

Farmington Budget Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 January 14, 2003

Attendance: Chairman Walter Mills, Gail Ellis, Arthur Capello, Tom Huse, Sylvia Howard, Kristin Bolstridge, Bernie Nason, Virginia Gray, and Selectmen's Rep John Fitch.

Town Administrator: Ernest Creveling

Water & Sewer: Clarke Hackett

Fire/Ambulance: Ky Goslin, Don Vachon

The meeting convened and was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Mills.

Pg 21, Enterprise Funds f/ Water (4914)

Line 215, Personnel, discussion. Dale stated that the line shows an increase due to hiring of new personnel for the department. Line 227, Workers Compensation, decrease due to reflection of actual usage. Lines 233 and 237 for Printing and Postage increase due to double usage since the department has started quarterly billings. Line 261, Meter Maintenance increase due to software/hardware maintenance contracts. Annual fee of \$1500 for contracted maintenance. Line 256, Corrosion Control, increase due to study being run currently regarding decrease lead and copper coming into the water plant. Monitoring copper currently and where there isn't any limit now there will be in the next few years when the permit needs to be renewed. Trying to make changes in quality of water for renewal of this permit. Line 264, Service Line Materials increase due to Cemetery association needing water. Due to an agreement made between the town and the cemetery, wells 4 and 5 were built on cemetery land. Agreement was that if town drew from that water source that if the town affected their water supply the town would correct the problem and provide water. Service lines for this purpose will be built and are cause of increase. Line 253, Vehicles, increase due to anything needed for vehicle / equipment maintenance. 100% of F250, 75% of backhoe, 50% of car, and 50% of Dump Truck covered. Nothing specifically designated for any repair but the line is there to draw from in case. Bernie pointed out that the proposed expenditure of \$2,550 over the past few years has never been expended completely. Ernie stated that out of last years budget only \$762 was spent. *Bernie made a motion to decrease Line 253 to \$1,500. Gail seconded the motion. Dale states that the line was not decreased due to anticipation of possible equipment repairs. Vote resulted all in favor except John who abstained. Motion passed to reduce Line 253 to \$1,500.* Line 260 for New Equipment discussed. Dale stated that it reflects portion of cost of portable generator as well as purchase of a truck for the department from an auction. Gail pointed out that in the wastewater budget on pg 23, line 243 it is reflected that the truck was being purchased there as well. Dale stated that the cost of the truck was split between the two proposed budgets but that the purchase of the truck is not absolutely necessary this year. *Tom made a motion to reduce Line 260 to \$0. Gail seconded the motion. Vote resulted all in favor except Arthur who abstained. Motion passed to reduce line 260 to \$0.00.*

Pg 23, Enterprise Funds f/ Wastewater (4914)

Line 216, General Maintenance, decrease due to actual usage as well as Line 227 for Electricity. Line 224, Paving decreased to no proposed expenditure due to actual usage. Line 234, New Equipment reflects portion of cost for proposed purchase of a truck for the department. Previous discussion and motion regarding Line 260 on pg 21 resulted in half the funding for the truck to be cut. *Kristine made a motion to reduce Line 234 to \$0. Gail seconded the motion. Vote resulted al in favor except Arthur who abstained.*

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Pg 18, Capitol Outlay (4902)

Line 177, portable generator discussed. Ernie explained that the proposed \$26,000 in the budget for the portable generator only reflects partial cost. The entire cost of generator is approximately \$33,435. The difference of \$6,000 is to be covered by Water/Wastewater Capital reserve accounts. Ernie also explained that the is budgeting for the entire cost of the generator, however the cost will be reimbursed by 80% through a grant, making the cost to the town only 20% of the generator. Gail commented that she would rather see the entire cost of the generator in one line of the budget instead of throughout other departments. Tom made a motion to increase Line 177 to \$33,435, reflecting full cost of the generator. Sylvia seconded the motion. Vote resulted all in favor. Motion passed to increase Line 177 to \$33,435.

Pg 9, Solid Waste (4321,4323,4324)

Line 57, Diesel Fuel discussed. Sylvia asked why there is an increase. Dale explained that it is reflecting actual usage as well as fuel used for the Bobcat. Discussion ensued regarding Line 61, 62 and 68. No opposition to proposed costs.

Pg 12, Ambulance (4215)

Walter expressed that the fire department budget has not been approved yet. Bernie stated that the Selectman need to approve the departments' budget before the budget committee should go over it. John stated that his opinion is to refrain from going over the fire departments budget until it has been properly approved. *Tom made a motion to table the fire departments budget until the Selectman can review and approve it. Bernie seconded the motion.* Kristine asked why the budget still had not been approved by the Selectman and John responded that there were some concerns with the proposed costs. John stated that the Selectman had asked for some documentation regarding proposed costs and that they are still waiting for that information. Ky expressed his displeasure in the continued delay of his department's budget not being reviewed. He stated that he again has sat for 2 hours with the same result and is very unhappy. *Vote resulted Arthur and Bernie in favor with Virginia, Tom, Sylvia, Kristine and John opposed. Gail abstained. Motion denied to table the fire departments budget.* Discussion ensued regarding line 108. Sylvia pointed out that the \$500 proposed every year for a billing service has never been expended. Ernie stated that he will research the costs regarding the billing service. Discussion on line 116, New Equipment. Arthur questioned why the department was budgeting for 28 pairs of boots when there are only 20 active members of EMS. Ky stated he was unsure. Arthur stated that the line should at least be corrected to reflect 25 pairs of boots being purchased to cover all employees making the correct amount budget for Line 116 \$15,385.

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Pg 13, Fire (4220)

Discussion ensued regarding Line 122, Alarm maintenance. Tom questioned why alarm maintenance is budgeted when there is a new alarm system being installed. Ky explained that the old alarm system will run for the next year while the new equipment is being integrated into the system, therefore causing maintenance costs. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the alarm system between all committee members. *Tom made a motion to reduce Line 183 on pg 18, Capitol Outlay, to \$32,000 cutting out the budgeted \$45,000 for the new alarm system. Gail seconded the motion. Vote resulted Tom in favor with Sylvia, Jon and Arthur opposed. Bernie, Kristine, Virginia and Gail abstained. Motion denied.*

Motion made by Bernie to adjourn. Kristine seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Plourde

Accepted as Per Vote of the Budget Committee:

Walter Mills, Chairman

Date

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