

**Town Council Meeting
Minutes
April 10, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

Councilors Farber, Payne, Pierce, Rodden, and Varney were present and answering roll call.

Councilors Orestis and Mahoney were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Varney led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1 Presentation and Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget.

School Board Member Andy Kinley presented the School budget and Councilor Karen Farber and Town Manager Nathan Poore presented the municipal budget.

Item 2 Public Hearing to seek public input and inquiries relative to the Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget.

Chair Varney opened the public hearing.

Jim Sanders offered his support for education but also warned of national economic trends and news. There is too much debt in the world. There has been and will continue to be less money from state and federal sources. Bottom line is that it is not going to improve and the Council should be pro-active. He did not agree with stripping debt from the school budget presentation to compare student costs and with other communities. He thanked everyone for their effort and for trying to use constraint.

John Winslow offered a graph that depicted slow or declining trends in several areas such as state wide assessed valuation, student achievements, etc. while the trend for education spending is growing. He is not in agreement with the current trend and indicated that more constraint is necessary.

Russ Anderson thanked everyone for their effort and transparency on the web site. He also expressed appreciation for the generally flat mil rate impact in the municipal budget. He thanked school department and School Board leaders for accurately predicting this budget one year ago when they presented the FY2013 budget. He attended the school department budget workshop and thought the discussions and presentations were very mindful of the challenges and thoughtful in developing solutions. He concluded his remarks by asking the Town Council and School Board to work hard with future budgets to minimize or eliminate mil rate increases.

Claudia King thanked everyone for their effort in developing the budget. She applauded the performance benchmarks in the school budget presentation. She expressed appreciation for confining and frugal budgeting in the municipal budget while taking into consideration the stabilization of service delivery.

David Goldberg thanked everyone for transparency and the dialogue appears to pass the due diligence test. He supports both the school and municipal budgets.

Caryn Bickerstaff told how she and her family moved to Falmouth and the reasons why Falmouth is a great community for her family. She indicated support for the budgets.

Chair Varney closed the public hearing.

Councilor Pierce thanked the school department and municipal staff for their efforts and supported the budget recommendations.

Councilor Payne offered kudos to staff and the School Board.

Councilor Farber said she echoed what has already been stated by other Councilors. She spoke about how the past ten years of budget development and critical policy decisions have created a great foundation. Without that hard work, challenges today would be far more difficult to resolve. She listed some examples of those prior decisions such as the use of alternative energy (biomass at the Schools), regional dispatch services, and closing town hall on Fridays.

Councilor Rodden said she supports the budgets. She thanked Dan O'Shea and Rob Boschen for their hard work. She also expressed appreciation to all staff for how helpful they have been despite how busy they are with many projects. She thanked Andy Kinley for his excellent presentation of the School Budget. She said she was proud to be a Falmouth resident.

Chair Varney echoed all comments and thanked all the staff for a job well done.

Adjourn

Councilor Payne moved to adjourn; Councilor Farber seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Poore, Town Manager
Melissa Tryon, Recording Secretary