

Farmington Budget Committee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 January 9, 2003

Attendance: Chairman Walter Mills, Gail Ellis, Arthur Capello, Tom Huse, Sylvia Howard, Kristin Bolstridge, Bernie Nason, Todd Lefebvre, Virginia Gray, Ruth Scruton and Selectmen's Rep Gerry McCarthy.

Town Administrator: Ernest Creveling  
 Highway Department: Clark Hackett  
 Parks and Recreation: Kerry Mucher  
 Fire Department: Ky Goslin, Don Vachon

The meeting convened and was called to order at 7:15 pm by Chairman Mills.

Pg 6, Admin. Highways/Streets (4311-4312)

Line 85, Highway Diesel Fuel, Clark explained that proposed line is down due to reflection of actual usage. Discussion on Lines 91 and 74 regarding drop in both lines. No opposition. Walter questioned Line 65, Highway Overtime. He asked Clark if the proposed budget was going to be enough for this year. Clark responded that if the winter storms keep happening the way they have been then probably not. Discussion on salt availability and if the department has enough as well as overtime increase in the budget. Clark explained that currently there is enough salt but storms are frequent this year causing a possible problem with overtime wages as well as the salt usage. Clark also suggested adding a new line for two new 10-wheelers as well as one additional 6-wheeler. He feels that an additional \$5,000 would be sufficient and necessary to maintain the town roads during the winter. Gerry expressed his dislike of the idea stating that he would rather not add a new line or increase overtime for the Highway Department

Pg 18, Capitol Outlay (4902)

Line 180, CIP Equipment discussed. Clark explained the proposed \$48,600 is for equipment such as sanders at \$14-16,000 per sander. Also a new York Rake is estimated at \$6500-7000. Clark states that the one currently being used was bought in 1986 and though it does still work, it's getting old and starting to wear. Line 181, Engineering/Design discussed briefly. Clark described \$70,000 is being used for Tibbetts Hill Road bridge repair and another \$7,500 for garage repair. No opposition to any proposed costs.

Pg 14, Recreation (4520)

Line 139, Telephone discussed. Kerry explained the 33.90% cost increase is due to an additional phone line that was installed because of the move into a new building. Line 137, Recreation Payroll discussed briefly. Kerry explained that slight increase is for 3 employees that include herself as well. Ernie added that one of the positions changed in description and the base pay went up accordingly. He also stated that the proposed increase also covers performance of other employees as well as cost of living increase. Line 141, Equipment discussed. Kerry explained that the proposed cost of \$3,000 was used last year for Skate Park and this year the proposed cost is going to cover a new PA system that will be used for dances and other such fundraisers. Kerry suggested adding maintenance costs to the budget for the Skate Park but stated that she has not had the chance to discuss in detail with the Selectmen yet. She explained how important the park is to area kids as well as the importance of maintaining and continuing to build up the park for continued use. *Sylvia made a motion to raise Line 141 by \$2,000 for Skate Park equipment. Tom seconded the motion.* Todd stated that he doesn't feel comfortable supporting an increase for the Skate Park if it hasn't been discussed with the Selectmen first. Gerry agreed that any proposed additional costs and programs need to be taken to the Selectmen first. *Vote resulted in Sylvia and Tom for the motion and Gerry, Todd, Kristine, Virginia, Gail, Bernie and Arthur opposed. Motion not passed.* Kerry pointed out that the Recreation department is funded through other resources including grants, fundraisers and fees.

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She explained that last year the department took in \$104,365 but spent \$106,000. There was roll over of \$3,000 from previous year, which made up the difference and left a remaining balance of \$1,134 for future use. She also pointed out that whatever the budget committee allots for funding the Recreation department usually matches that funding.

Pg 16, Patriotic Purposes (4583)

No change proposed and no opposition.

Pg 17, Other Culture & Recreation (4589)

Line 155, Hay Day. Kerry stated that the proposed cost increase is due to fireworks for the annual event. Kerry explained that the Recreation department has had to previously hold fundraisers and come up with the cost. She feels that Hay Day has been a community event that has the most town participation but fundraisers have not been enough to cover the cost of fireworks specifically. No opposition to proposed increase.

Pg 18, Capitol Outlay (4902)

Line 176, Recreation Basketball Court discussed. Kerry stated that there were a couple sites in town that were proposed but there has been no definite decision on location. She states there is a demand for one in the town however there are no specific plans for one to be built yet in 2003. *Arthur made a motion to remove Line 176 from the Capitol Outlay. Sylvia seconded the motion. Vote resulted all in favor and Todd abstained. Motion passed to remove Line 176.*

Pg 15, Library (4550)

*Arthur made a motion to reflect actual proposed budget of \$143,206. Sylvia seconded the motion. Vote resulted all in favor except Virginia and Ruth who abstained. Motion passed to increase Line 137 to \$143,206.*

Pg 12, Ambulance (4215)

Pg 13, Fire (4220)

Proposed budget for the Fire Department including Ambulance handed out to committee by Ky. Gerry stated that the Selectmen have not even seen or approved this budget yet. *Arthur made a motion to carry over budget proposed last year for the fire department including EMS services until the Selectmen can review it. Sylvia seconded the motion. Walter pointed out that the fire department has not been following the requested protocol as far as ordering equipment and getting P.O.'s approved. He further stated that the proposed budget for the fire department shouldn't be considered if it has not gone through the Selectmen first. Gerry commented that the PO issue is currently getting resolved to the satisfaction of the Selectmen. Arthur rescinded his motion and Sylvia rescinded her second. Arthur made a motion to table the budget for the Fire/Ambulance until the Selectmen can review it and present it to the budget committee. Vote resulted all for and motion passed to table the proposed budget.*

Pg 2, Planning & Zoning (4191)

Line 33, Plan Consult discussed. Arthur questioned the proposed line increase and asked for an explanation about the planning consultant. Ernie explained that the proposed increase is for hiring a planning consultant who would be responsible for technical assistance to the planning board regarding site review applications, subdivision applications, ordinance regulations and innovative land use provisions.

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Tom commented that he feels there is no need for a planning consultant and that the proposed increase is a waste of money. *Tom made a motion to decrease Line 33 by \$15,000. Todd seconded the motion.* Bernie asked if the planning consultant would have the qualifications required for the position. Ernie responded that the individual considered for hire has been with the Rockingham Planning Commission for the past 5 years and has a Master's Degree in Planning. He further explained that the proposed candidate has extensive education regarding different techniques and is able to advise the planning board accordingly. *Vote resulted Tom in favor and Ruth, Gerry, Todd, Sylvia, Virginia and Arthur opposed. Bernie, Kristine and Gail abstained. Motion denied.*

Pg 15, Building Inspection (4240)

Lines 106 and 107, Code Enforcement and Secretary discussed. Ernie explained that the proposed increase is to raise both positions up to 40 hours per week. Gerry commented that the current Code Enforcement Officer spends more time at his job than his predecessor and is very valuable to the planning board. Arthur then commented that the income from the building permits alone is an estimated \$47,000 per year and more than enough to cover the proposed 40 hours. Discussion ensued regarding validity of proposed increase.

*Motion made by Walter to reduce Line 106 to 32 hours and add 3% to the salary proposed last year, making the salary \$29,524.95. Tom seconded the motion. Vote resulted Tom and Bernie in favor with Gerry, Ruth, Todd, Sylvia and Arthur opposed. Gail, Kristine and Virginia abstained. Motion denied.*

Line 109 discussed. Ernie explained that the proposed increase will actually be \$350 less due to removal of GIS software. *Arthur made a motion to reduce Line 109 by \$350. Sylvia seconded the motion. Vote resulted all in favor except Tom who was opposed. Motion passed to reduce Line 109 to \$1315.00.* Arthur pointed out that Line 112 is incorrect as mileage reimbursement is actually \$.365 per mile. *Arthur made a motion to increase Line 112 to \$1600. Todd seconded the motion. Vote resulted all in favor except Tom who was opposed. Gail abstained. Motion passed to raise Line 112 to \$1600.*

Pg 18, Conservation (4611)

Walter read a letter to the committee given to Gerry by the Ed Mullen of the Conservation Commission. In brief, the letter requested continued funding for FY 2003 at last year's level. There were also no changes that were reflected in the proposed budget. There was banter among the Budget Committee members with several motions made and rescinded regarding the Conservation Commission budget. In general there was no opposition to proposed budget for Conservation

Motion to adjourn made by Tom. Sylvia seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Plourde

**Accepted as Per Vote of the Budget Committee:**

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Walter Mills, Chairman

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Date

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