

**Town of Farmington**  
*Budget Committee Meeting Minutes*  
**Thursday, December 19, 2013**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Selectmen's Chambers**  
**356 Main Street**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brian St. Onge (Chairperson), Jodi Connolly, Gail Young, Steve Henry, Gerry McCarthy, Ann Titus Late - Arthur Capello (Selectman's Rep)

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Neil Johnson, Sam Cataldo, Kathy King (School Board's Rep)

**1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:**

At 6:33 PM Brian called meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Review of Minutes:**

***Minutes from December 9, 2013***

Brian stated that the minutes from the meeting were very good and detailed. After review, Committee members noted corrections that needed to be made.

***MOTION MADE:*** Ann motioned to accept meeting minutes as amended.

***SECOND BY:*** Gail

***DISCUSSION:*** None

***VOTE TAKEN:*** All in favor – motion passes.

**3. Set Dates For Public Hearings:**

***School Public Hearing***

Brian stated that the School Public Hearing needs to be scheduled and he has spoken to Laurie Verville, the Business Administrator for the district and they would like to schedule the Public Hearing for January 14<sup>th</sup>. Arthur stated that we can't do it that day because that is the last day for petitioned warrant articles. Brian stated that January 21<sup>st</sup> is last day to hold anything. After further discussion, the Committee decided to schedule the Public Hearing for the School Budget on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Selectmen's Chambers, reserving Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> as a continuation/snow date if needed.

***Town Public Hearing***

Brian asked Arthur when they could get the budget. Arthur said any time, and asked Brian when he would like. Brian pointed out that the last date to post notice for the Public Hearing is February, 7<sup>th</sup> for the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. After some discussion, Gail noted that the Budget Committee first needs to hear the Town's Budget presentation, and then the public hearing needs to be held, followed by a Budget Committee meeting giving us a chance to make recommendations. She then suggested that they schedule the Town Budget Presentation for Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM.

Ann asked about a snow day and after some discussion it was decided that they would hold Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> as a snow date if needed. Jerry asked Arthur if we had to post a 24 hour notices for the presentation and Arthur stated no just meetings needs a 24 hour notice and public hearings needed a 7 day notice. Brian noted that the last day for public warrant articles is Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and after further discussion it was decided to schedule the Public Hearing for Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM with a snow day scheduled for Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> if needed. Arthur stated that he will talk to Paula and ask her to wrap up the Capital Improvement Committee meeting by 6:30 the night of February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Brian confirmed the dates that were just set as:

- January 16<sup>th</sup> @6:30 PM - School Public Hearing  
(Snow date - January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30)
- January 25<sup>th</sup> @9:00 AM – Town Budget Presentation  
(Snow date - February 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30)
- February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM – Town Public Hearing  
(Snow date - February 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30)

**4. Discuss Answers to Questions posed to School and Town Representatives:**

Brian stated that we don't have anyone from the school here tonight because they are all at a meeting in Middletown this evening.

**MOTION MADE:** Ann motioned to table school discuss until next month.

**SECOND BY:** Gail

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE TAKEN:** All in favor – motion passes.

**5. Review Town, School and SAU-61 Budget, Remittance, Revenue, YTD Reports and Recreation Revolving Fund:**

Brian asked Arthur if he is still getting the Recreation Revolving Fund Report. Arthur responded that he has not received it for a few months but will ask for it. He added that he thought it was about two months ago when we last saw it. Jerry asked Arthur if Fund 14 in the Town Remittance Report was where all the recycles goes and Arthur answered yes it was and added that we just renewed with Waste Management for another year.

Brian stated that he had a question about the Hay Day expense for \$6785. Arthur stated that he will get more information about this number. Steve stated that he thinks the Rec Department also had revenue from Hay Day. Gail stated that they did and it was \$6812. Brian stated that \$6000 was the budgeted amount for Hay day and \$7300 was spent which is \$1300 over budgeted. Gail stated that is actually a net expense of \$500.00 which looks as though it is almost self-efficient. Brian asked Arthur about the elevator and Arthur said he looked into it but didn't get any info back. Brian asked what the Town Clock line for \$250.00 was for and Arthur stated that he thought that was for repairs. Jerry stated that he thought it covered contingencies and yearly maintenance for the clock.

Jodi questioned item on page 5 for Capital Police Outside in the amount of \$80,000 and noted that this has not been spent. Arthur said he was not sure what that was for but will find out. Jody asked if it was for outside detail and Arthur said no because that should not be in the Capital Budget. Arthur wondered if it was for the Capital Project Building Inspector and added that it looks like all the capital reserve funds are targeted to the correct departments now. Steve added that the wording now states “up to a certain amount”. Brian noted that the Fire Department is 1 % over budget and Steve stated that he thought they had some radio tower damage.

Brian stated that the AmeriCorps budget is 1% over budget. Jerry asked if we still need these people. Brian stated that the Grant is over and he wants to make sure we are keeping these people. Jody asked if we can apply for another grant and Arthur said there is no more grant to apply for because the funding all dried up. Brian asked if we ever looked into curb side pickup rates and Arthur asked why would we since we have the land fill. Brian stated it might be cheaper option. Arthur stated that you might see some overage in overtime due to the recent storms we’ve had. Jody stated that they have done a good job cleaning up after the storms.

Brian asked if there was anything else and Jerry asked if someone has been hired for the Highway Department yet. Arthur stated that we have made an offer and that I can’t give out any more information that right now. Jody asked if we were hiring one person. Arthur stated that we are replacing the Road Agent position with Supervisor positions. He added that the total cost should be cheaper and there will be the same amount of people in each department, but the org chart will change. Everyone questioned Arthur how that would be cheaper. Arthur explained that the Road Agent they had costs about \$200,000 including salary and benefits and replacing that position with two supervisors will not total more than that amount.

**6. Next Regular Meeting:**

Brian stated that the next regular Budget Committee meeting will be January 22, 2014 @7:00 PM.

**7. Adjournment:**

**MOTION MADE:** At 7:22 PM Jodi motioned to adjourn Committee Meeting.

**SECOND BY:** Ann

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE TAKEN:** All in favor – motion passes.

**Budget Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by: Debra Cantwell, Recording Secretary