Shenna Bellows – The current budget figures released from the Governor’s proposal for State funding was at the lowest minimum set, the highest is in the proposed budget from the Democrats that would approve up to 200 million more in funding for education. She would be surprised if it did pass at that, but feels that that there may at least be more State funds released to help the municipalities with the cost of School funding. Shenna believes that the State needs to pay its fair share, that the rainy day fund at the State level has grown and some of this needs to be used. The State has passed mandates onto the School but not funding these directives, placing more burdens on the School budgets. That she has heard loud and clear from the voters that the State needs to pay its fair share. Sheena said that Gay Grant has introduced a bill to create incentives for municipalities for sharing of services. Sheena also said that Revenue Sharing is not funded to the level that it should be, currently it is at 2% and should be 5%, Sheena has proposed a bill to gradually increase the Revenue Sharing over the next few years. It was agreed by everyone that the State has to start looking at ways to balance the budget and fund at the levels that they should. That passing the burden onto the Taxpayers in property taxes is making it very hard for the municipalities to keep offering needed services without making huge cuts.

David and Amy Cyr – Discussion with some other Farmingdale residents on what could be done on the issue with the Gardiner Library and not being able to attend the Library if the Town does not increase the amount on the Town Meeting Warrant. Rose read the Town Meeting Warrant article that it is for Library Choice for up to \$6000.00. Rose said that Ann Davis of the Gardiner Library said that would not be enough and residents would not be able to attend the library unless the \$10,153.00 was paid for this year. Some questions to if the amount could be changed at Town Meeting, Rose said that the Article was written so that it does allow an increase. David asked if it did not get changed at Town Meeting is it a possibility that a petition can be signed to have it changed. Rose said that the petition would have to be signed and require 10% of the total number of residents that voted in the last gubernatorial race and presented to the Selectboard and require a special Town Meeting.

Rose – Gave the Selectboard and email from MMA that was requesting a follow up the recommendations from the Auditor during the last audit having another name on the checking and savings accounts. Rose said that the office has implemented several checks and balances. That there really should be 2 people on the accounts, that it is difficult for her to go on a vacation that is not done mid-week and longer than one week, due to having to sign the checks. Rose said that she has been advocating for 3 years that the Deputy Treasurer should be added to the accounts. That this all a part of cross training, responsibility, accountability. Wayne mentioned that the Board needs to continue to review the accounts. Jim felt that accepting responsibility and being held accountable is part of the job and that some people need to have responsibility thrust upon them and they either make it or break it. Nancy had concerns and wants to make sure that the errors are kept to a minimum and double checking and learning the accountability of the job, and the responsibilities associated with this. Rose said that she would be watching the accounts, continuing the training and the importance of the checks and balances, making sure that there is always an oversight done on all levels of the accounting.

➤ Jim Grant made a motion add the Deputy Treasurer Cynthia Burnham to the accounts.

- Nancy second
- Vote 3/0

The Selectboard and Rose went over the warrant articles, recommendations for using surplus and excise tax to keep the tax increase at a minimum. Rose asked the Board to countersign the withdrawals from the Savings Reserve Accounts. Discussion on the borrowing for a new Fire Station, the amounts and terms and decided that a 30 year payment schedule would be more manageable. Currently the USDA has a rate of 3.375 for 30 years.

Jim said that he Sexton needed to identify the trees and brush in the Cemeteries that need to be removed and a description, so that a contract can be done. Jim would like to put out the Outlet Road Brush Cutting and Tree removal contracts at the same time and the pre-bid meeting also held at the same time for all three contracts. Rose also provided a copy of the Sewer manhole project; Jim will discuss that at the Sewer Committee Meeting tomorrow night. Rose gave the Board an email from Jim Coffin regarding the price of having some camera work on the Hayford Heights project. Eco Clean estimated that they could do the camera work where Park and Pine meet for \$1,200.00. It was decided to go forward with that, as it is needed to get the elevations need in that area so that the project can be started.

The Board had a discussion on the dedication in the Town Report, it was decided that it would be dedicated to Matt Guilfoyle who was the Chief Constable and suddenly passed away last November. Matt was once a resident of Farmingdale and had been employed by the Town for several years.

Nancy Frost – would like the Town to explore the Dragon Property as well as the current property that the Town is looking at for the Towns future needs as well. Nancy spoke the Sandy Choate from the Farmingdale Historical Society regarding any history on the wrought iron fence was installed at the Maine Avenue Cometary, Sandy said that they had been unable to find any.

- Nancy Frost made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm
- James Grant second
- Vote 3/0

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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James Grant

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Nancy Frost

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Wayne Kilgore