

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

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

Members Absent: Cindy Snowdon

Selectman's Rep: Arthur Capello

School Board Rep: Joe Pitre

Public Present: Town Administrator Keith Trefethen, DPW Director Scott Hazelton, Conservation Commission Chairman Dave Connolly, Selectman Paula Proulx, Police Chief Kevin Willey, Fire Chief Rich Fowler, Librarian Deb Christie, Finance Administrator Pam Merrill, Mrs. Johnson and Selectman Jim Horgan.

At 6:00pm, Chairman Brian St.Onge opened the public hearing and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Overview of 2013 Town Budget:

The Committee reviewed the proposed town budgets by section. Keith explained that under the Personnel Administration budget there was a change in the 2013 wage adjustment line to reflect the reduction of the salary increases for the water/sewer personnel because those amounts should be under the enterprise funds. Steve asked what the personnel liabilities line is for and Keith explained it is a budget line to pay out accrued time if an employee is to leave our employment.

Under the Building Inspection section, Steve asked why there is a mileage line when the town provides a vehicle. Keith explained that there are times that the Code Enforcement Officer has to drive his own vehicle and this is for those times. Under the Highway and Streets section Neil noted that it was previously discussed to reduce the erosion control line to \$1000 and Scott Hazelton replied that was correct. It was then noted that the Selectmen cut an additional 10% for all Health Agencies requests.

Within the Parks & Recreation budget the telephone line was reduced by \$360 by the Selectmen because they need to review all telephone stipends before any additional funds are added to the budget. Arthur noted that the COAST bus line 01-4659-50-835 should be level funded because the Selectmen did not vote to cut it additionally. ***Steve Henry motioned to cut the COAST bus line by 10%, 2nd Neil Johnson.*** Discussion followed where Gerry spoke against the motion because a lot of people depend on the service in town. ***Motion failed with only Steve Henry and Brian St. Onge in favor, Gail Ellis***

abstaining and all others opposed.

Gail asked what the tax impact is for the town budgets and warrants and Keith explained the tax rate last year was \$6.65 and this budget will have a \$0.65 increase without a buy down by the Selectmen.

2. Review of Warrants:

The members reviewed the warrants as presented. Arthur asked why there are Special Revenue Fund warrant articles this year when there never was before. Keith explained that he is not sure why they haven't been included in the past but DRA instructed him to have them on the warrant so the voters are aware of the expenditures.

A discussion was held on Article 10 for the Withdrawal from the Special Revenue Fund/Building Inspection. *Steve Henry motioned to amend the article to read up to \$54,000 because the intent of the fund is to fund the building inspection salary if possible, 2nd Gail Ellis.* Discussion followed where Arthur noted that the Budget Committee cannot amend the warrant articles but just recommend/or not recommend and can speak to their suggestion at town meeting. *Motion withdrawn.*

Gerry asked how money is added to Article 11 Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/Main Street School Operations & Maintenance Fund. Keith explained the funds did come from the rental fees when the SAU was housed upstairs but now there are no additional funds being added.

Gail asked if the town should include the personnel liabilities budget line with the capital reserve fund for the same purpose. Pam explained the budget line is for employees who have worked for the town for a few years and are owed vacation hours etc. when they discontinue their employment and the capital reserve account is for the people who have worked for the town for many years and will receive a large severance package. No other committee members agreed with the change.

At 7:04pm Brian closed the public hearing. Arthur Capello motioned for a short recess, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried with all in favor.

At 7:12pm the Committee reconvened.

3. Review of MS-7:

Keith explained that line 4651-4659 Economic Development should be \$16,584 because he misunderstood the Selectmen and cut COAST bus when he shouldn't have.

4. Warrant Articles:

A. Article 3 – Fire Vehicle Rescue Pumper Capital Lease Purchase - Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Article 3 as written, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried with Gail Ellis opposed and Sam Cataldo abstaining.

B. Article 4 – Operating Budget with a total amount to be raised and appropriated

as \$6,169,473. – *Arthur Capello motioned to move forward Article 4, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**C. Article 5 – Public Buildings Maintenance CRF
Article 6 – Road Improvement and Paving CRF**

Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Article 5 and 6 as written, 2nd Joe Pitre. Motion carried with all in favor.

**D. Article 7 – Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/FCTV
Article 8 – Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/Police Outside Detail
Article 9 – Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/Landfill Closure
Article 10 – Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/Building Inspection
Article 11 – Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/Main Street School Operations
& Maintenance Fund**

Arthur Capello motioned to recommend Articles 7,8, 9, and 11 as written, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried with all in favor.

*Steve Henry motioned to recommend Article 10 as written, 2nd Ann Titus. Discussion followed where Gail stated she believes the article should be for the entire building inspector salary. Steve then added that he is not sure people will vote in favor of the warrant if the budget committee doesn't recommend it and then there will be a budget shortfall because the salary will have to be paid out of the operating budget. **Motion failed with Neil Johnson and Arthur Capello in favor and all others opposed.***

At 7:28pm, Gail Ellis motioned to adjourn, 2nd Gerry McCarthy. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary