

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday – November 28, 2012
356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

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

Members Excused: Gerry McCarthy

Selectman's Rep: Arthur Capello

School Board Rep: Kathy King

Chairman Brian St.Onge opened the meeting at 7:04pm.

1. Review of Minutes:

Neil Johnson motioned to accept the minutes of October 24,, 2012 as amended, 2nd Kathy King. Motion carried with Cindy Snowdon abstaining.

2. Review of Answers from the Town from Last Month's Questions:

A. Ann asked if the town had to get a TAN note and Arthur explained that the DRA kindly agreed to set the tax rate the day after the paperwork was received which enabled the town to avoid the TAN.

B. Arthur informed the Committee he was unable to get the questions answered in time for the night's meeting but he would have them for the next meeting.

3. Review of Answers from the School from Last Month's Questions:

A. Kathy informed the Committee she also was unable to get the questions answered in time for the night's meeting but she would have them for the next meeting.

4. Review of Town Reports:

A. Gail noticed that \$114,604.27 was collected from the ambulance billings and questioned how much is still outstanding. Arthur replied he would check but noted the Board of Selectmen recently wrote of \$190,000 worth of 2005-2009 ambulance unpaid bills on a recommendation to do so by the DRA. The town utilizes Comstar Billing Services and also has a new part-time person whose primary focus is ambulance bill collections. Gail asked if a lien can be placed on properties for unpaid bills and Arthur said no.

B. Steve asked what the water/wastewater metal recycling revenue was for and Arthur explained it should have been for the metal that was scrapped from the construction of the wastewater treatment plant.

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C. Neil asked why the admin. Maintenance agreement line was overspent and what it is for and Arthur replied he would find out.

D. Neil then asked if the moderator is paid during elections also and Arthur said yes.

E. Neil asked why the police grants line is overspent and Arthur replied he would check.

F. Brian asked why the Fire Department office supplies line is overspent and again Arthur will check.

G. Neil asked if there will be enough funds in the highway parts/repairs line for the rest of the year and Arthur stated a lot was purchased this month to get ready for the pending winter.

H. Gail noted the rebuild/repave line still has \$25,000 left in it and Arthur explained the highway crew just did a bunch of paving so those costs might not have gone through this budget yet.

I. Gail asked for an explanation of the health officer line. A discussion was held on how the health officer and building inspector are paid. Arthur will get a break down of the salary for each position and a balance of the accounts.

J. Arthur noted the Selectmen are just getting ready to start their budget process and that all meeting times will be posted.

5. Review of School Reports:

A. Brian stated he met with the School Finance Administrator because he noticed there was a \$700,000 unexpended fund balance. This was a real number but when Janette (the administrator) came on board she found there were a number of items that were not paid/encumbered (including salaries). After all bills were paid there was \$287,510 remaining. The School had a “wish list” of stuff of which \$36,000 was spent on those items, \$100,000 for CIP items and \$151,000 was returned to the taxpayers.

B. Neil asked Kathy if she was able to get the SAU report and she said no, not yet.

C. It was noted that the HWMS 4-6 consumable book line is overspent by almost \$3000 and Kathy said she will check why.

D. It was also noted that the Summer paras at HWMS line was overspent \$4-5,000 and Kathy said she believes they received federal funding to cover the cost but that she would check.

E. Steve asked why the postage for special education is separated and Kathy explained they probably get federally reimbursed for it.

F. Neil asked why the district custodial supplies are overspent by \$5600 and Kathy said

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she would check.

G. Neil then asked why the HWMS 7-8 custodial supply line is overspent by \$3600 and Kathy said she would find out.

H. It was discussed that the School Board had to reimburse the food service by \$67,000 because they were overspent. It was noted that there were 10,000 less meals bought last year also. Some questioned if the amount of food bought should have been reduced and it was noted that the director did after noticing the trend but also the school is not getting the full federal reimbursement because we sell our lunches cheaper than the federal standard. Gail asked if the \$25,000 transferred from the general funds was part of the \$67,000 food coverage or above and beyond and Kathy said she would check.

I. Brian informed the Committee that he met with the new School Superintendent and found they will be utilizing a new budget system this year by starting with \$0 and building up with what they need. This year's budget request will have big shifts and changes so it might be difficult to compare with last years. The School Board is presenting a budget with a 0.99% increase. Kathy noted the School Board cut an additional \$50,000 on Monday night and that retirement had an increase of 3% which is \$170,000 to our school district.

J. Insurance buybacks were discussed. Kathy explained that it is impossible to take them away 100% because they are part of individual compensation packages created during hiring negotiations.

At 8:26pm, Gail Ellis motioned to adjourn, 2nd Kathy King. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary