Town of Farmington
Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2015

**Committee Members Present:**Ann Titus, Chairman
Sylvia Arcouette, Vice Chairman
Neil Johnson, Selectmen’s Rep.
Stephen Henry
Sam Cataldo
Jodi Connolly (7:05 p.m.)

**Committee Members Absent:**Resta Detwiler, excused
Stan Freeda, School Board Rep.

**Others Absent:**
Steve Welford, Superintendent, excused

**Others Present:**Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
Linda McElhinney, Goodwin Library Trustee
Laura England, Goodwin Library Director

**1). Call to Order:**Chairman Titus called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**2). Pledge of Allegiance:**
All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). Review of Minutes:**
October 28, 2015-
**Motion:** (Arcouette, second Johnson) to approve the minutes as written passed 5-0.

**4). Public Comment:**Library Trustee Linda McElhinney introduced the new Goodwin Library Director Laura England to the committee. Ms. England told the members she earned a Master’s Degree in Library Science, has been a library professional for 17 years and currently resides in Maine. Ms. McElhinney gave the committee a copy of the library budget breakdown and asked if the committee had any questions. Chairman Titus said the members would like time to review the proposal and said a workshop to review the library budget will be scheduled. Selectman Johnson asked that the Selectmen review the library budget prior to the Bud Com workshop. Chairman Titus thanked them for attending the meeting.

**5). Review School District and SAU Budget and Revenue Reports:** Tabled until the next meeting.
**6).Review Questions Posed to School Representative:** Tabled until the next meeting.

**7). Review Town General Fund, Remittance Report, Rec. Revolving Report:**
Tax Rate- Town Administrator Arthur Capello told the committee Selectmen used $250,000 from the undesignated fund balance to buy the rate down from $25.66 to $25.09.
**Remittance Report**:
Page 2-Tax Liens- Mr. Capello said Town Clerk is working on the 2015 tax liens and plans to come back before Selectmen in a few weeks to inform them of their status.
Page 9- FEMA Grant- ($15,185) Sam Cataldo asked what the grant is for. Mr. Capello said the amount represents the reimbursement for snow removal during last winter’s state of emergency.

**Actual and Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances (General Fund)-**Mr. Capello told the committee that Selectmen have been working on the budget and they plan to meet every Monday during budget season. He added that even with recent changes the budget proposal is down from the 2015 budget request.
Page 8, 01-4312-20-393-Removal of Trees ($2,400 budgeted, $2900 expended) Mr. Cataldo asked if the electric company removes any of the trees. Mr. Capello said the company only cuts or removes trees that are in their right-of-way or a threat to their equipment. The Public Works Director has a yearly list he provides to the tree service company to remove other trees in town posing a safety threat he said.

**8). Review Questions Posed to the Town:**
Fireworks- At the previous meeting, Selectman Johnson had asked for an accounting of the expenses for the fireworks display at the Hay Day celebration. Recreation Dept. Director Rick Conway provided a report of the Recreation Revolving Account with the fireworks line showing the current balance is $95.53. He said they are awaiting a check from N.H. Motor Speedway for $720 that will bring the balance to $816.33 which will be used toward next year’s display he said.
Director Conway also provided a copy of the October Monthly Report for members to review.
Gasoline Prices- Selectman Johnson asked if the $3.11 per gallon of gas listed on the October expense report for trips is too high considering the recent reduction in gas prices. Mr. Capello said the gas prices listed may not be correct. He added that the town is slowly converting to using a fleet card which will allow the town to purchase fuel at a discounted rate and avoid some state fees.

**9). Old Business**: None.

**10). New Business**: None.

**11). Any Other Business to come before the Committee:**December meeting date- Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Chambers.
School Budget presentation-Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 9 a.m. in the Selectmen’s Chambers.

**12). Adjournment:
Motion:** (Arcouette, second Connolly) to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 at 7:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary