

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday – April 28, 2010  
356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

**Members Present:** Mike Morin, Arthur Capello, Brian St.Onge, Ann Titus and Cindy Snowdon.

**Members Excused:** Chris Somma and Chris Biron

**School Board Rep:** Ken Dickie

**Public Present:** Jim Horgan, Steve Henry and Carolyn Rioux

**Vice-Chairman Brian St. Onge opened the meeting at 7:00pm.**

**1. Interview and Select Applicants for 1 year Vacant Position:**

Brian explained that there is a open seat on the Board and he did call people that were written in on the ballot to come tonight for interviews.

*Arthur Capello motioned to appoint Steven Henry to the one year vacant seat, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Dickie. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**2. Explanation of School Budget Error:**

Carolyn Rioux, finance administrator for the schools, explained that an error was discovered in the 2010-2011 budget with the teacher's salaries. The salaries were budget at the 2009-2010 salary rates which is a \$193,000 difference in the salaries and about \$22,000 in FICA and retirement. She explained that there is not a system of checks and balances for the data during budget preparation but she has restructured the office to fix this problem for the future.

The plan is to hold a public hearing on May 4, 2010 at 6:30pm at the high school to accept unanticipated funds that will help with this deficit. The unanticipated funds will include the ARRA funds, E-Rate funds, Medicaid funds, revenue from the Town of Barrington for two tuitioned students and 21<sup>st</sup> Century grants for a total of \$108,000. They also have \$19,600 in 2009-2010 E-Rate funds and \$15,800 in 2008 E-Rate reserve funds for a total of \$142,000 that can be used to purchase materials and items that are scheduled for purchase in 2010-2011 so those funds will be available to pay the salary deficit. Carolyn explained they also plan to pre-buy \$30,000 in oil this budget year so those funds will not be needed next year, and save \$3000 by replacing the boiler in the Annex and \$3000 by changing propane dealers.

**3. Resignation of Committee Member:**

Brian explained that Jim Horgan was recently appointed to the School Board and therefore has resigned from the Budget Committee.

*Gail Ellis motioned to accept Jim Horgan's resignation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Morin. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**4. Review of Minutes:**

- *Arthur Capello motioned to table the minutes of 1-26-10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Titus. Motion carried with Mike Morin abstaining.*
- *Arthur Capello motioned to accept the minutes of 3-24-10 as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Titus. Motion carried with Cindy Snowdon and Mike Morin abstaining.*

#### **5. Review of Town Reports:**

- Gail explained she found that ICMA stands for International City Managers Association which is a retirement fund.
- Brian stated he noticed that we have police details for the Asplundh tree clearing and questioned who decides the detail is necessary. Gail replied that is a town policy that states the Police Chief decides when detail is required. Brian stated that the cost is reimbursable but asked if the details affect the retirement rate. Gail replied she believes so but she will check.
- Brian asked what the yield tax is and Gail said she would check.
- Arthur asked if Gail could find out how this year's revenue compare to last year's at this time and Gail said she would try to get this information.
- Gail commented that the Town is in a spending freeze until the next tax bills are sent out.
- Arthur asked for an update on the Hay Day fireworks fundraising efforts and Gail said she would ask.
- Mike commented that all the unemployment lines are overspent and Gail explained the rate came in higher than expected but FICA came in lower so this will offset the overage.
- Mike asked why the water/sewer bill for the Rec. Dept is so much higher and Gail said she asked that question and Dale investigated and the only explanation he had was that there is a new sprinkler system and a crack was found in the new boiler so water was leaking.

#### **6. Review of School Reports:**

- Ken explained they are also in a budget freeze in case an unexpected Special Education placement comes in before the end of the school year but it should not affect the schools because the principals were all asked to encumber everything they thought they would require for the remainder of the year.
- Gail commented that in comparing the expenditures to the revenue for food service it appears there will be a short fall. Arthur stated that it appears they still are expecting another \$61,000 in revenue, but he is not sure. Ken will ask for an explanation. Gail followed up by asking if there is a shortfall for this line then how it will be covered.
- Arthur asked why "Services Contracted" is over expended and Ken replied that this was for speech therapy in which the school district was mandated to provide.
- Arthur then pointed out that the office aide line is overspent by \$4000 and questioned why. Ken replied he would check.
- Gail asked why the SAU apportionment lines (2320 lines) are overspent by quite a bit and Ken replied he would request an explanation.
- Arthur pointed out that the attorney legal fees are overspent by about \$23,000 and asked for an overall explanation and Ken explained they had to go before the State School Board of Education about a student and the legal fees were acquired in preparing for this hearing.
- Cindy asked why there is a deficit on the high school custodian line and Ken explained that he knows they had to let a custodian go and a new one was hired with more experience so they were at a higher rate.

- Arthur it appears the HWMS 7-8 oil and propane lines were overspent. Brian added that the electricity for this building is also overspent. Mike pointed out that this is a default budget and this budget also reflects the schools trying to separate the two HWMS building expenses so the numbers are more accurate for the future.
- Cindy asked for an explanation as to why buses 8 and 10 were overspent by \$2000 a piece. Arthur then followed up by asking why we are spending as much in repairs for a new bus as we do for the older buses. Ken will ask for an explanation but he knows the newer buses are being used a lot more. Gail said she would like to know exactly what the \$2000 for each bus is for.

**Next meeting on May 26, 2010 at 7pm.**

*Ann Titus motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cindy Snowdon. Motion carried at 8:39pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger  
Recording Secretary