

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday – December 19, 2012
356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

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

Selectman's Rep: Arthur Capello

School Board Rep: Kathy King (absent)

Chairman Brian St.Onge opened the meeting.

1. Review of Minutes:

Ann Titus motioned to accept the November 28, 2012 minutes as amended, 2nd Gail Ellis. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Questions and Answers from Town:

1. Arthur explained he got copies of the Rec. Revolving and the Welfare guidelines however he forgot to bring them with him tonight so he will scan them into an email and forward them to all the members.

2. Gail explained that when she previously asked the question about the Code Enforcement Officer's salary she actually was wondering what the beginning balance in the fund in which he is paid out of was and how much has been drawn down thus far. Arthur stated he would get this information.

3. Review of Town Reports:

The Committee reviewed the revenue and expenditure reports for the Town.

A. Brian asked if the landfill closure is paid yet and Arthur replied that he does not think so but he will find out how much the closure cost was and when it will be paid.

B. Neil noticed that the Planning Secretary and Building Inspector Secretary lines are overspent and questioned why. Arthur replied that he would check.

C. Neil questioned why the Civil Defense line under the Emergency Management line is overspent by \$1500 and it was noted that this was a \$3,000 stipend for the Emergency Management Director.

D. Neil questioned what the \$7,000 expenditure on line Highway parts/repairs was for and Arthur replied that he would look into it. Neil then asked why there is a cutting edge credit and Arthur said he would check on that too.

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E. Neil asked if the Street Lighting is a contract price? Arthur replied that he the town participated in a program to update the lighting which will actually end up saving the town money once the equipment is paid off and it looks like the line was under-budgeted this year.

4. Review of School Reports:

A. Gerry asked why there is not any tuition revenue thus far for Middleton students since they pay quarterly and it is now December. Neil added that there was a \$600,000 payment a few lines down from the tuition lines and questioned what it was for.

B. Neil noted that it appears the food sales are down significantly (about 25%) and what is the school doing to address it.

C. Cindy asked if the Food Service Director is “pre-paid” since there is only 1% remaining and Arthur explained they encumbered the salary. Steve noted that even though the food sales are down it appears they are purchasing the same amount of food. Members asked for the lunch program participation rate and if possible the figures for those participating in free/reduced lunch.

D. Neil noted that it appears there are a lot of textbooks and supplies lines that have been encumbered well over the budgeted amount. For example, consumable books at HWMS is overspent by \$2,900 with an encumbrance.

E. Neil questioned why the salary lines are overspent by \$36,000.

F. Neil noted that the tuition/residential cost FHS line is overspent by \$50,000 and nothing was budgeted. Ann explained it is probably a student in placement.

G. Gerry asked how much the bond payment was for VVCS and Arthur noted the budget we are in right now is the first one without the bond payment and it was \$700,000.

H. Neil questioned what the Media salary line is for.

I. Gail asked how many employees are housed under the SAU department. A breakdown of the costs of the SAU insurance buybacks was requested.

J. Gerry pointed out that the SAU moved out of the Municipal Building noting that they could rent the other building cheaper however they are actually spending more on a monthly basis now. He further noted the Selectmen should have a conversation with the School Board to see if they could negotiate them coming back into the Municipal Building. Gerry also asked for the historic yearly figures for the SAU so he can compare this year’s SAU costs to previous years.

K. Cindy asked what the FLA building is currently be used for.

L. Steve asked for an explanation of Project Pride. Ann explained it is for kids who have

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dropped out of high school that have decided it is smarter to get their GED. The program also assists those students with job placement.

Brian St. Onge motioned to adjourn, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary