



A Bicentennial Community  
1798 - 1998

## Town of Farmington *Budget Committee*

356 Main Street  
Farmington, NH 03835  
Phone: (603) 755-2208 • Fax: (603) 755-9934

Farmington Budget Committee  
Wednesday, September 24, 2014

### Members Present:

Ann Titus, Chairman  
Jodi Connolly, Vice Chairman  
Brian St. Onge, BOS Rep.  
Gail Young  
Joshua Carlsen  
Joe Pitre, School Board Rep.  
Neil Johnson  
Sam Cataldo  
Steve Henry

### Members Absent:

Gerry McCarthy (excused)

### Others Present:

SAU Superintendent Steve Welford

### 1. Call to order:

Chairman Titus called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Review of minutes:

August 27, 2014-Motion (Johnson, second Pitre) to accept the minutes as submitted passed 6-0-3 (Titus, St. Onge, Carlsen, Johnson, Cataldo, Henry-yes, Young, Connolly, Pitre-abstained).

### 4. Discuss answers to questions posed to school and town reps:

Postponed to such time as all members are present.

### 5. Review town, school and SAU 61 budgets, Remittance, Revenue, YTD Reports and Recreation Revolving Fund:

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A. School District and SAU-Superintendent Welford told the committee that the school district budget for the fiscal year closed in June and it appears the district will be returning \$963,939 to the town. The surplus results from \$846,845 in unexpended funds and \$117,094 in additional revenues.

Welford said some of the additional revenue sources include federal grant increases, better input of reimbursement for medicaid services, an increase in state catastrophic aide and a premium holiday on employee health insurance. Some of the bigger cost savers in the unexpended funds category were out of district tuition reimbursement, filling open positions with lower salaried employees, contracted services, repairs and a lighting audit and subsequent improvements.

Welford also discussed budget preparation for the coming year. He estimated that the school budget may need to be cut by \$1.5 million next year and the following year and asked the committee to consider trying to find a middle ground when making cuts to the school budget and to be open to a possible tax rate increase so the school budget does not have to absorb all of the burden. Members noted that the district has returned about \$1 million to the town each year for the last two years and suggested it might be better to look at how much is actually needed to do the job instead of where to make cuts when preparing the budget.

Members also discussed the impact of Middleton leaving the Farmington school system and SAU 61. Discussion included possible loss of grant funds associated with the Middleton students, student enrollment costs and savings, possible increases in SAU costs and what will happen to Middleton's 140 students in kindergarten through sixth grade if their new school is not built. Member Henry said Farmington residents may want to look at leaving SAU 61 to avoid subsidizing the additional SAU costs due to Middleton's withdrawal and suggested the formation of a SAU Withdrawal Committee to begin the process should residents vote to form their own SAU at the next school district meeting.

B. Town-Members reviewed the Town Actual and Budgeted and Expenses Report, the Remittance Report and the Actual and Anticipated Revenues Report. There no discussion or action taken.

### 6. Any Other Business:

Member Johnson said a Middleton Withdrawal Meeting will be held at the Valley View Elementary School on Wednesday, October 1 in the Multi-Purpose Room beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is a public meeting to receive input from Farmington residents.

### 7. Next Meeting:

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

### 8. Adjournment:

Motion (Connolly, second Young) to adjourn passed 9-0 at 8:30 p.m.

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Respectively submitted,  
Kathleen Magoon  
Recording Secretary

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