

Town of Farmingdale
Select Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2024

Members Present-Doug Ebert-Joseph Connors-Ike Peppard
Other Present- Joe Pietroski-Steve Stratton-Nancy Frost-Gerald Staples-Charles Smith-Greg Lumbert-Leon
Crockett-Violet residents see attached list.
Zoom-Cathie Whitney

Meeting opened by Doug Ebert at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

The Select board approved and signed the Treasurer Warrants & Payroll Warrants #'s 42,43,44,45

Doug motioned to approved the April 10, 2024 minutes as written, Joe 2nd, all in favor

Joe Pietroski County Commissioner District #2

The County currently has a budget of almost 23-million dollars. They met with the budget committee and are continuing to work on lowering this budget. The following are some reasons for the increased budget. Jails are understaffed, there are not enough judges and there are not enough public defenders This is causing inmates to stay in jail for 2 ½ years instead of the standard 9 months. There was a bill passed without a physical note that all inmates are entitled to several services such as medical, dental, mental health, most inmates come in addicted so they require services for that as well. There is also a lot of building maintenance problems which is another expense. These unfunded mandates are causing the County Budget to increase. The commissioners worked on revising the budget they currently have lowered it to 27.8%. Ike Peppard asked if Mr. Pietroski had what Farmingdale's share would be at the 27.8% mark? Mr. Pietroski did not have that figure but may have it in a couple of days. The Select Board thanked Mr. Pietroski for coming in and sharing why the County budget increased so significantly and invited him to our town meeting on June 13, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Charles Smith - Maple Street

Greg gave a recap of what is going on with the rodent problem on Maple Street stated "progress is being made from the last meeting". Joe Connors asked the resident to come to tonight's meeting, but she declined. Joe feels that as long as progress is being made then that is all we can do. Greg stated that Charles Smith comes to all meetings that he is asked to attend and is working to resolve the issue, the complaining party doesn't want to write a statement, doesn't want to be involved but wants to dictate what is going to be done about it. This is not acceptable. Charles Smith is trying to rid the rats and the Select Board will check back in on this at the next meeting on June 12, 2024.

Violet Drive

Doug Ebert stated that Jim Coffin was going to come in this evening to discuss Violet Drive but was unable to make it. There were residents of Violet Drive and Kennebec Drive here tonight to discuss the town accepting Violet Drive as a town road. Sharon Dumas asked if Violet Drive meets specifications to be put on the town warrant for the town meeting to become a town road? Doug answered per the town's ordinance the answer is No because it was paved in December and per the town ordinance all paving must stop by November 15th. If the residents of Violet Drive or the owner of the road wants to petition the Select Board to put it on the town warrant that can happen. This will then be put before the town residents to vote upon. If a question is asked does the road meet town specification? The Select Board will have to answer no that it does not.

Sharon Dumas - As President of the River Estates Condo Association, I petition the Select Board to put Violet Drive on the warrant for town meeting so that it can be voted on.

Steve explained that this road was paved in December when it was 27 degrees and the next day it was even colder. The road commissioner was not notified when the road was getting paved. Ike suggested that if there is a method to bring evidence and data to the town meeting to prove that the road is okay that they should bring this information to the meeting. Doug said we can't approve it but the towns people can approve it at town meeting. A core test would need to be done but not at the Town's expense.

Paving Bids

4 bids for paving were received the lowest being \$506,844.00 and the highest being \$741,562.00. Steve assured that Willett Construction does have the proper equipment to complete the paving required by the town.

Doug made a motion pending approval at town meeting on the highway budget that we award Willett Construction the paving contract under strict supervision.

Joe 2nd the motion all in favor

Vote 3-0-0

Generator Reimbursement - Assistance Chief LaPlante is still working with FEMA for assistance with reimbursement for the generator and time spent working during the storms that we had.

Sand Pit

This is still in limbo all parties have signed but we are still waiting to see the final total that is owed by E.C. Barry before we finalize everything.

Abatement

After reviewing the abatement, the Select Board wanted some more clarification from the Assessor on this and asked that this be brought back to the next Select Board meeting on 6/12/2024.

Budget

Ike said that Mary had mentioned that she wanted another budget meeting to go over things and just finalize everything. Doug did not think that there would be another budget meeting.

Steve Stratton – Road Commissioner had the following to report

Mr. Hall who lives on Park Street in Hayford Heights inquired if the town would sell a piece of land that is between Park and Hayford the land is called Short Street? Doug said we need to pull the map to see if the town does own it and why before making any decision.

Mike McGee will have a crew that will start cleaning up debris that was caused by them during the winter plowing season in the Heights. This should be done soon.

Steve will be doing a repair job for Janet Gray who lives on 77 Bowman. The berm that was previously built is coming apart and needs to be repaired.

There were two cross pipes that were plugged that Steve opened back up. These are in deep ravines on Easy Street, even though he got them unplugged he said that they really need to be cleaned out so that there will not be any more problems in the future. Steve will see if someone can give him a quote for cleaning these out.

Two driveway permits were given for two new homes on Pine Street.

Steve would like to write a scope of work for some grading to be done on Northern Ave. and some other streets that will need shoulder work as well. Some trenches have been dug to allow water to drain. Some over grown brush has been cut back that was hanging over the road on Hemlock Street. On the corner of Wedgewood and Park a lot of winter debris was cleaned up because Steve was unsure of when McGee would get to it. A few holes on Hill Street were patched.

Public Comment- Catherine Whitney she has a request with Mary so that she can better understand the budget. asked if there was going to be another budget meeting and if so, could it be advertised so that she may sit in on it.

Doug motioned to adjourn at 7:16, Joe 2nd all in favor.

Date 6/12/24


Doug Ebert


Joseph Connors


Ike Peppard

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but a summary of the discussion and the actions that took place. For official meeting minutes visit our website @ www.farmingdalemaine.org for the audio of this meeting.

Sharon Dumas
Linda Spaul
Derek D. Spaul
~~Chad Smith~~