**TOWN OF FARMINGTON**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

 **MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday – May 25, 2011**

**356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

**Members Present:** Arthur Capello, Brian St.Onge, Ann Titus, Chris Somma, Steve Henry, Mike Morin and Neil Johnson

**Members Absent:** Sam Cataldo and Cindy Snowdon

**Selectman’s Rep:** Paula Proulx

**School Board Rep:** Joe Pitre (excused)

**Public Present:** Mike O’Neill Interim School Finance Admininstrator

Chairman Arthur Capello opened the meeting at 7:13pm and announced that he went to the most recent School Board meeting and asked why there was not a school representative at the last public hearing and the response was it was an individual school board member decision. Also, the Budget Committee did not get the appropriate packet last week from the school because it was not given to Megan.

1. **Review of Minutes:**
2. ***Neil Johnson motioned to accept the minutes of 5-25-11 as amended to reflect Joe Pitre was present, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried with Paula Proulx abstaining.***

**B. Review of School Reports:**

1. The interim finance administrator, Mike O’Neill explained the current balance $583,941.61 and they are expecting to return $443,719 to buy down the taxes. Arthur asked if it takes in to account the state retirement issue and Mike replied these funds are for this year. The surplus is from a savings in salary and benefits mostly due to a contract service for speech services. A significant savings was also seen in the supplies area, the E-rate fund, oil, diesel, shortfall to food service was minimal and additional tuition from Middleton was collected. Arthur asked if the capital reserve funds are funded before this surplus amount and Mike replied yes.

1. Mike O. also informed the Committee that all the capital projects were awarded and a savings of about $65,000 was seen so those funds will stay in the capital reserve funds.
2. Neil asked what the increase from $22,000 to $29,000 in the 2011-2012 teacher bargaining agreement was due to and Mike explained that he believes it is due to the longevity calculations with the change to the longevity in the contract. Arthur explained that $105,000 for this contract was already raised and appropriated for the 2011-2012 budget so the $29,000 is all that will have to be raised through taxation.

**C. Review of Town Reports:**

1. Neil asked what line 01-4140-10-621 (RSAs) is for and Paula explained it is for the updated computer copy of the RSAs.

2. Neil asked why the water/sewer line is over-expended for the Old Town Hall and Paula explained that she asked the town administrator and was told the water department looked at it and it appears the meter has not been read correctly historically. Paula asked if there is a problem with the meter and she is awaiting an answer. Neil then pointed out that the fire water/sewer line 01-4220-80-412 has only spent $3. Paula said she would look into this.

1. Neil asked what the police holiday pay is for and why it is over budget and Paula replied that Pam probably encumbered the funds in expectation for the payment in December. Paula explained it is holiday pay for the officers who have to work the holidays.
2. Brian asked why Milton PD was assisting with construction coverage in Farmington and Paula explained that we might not have had enough officers available.
3. Neil asked why the road sweeping was overspent and Paula replied the road sweeping took longer to do because there was a lot more to clean up (a lot of sand).
4. Neil asked if any decision has been made on the Animal Control Officer position and Paula said no, the Police Chief asked the Board to wait on it as well as the School Resource Officer position. Also, a highway secretary has resigned and the Board as not decided what to do. The planning department secretary also resigned and the Board just made an offer to hire.
5. Neil asked if the Town is in a tight spot with welfare since there is only 20% left and Paula said it will be close.
6. Neil questioned why the computer tech for the trustee line has a $6100 expense and Paula explained that the town with a contractor for server service and this is the payment for this service. This payment was taken out of the technology fund.
7. Mike M. asked when the recycling fund was established and Paula replied that it was established at the 2010 town meeting.

Arthur reminded the Committee that in the past the Budget Committee has taken July and August off and questioned what the Committee would like to do. Arthur then stated that a meeting should be posted for after the deliberative session on July 11, 2011 in case a decision has to be made. There will be no regular meeting in July and August.

***At 8:03pm, Steve Henry motioned to adjourn, 2nd Chris Somma. Motion carried.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary