

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday – June 15, 2011
356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

Members Present: Arthur Capello, Brian St.Onge, Ann Titus, Sam Cataldo, Steve Henry, Cindy Snowdon and Neil Johnson

Members Absent: Chris Somma and Mike Morin (excused)

Selectman's Rep: Paula Proulx

School Board Rep: Joe Pitre

Public Present: Megan Henry (Teacher's Union Representative)

Chairman Arthur Capello opened the meeting at 7:08pm.

A. Public Hearing for Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement:

1. *Arthur Capello and Steve Henry recused themselves from the public hearing as both their wives are teachers in town. Vice-Chairman Brian St. Onge took over the meeting and opened the public hearing.*
2. Neil asked if the grant has been approved that is mentioned in section 7.13 and will pay for the additional hour per week that the teachers will be paid. Joe replied that the grant has been approved for the high school and middle school and Valley View School will be paid out of another grant. He further explained that the additional hour will be used for professional development as the district is in "corrective action" due to the School in Need of Improvement status with the state. Neil then asked why this section only showed up in this draft of the agreement after the 2% increase was taken out of the original draft. Joe replied that the last contract was negotiated last summer when the district was unaware that they would be in "corrective action" with the state. Sam asked what will happen when the grant expires and Joe explained that it is a two year grant and the professional development hour will not carry over after that. Paula asked how much the grant is for and if it covers 100% of the professional development hours and Joe replied the grant is for \$1.8 million and it does cover all the hours.
3. Joe explained that Section 8.5.3 is to settle a grievance because there were two positions hired at a higher rate. Brian asked if a new hire can be hired at a higher rate. Megan Henry explained that new hires would be brought in on an appropriate step for their qualifications but if the hire is in a critical shortage area the administration can request approval to hire at a higher rate.
4. Neil asked what the total cost of the longevity increase is in Section 8.9 and Megan Henry replied it is \$22,000 for next year.
5. Brian asked what the principal's fund is that is mentioned in Section 9.7 and Megan explained it is a line item where staff can purchase items like computers at the school's cost. The staff does pay the school for the item purchased.
6. Neil asked how the \$15,000 retirement incentive works. Joe explained this will save the

district money because new hires will come in at a lower rate. If there is a staff member who is eligible for retirement the school board can approve this \$15,000 incentive to them for retiring.

7. Neil pointed out that the two appendix sheets that are mentioned in the warrant were not provided to the committee.
8. Neil asked what the cost is for increasing the number of sick days from 75 to 80 that can be banked. Joe replied that this only increases the liability.
9. Neil asked what the cost of the step increase is in Appendix A and Joe replied \$100,000 but it has already been raised and appropriated. The only additional cost will be for any new hires at a higher step.
10. Neil stated that the original warrant in March was for \$22,000 (11-12) and 4154,797 (12-13) but this new warrant is for \$126,000 (11-12) and \$187,003 (12-13). He questioned why the school board is bringing back a warrant that will cost the voters even more money when the first was not accepted. Joe could not explain the difference but felt it had something to do with the fact that the funds for the 11-12 school year have already been raised and appropriated but need to be listed in their entirety.
11. *Neil Johnson motioned to recommend the teacher bargaining agreement warrant article, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion failed – Joe Pitre (yes), Ann Titus (yes), Steve Henry (abstain), Sam Cataldo (no), Brian St. Onge (no), Arthur Capello (abstain), Cindy Snowdon (no), Paula Proulx (no) and Neil Johnson (no).*

At 8:12pm Arthur Capello motioned for a short recess, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried with all in favor.

At 8:23pm Brian called the meeting back to order.

12. Joe received revised copies of the warrant from Carolyn Rioux, Interim School Finance Administrator, during the break which explained that the balance of the 11-12 school year warrant was raised and appropriated and therefore would not need to be raised again. Cindy pointed out that this new copy has an even higher amount listed than the previous. Joe was unsure why. It was noted that the Budget Committee would have liked a representative from the school administration that could have explained these differences and Joe replied that he told them not to come and that he could answer the questions.
13. *Joe Pitre motioned to reconsider the vote to recommend the teacher bargaining agreement warrant, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion failed - Joe Pitre (yes), Ann Titus (yes), Steve Henry (abstain), Sam Cataldo (no), Brian St. Onge (no), Arthur Capello (abstain), Cindy Snowdon (no), Paula Proulx (no) and Neil Johnson (no).*

Next meeting is June 22, 2011.

At 8:25pm, Joe Pitre motioned to adjourn, 2nd Steve Henry. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary