Town of Farmington
Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2016

**Committee Members Present:**Ann Titus, Chairman
Sylvia Arcouette, Vice Chairman
Neil Johnson, Selectmen’s Rep.
Jodi Connolly
Stan Freeda, School Board Rep.

**Committee Members Absent**:
Stephen Henry
Sam Cataldo

**Others Present:**Town Administrator Arthur Capello
Superintendent Keith Pfeifer
Linda McElhinney

**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). Public Comment:**Linda McElhinney came forward with questions about the town budget as follows:
Page 13- Welfare Director- why is this line up by $45,000?
Town Administrator Capello said this is because the position was increased from part time to full time with the Director taking on other additional duties.
Page 1- Health Executive ($41,000) - who is covered under this line?
Mr. Capello said this line includes health insurance coverage for himself and the Selectmen’s Secretary. Both policies are family plans with an 88 % employer/12% employee payment split he said.
Page 2- What does “TCTC” stand for? The acronym stands for Town Clerk/Tax Collector.
Page 3- Who is included in the Treasurer line item?
Mr. Capello said this line includes the Finance Administrator and the Assessing Clerk.
Page 3- Wage Adjustment ($21,000) – who is this item for?
Mr. Capello said this represents potential merit wage increases for non-union employees including the Municipal Building staff, Police Chief, Lieutenant, Fire Chief, Recreation Director and Asst. Director and the DPW Director.
Mr. Capello invited Ms. McElhinney to contact him if there are further questions and then took the opportunity to remind viewers the town/school election will be held on March 8 and noted there are six open seats on the Bud Com with only three candidates running for the positions.

**4). Review Minutes:***January 15, 2015-*
**Motion:** (Johnson, second Connolly) to approve as written passed 5-0.
*January 27, 2016-*
**Motion:** (Johnson, second Connolly) to approve as written passed 5-0.
*January 30, 2016*- change the day of the week from Wednesday to Saturday, change the motion from “approve” to “recommend” the change…
**Motion:** (Johnson, second Connolly) to approve as amended passed 5-0.
*February 9, 2016*- Page 2, fourth sentence- change Johnson to Capello, change vote of Art. 20 to reflect Henry abstained, (0-5-1), Page 3- Connolly misspelled.
**Motion:** (Johnson, second Arcouette) to approve as amended passed 5-0.

**5). Review of Town and School Reports**:
**A). School District Reports**-
*YTD Expenditure Report – General Fund-* Superintendent Keith Pfeifer gave the members copies of the YTD Expenditure Report through 2/29/16 and stated there were no radical changes since the last report. He reported that “good news” for the district includes the openings for Interim Principal, Assistant Principal and School Nurse at the Henry Wilson School have been filled and the district will see some savings due to reduced oil and gas costs. He also urged residents to come out and vote for town/school offices on March 8 and to attend Town Meeting on March 9.
Selectman Johnson asked if there has been any response from the teachers’ union regarding the reduced cost healthcare plan offer. Mr. Pfeifer said there has been no formal response from the union, but he was aware that there was some “back and forth” between the union and the attorney and suggested there may be some concern about language indicating possible further cuts to the healthcare plan. He said if the teachers do not accept the offer the district may pay the additional healthcare cost with the savings in fuel costs. He added by law the district has to nominate teachers by April 15.
Chairman Titus asked how many homeless and out of district students are currently in the district. Mr. Pfeifer said the district has eight homeless students and 18 out of district students.
Page 22-lines 566 and 567- Utilities, Garbage Removal, Valley View and Henry Wilson Schools- Ms. Connolly asked why both these lines are already over budget. Mr. Pfeifer said he did not know why and will provide an answer for the committee.
*YTD Expenditure Report- Grants Special Revenue Funds-* Mr. Johnson said the grants are received and paid out at different times of the year so this report doesn’t give the committee much information. He then questioned the need for a monthly report. Chairman Titus suggested the committee request copies of the report twice a year.
*All Funds Revenue Report*- There were no comments or questions about this report.
**B). Town Reports:**
*Actual and Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances Report*- Mr. Johnson asked why all of the lines in the “Percent Left” column were listed at zero. Mr. Capello said this is because the budget doesn’t exist until after the vote at Town Meeting.
*Remittance Report*-Mr. Johnson questioned the hand written note on page one stating that not all of the revenues go through the Town Clerk’s Office so this report is no longer a complete picture of revenues. Mr. Capello explained the auditors recommended some of the revenues go through the Finance Administrator’s office and now a report from that office is also needed to provide the total amount of revenues received.
*Parks and Recreation Dept. January Monthly Report*- Mr. Johnson noted there were only three participants at the Senior Tea Party held on Jan. 21 and questioned why the event was held when there was such low participation. Mr. Capello said Selectmen instructed the Director not to cancel events. He added he did not know if participants were required to sign up ahead of event and will check with the Director and provide an answer to the committee.

**6). Old Business:** None.

**7). New Business**: None.

**8).Any Other Business to Come Before the committee:**
Mr. Capello again encouraged residents to vote at the town election on March 8 and to attend the Town Meeting on March 9. He noted this is one of our rights that we still have and each person’s vote is important as there have been times when things have passed by one vote. Members agreed and expressed hope that there will be a larger turn out than in recent years.

**9). Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Chambers.

**10). Adjournment:**
**Motion:** (Connolly, second Arcouette) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary