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**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday – March 23, 2011
356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

Members Present: Arthur Capello, Brian St.Onge, Ann Titus, Sam Cataldo, Mike Morin and Neil Johnson

Members Absent: Chris Biron, Steve Henry, Chris Somma and Cindy Snowdon

Selectman's Rep: none

School Board Rep: Joe Pitre

Public Present: Assistant Superintendent Rebecca Gagnon

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

A. Election of Officers:

1. Sam Cataldo nominated Arthur Capello for Chairman, 2nd Joe Pitre. Motion carried with Brian St. Onge and Arthur Capello abstaining.
2. Ann Titus nominated Brian St. Onge for Vice-Chairman, 2nd Joe Pitre. Motion carried with Brian St. Onge abstaining.
3. Mike Morin nominated Ann Titus for Secretary, 2nd Joe Pitre. Motion carried with Ann Titus abstaining.

Arthur Capello took over as Chair of the meeting.

B. Review of Minutes:

1. *Ann Titus motioned to accept the minutes of 11-18-10 as written, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried with Joe Pitre, Mike Morin, Neil Johnson and Sam Cataldo abstaining.*
2. *Joe Pitre motioned to accept the minutes of 2-23-11 as amended, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried with Mike Morin and Sam Cataldo abstaining.*

B. Review of School Report:

1. Ms. Gagnon explained that they are preparing for State budgets cuts. One cut that is being discussed is placing the 25% teacher retirement in the district's budget which has a projected cost of \$286, 442. Another cut being discussed is the building aide funding and if this is cut the cost to the district would be \$224,290. The State is also discussing eliminating the catastrophic aide which would cost the district \$140,186. Other cuts being discussed at the State level are the driver education aide funding and the CTE tuition cost.

Ms. Gagnon then reviewed the Progress Report and Year End Update prepared by the Finance Administrator Carolyn Rioux. The School Board and Administration office are working diligently to plan for the worst case scenario in State cuts and therefore are anticipating the need to return \$200,000 to the town. Arthur asked what the School Board is prepared to do/cut if all the State cuts go through and Ms. Gagnon replied that they have been working to find

accepted

additional cuts with the building principals. Ms. Gagnon further explained that they are also looking at \$400,000 in cuts to the 2011-2012 budget in preparing for the State cuts as well. Mr. Johnson asked how things are going to save money on Special Education and Ms. Gagnon explained that Walter is continually looking on ways to save money though the district just had two students move into town who require one on one aides.

Brian asked why the copier service contracts are overspent. Ms. Gagnon replied that the cost is not related to actual "service" but more so the number of copies made. Also, the breakout for each of the departments is new this year so some areas are overspent while others are not. Brian then asked why the high school library book line is overspent and Ms. Gagnon replied that she would follow-up on why and report back to the Committee. Arthur asked if the legal line is overspent because of contract negotiations and Ms. Gagnon replied yes.

Brian asked why the Special Ed. Summer line under the transportation line is overspent and Ms. Gagnon replied she would check. Arthur reminded Ms. Gagnon that the Committee had requested the school look into the costs of outsourcing food service, maintenance, janitorial and transportation and Ms. Gagnon replied that they are currently looking at this information. Brian then asked why the high school media specialist line is overspent and Ms. Gagnon explained it is because of new hire at a higher rate. Sam asked what the school's current drop-out rate is and Ms. Gagnon replied that she would need to check. Sam then followed up by asking if the school has looked into JAG program.

C. Review of Town Budstats:

1. Brian asked if part of the dog licenses fees and marriage license fees actually go to the State and Arthur replied yes.

2. Mike questioned if the revenues from the fire/ems service should go into a special revenue fund to pay for the per diem employees or into the capital reserve fund for the department.

Next meeting is April 27, 2011.

At 7:53pm, Ann Titus motioned to adjourn, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary

Ann Titus, Secretary