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**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday – January 25, 2012
356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

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

Members Absent: Cindy Snowdon, Steve Henry (excused) and Mike Morin (excused)

Selectman's Rep: Paula Proulx

School Board Rep: Joe Pitre

Chairman Arthur Capello opened the meeting at 7:03pm and opened the public hearing. He announced that the budget workshop to review the town department budgets is scheduled for this Saturday at 9am. The public hearing is scheduled for February 16, 2012 at 6pm. Before the meeting started the committee members signed the MS-27 with a default budget of \$16,917,036. The budget committee recommended budget with all warrants is for 16,965,139 and the deliberative session is scheduled for February 4, 2012 at 9am at the high school.

1. Review of Minutes:

Ann Titus motioned to accept the minutes of December 28, 2011 as written, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried with Gail Ellis and Paula Proulx abstained.

The minutes of January 12, 2012 were tabled because several members did not receive a copy.

2. Other:

Arthur stated that he received two letters in February regarding the requests of the Board and he would like them attached to the minutes of tonight's meeting so they are a matter of public work.

3. Review of School Budstats:

Arthur noted that no school reports were available for tonight's meeting.

4. Review of Town Budstats:

A. Arthur asked why legal services is overspent by almost \$22,000. Paula explained that the town has had several issues this year that required legal services plus the landfill boundary line needed a lot of legal review to create a lot line adjustment. Neil asked if the police union agreement required legal review and Paula replied maybe some but the interim town administrator is taking care of negotiations now.

B. Arthur asked if the town agreement with CAP includes utilities and Paula said she

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would check.

C. Arthur asked if the town should do some research to see if the fire/ambulance call volume we have now require a full time department.

D. Brian asked why outside services is overspent by 212% and Paula explained that the town had to pay for an outside service to clean-up all the snow last winter.

E. Brian questioned why the street lighting is overspent and Paula said she is not sure but she would check.

F. Arthur asked if it would be cheaper to give a uniform stipend to the highway garage instead of a uniform service and Paula said the Selectmen looked at that before but we were in a contract.

G. Sam noted that the radio repair line was overspent and Paula explained that the tower needed some repairs.

H. Arthur questioned if the Board has a better handle on the welfare rents and Paula said there was a change in personnel recently and the guidelines are in the process of being updated so these welfare lines should be better managed.

I. Arthur asked if the Rec. Revolving Fund report is available yet and Paula was surprised that the budget committee has not received copies yet and she will make sure the committee gets it in the am. Arthur noted that if he does not have one by Saturday then he will make a motion to not fund the parks and recreation department. Neil stated he thinks there needs to be better accounting of the revolving fund so there is a system of checks and balances. Paula will find out what the policy is (especially for bingo).

J. Brian asked why the town hall bathroom repairs line is so much and Paula said these funds came out of the Government Buildings trust fund and it was to fix the bathrooms at the rec.

K. Neil asked why the technology budget was overspent by \$6100 and Paula explained that line was not budgeted for last year during the budget process by accident so the contract service had to be paid for using the technology trust fund.

L. Sam asked what the timber harvest funds are from and Neil explained the Conservation Commission did a timber harvest on one of the conservation parcels and these funds are a result of the harvest and will be used to manage other town conservation parcels.

K. Brian asked what the Yield tax is and Paula replied she was not sure but she thinks it from private timber harvesting but she would check. Arthur added that it is for the timber harvesting.

L. Arthur asked what the "Payment of lieu of taxes" would be for and Paula said she

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would need to check.

At 7:50pm, Ann Titus motioned to adjourn, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary