

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday – January 15, 2013  
356 Main Street - Farmington, NH**

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

**Members Absent:** Cindy Snowdon

**Selectman's Rep:** Arthur Capello

**School Board Rep:** Joe Pitre

**Public Present:** School Superintendent Steve Welford, School Finance Administrator Janette Lamay, Penny Morin, Mike Morin, Wanda Thierverge, Director of Student Services Walter Anacki and Butch Lewis

**At 6:00pm, Chairman Brian St.Onge re-opened the public hearing and noted that after tonight the school budget will be voted on during the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 9am in the High School Gymnasium. All Farmington residents are strongly urged to attend.**

**1. Overview of 2013-2014 School Budget:**

Superintendent Steve Welford explained that they were able to find the errors in Article 3 that the Budget Committee picked up last week. He stated that the Finance Administrator mistakenly plugged in the total number from the budget before the \$50,000 was removed that the School Board voted on. Neil asked why the Default Budget went down by \$900,000 and noted the operating budget is now \$1,000,000 more than the default budget which shouldn't be. Steve noted he is not sure and that Janette, the finance administrator is on her way.

**2. Review of Warrant Articles:**

**A. Steve Henry motioned to recommend Article 5 to enter a four year lease agreement for \$169,730, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Titus. Motion carried with all in favor.** This article has a \$0.19 tax impact.

**B. Steve Henry motioned to not recommend Article 6 to purchase the SAU building for \$180,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Pitre.** Discussion followed where Gerry noted that he does not feel it is appropriate for the town to purchase another building when the Red School House is sitting vacant and to send those funds out of town. Mr. Welford explained that they were able to negotiate a \$20,000 decrease from last year's asking price. He also provided the members with a breakdown of the costs analysis for the current SAU building vs. Main

Street and the estimated costs for the future. Neil pointed out that the Selectmen agreed to match the rental fee and keep the rental fee at \$26,400. Steve W. then added that at the current rental rate the town would have paid the cost to purchase the building after seven years. Penny Morin noted that the space on Main Street did not have the appropriate storage or privacy space to meet their needs. *Gail Ellis moved to call the question, 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Johnson. Motion failed with Steve Henry in favor, Arthur Capello abstaining and all others opposed.* The tax impact would be \$0.39.

*C. Ann Titus motioned to recommend Article 8 as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gail Ellis. Motion carried with all in favor.*

*D. Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Article 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Titus. Motion carried with Gerry McCarthy opposed.*

*E. Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Article 10 as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Henry. Motion carried with all in favor.*

*F. Gerry McCarthy motioned to not recommend Article 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Titus.* Neil asked what would be considered an “over expenditure.” Steve read RSA 32:11 which stated any reasonable expense could be paid for though the School Board and Budget Committee have to approve the expenditure in writing and the NH Commissioner of Education would then have to approve. *Motion failed with Ann Titus, Neil Johnson, Steve Henry and Gerry McCarthy were in favor and all others opposed.*

*Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Article 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Titus. Motion carried with Steve Henry, Gerry McCarthy, Gail Ellis and Brian St.Onge opposed.*

G. Neil reiterated his question as to why the default budget is \$900,000 lower than it was last week. The finance administrator explained that she inadvertently left out the fund 10 revenues and food service so she has prepared another draft with the true figures. The figures still appeared to be incorrect so the committee worked through the figures and decided the default budget number is \$16,875,423.

*Arthur Capello motioned for a short recess, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Henry. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**Brian called the meeting back to order.**

**3. Review of Proposed Operating Budget:**

A. Neil noted that line 40-3120-51197 (health insurance d/w) increased and Janette stated she went back and looked at the food service budget as the committee requested and found an error.

B. Neil asked why the supplies, USDA Commodities lines now have figures when they did not before and Janette stated that she applied the fair market value to make sure the numbers are where they are supposed to be so the district gets the appropriate food

service funding.

C. Steve noted that he is concerned that the allocation of Title 1 funding for two curriculum coaches at VVCS could be used for direct services to our students. Mr. Welford explained that the purpose of Title 1 funds is not to supplement the operating budget but to give additional funds for additional things, like the professional development, special pull-out math/reading classes, summer programs and after school programs.

**D. Neil Johnson motioned to reduce line 10-2120-51120-30 (Salaries, Guidance Counselor FHS) by \$38,749.00 and all related FICA, retirement and health insurance costs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Titus.** Discussion followed where Gerry asked why he picked it out and Neil replied that it is a new position and he did not feel the numbers of students per counselor would support it. Mr. Welford explained that the guidance counselors currently spend most of their time dealing with crisis's and not helping students with their education/college plans. Steve H. asked Mr. Welford to prioritize the new positions and he replied that if he had to prioritize the positions it would be the guidance counselor, the technology teacher, the middle school math teacher and then the high school science teacher. **Neil Johnson withdrew his motion and Ann Titus did not so the motion stood as stated. Motion carried with Ann Titus (yes), Joe Pitre (yes), Brian St.Onge (yes), Arthur Capello (no), Steve Henry (no), Gerry McCarthy (yes), Sam Cataldo (no) and Neil Johnson (no).**

**E. Neil Johnson motioned to reduce line 10-2400-51112-11 (Salaries, Asst Principal VVCS) to zero with all associated costs. Motion failed for lack of a second.**

**F. Neil Johnson motioned to reduce line 10-2150-51113-00-20 (Salaries, Speech Pathologists) by \$53,338 and all associated costs. Motion failed for lack of a second.**

**G. Neil Johnson motioned to reduce line 10-2820-57310-00-88 (Software/Licensing (non-capital) by \$4,422 which was earmarked for the purchase of 6 interactive white boards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Henry.** Discussion followed where Mr. Welford explained that these provide the students with an interactive lesson. Arthur asked if they could be purchased with the Title 1 funds and Mr. Welford replied no because they would be used for all students. **Motion failed with Neil Johnson and Steve Henry in favor and all others opposed except Gerry McCarthy who abstained.**

**H. Neil Johnson motioned to reduce line 10-2140-53300-00-20 (services psychology) by \$40,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Henry.** Discussion followed where Mr. Welford explained that contracted services was reduced to hire a district psychologist so we can better meet the needs of the district and deadlines. If the service needs to be contracted out it will cost \$450-\$650 per day versus the \$55,000 for a salary. **Motion failed with Neil Johnson and Steve Henry in favor and all others opposed except Gail Ellis who abstained.**

**I. Janette stated with the reduction passed tonight the new proposed budget amount would be \$16,960,170 with a tax impact of \$0.18 for article 3. Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Article 3 as amended to reflect the operating budget line as \$16,960,170,**

Accepted 3-6-13

*2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Henry. Motion carried with Arthur Capello opposed.*

*J. Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Article 4 as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Henry. Motion carried with Gerry McCarthy and Joe Pitre opposed.*

**At 8:57pm, Brian closed the public hearing.**

*Ann Titus motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Pitre. Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger  
Recording Secretary