

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 30, 2013
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Selectmen Present: Charlie King, Paula Proulx, Arthur Capello, Joan Funk and Jim Horgan

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Keith Trefethen, DPW Director Scott Hazelton, Fire Chief Rich Fowler, Rec. Director Rick Conway, Town Clerk Kathy Seaver and Police Chief Kevin Willey

Public Present: Librarian Deb Christie

Chairman Charlie King called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review of Budget:

Keith informed the Board that the he and the department heads worked to make some additional cuts to the budgets after hearing the Board's comments on Monday night. With those cuts the budget currently has a \$0.49 increase over last year's tax impact. The Board was in agreement additional cuts were needed because they do not want to present a budget with more than a \$0.30 increase.

The Board reviewed the budget line by line.

A. Executive – Charlie suggested cutting the town training line 01-4130-10-243 down to \$500 and the Board agreed. He then suggested reducing line 10-4130-10-341 town hall telephone to \$4500 and the Board agreed.

B. Election, Registration & Vital Statistics – Charlie asked if line 01-4140-10-243 TC/TC training & convention can be reduced to \$1,500 and Kathy Seaver said yes.

C. Planning & Zoning – It was discussed that the planning secretary line should be reduced to reflect a reduction of 5 hours and then it was noted that the five hours Kathy Menici referred to on Monday night have been in place for the past year. The Board decided to leave the planning secretary as is. Charlie asked if line 01-4191-10-243 travel/training can be reduced to \$500 and the Board agreed it would be an appropriate cut.

D. General Government Buildings – Line 01-4194-10-140 overtime was reduced to \$1200 and line 01-4194-10-341 elevator phone was reduced to \$150.

E. Police Department Personnel – Charlie asked if the crossing guard line 01-4210-10-120 can be reduced to \$0.00 and then we can continue utilizing the fire department personnel for this purpose. Rich Fowler replied that he could do that as long as the personnel in his department stays the same and is not reduced. The Board zeroed the line out. Line 01-4210-10-344 Police department telephone was reduced to \$9,500. Line 01-4210-10-432 police radio maintenance was reduced to \$1,500. Next line 01-4210-10-638 police department tires was reduced to \$2,500 and line 01-4210-10-740 police department new equipment was reduced to \$4,850 (the purchase of three tazers was removed). Last for this section, line 01-4210-80-760 equipment maintenance was reduced to \$1,000.

F. Fire Department – Line 01-4220-10-341 fire department telephone was reduced to \$2,000. Then line 01-4220-80-411 fire department fuel oil was reduced to \$25,000. Then line 01-4220-80-630 fire department maint. Bldg. was reduced to \$6,000.

G. Building Inspection – Keith would like to change line 01-4240-10-110 CEO/Health Officer to \$46,138 to reflect 100% of the cost for the position. The Board discussed that the earlier warrant for the special revenue fund needs to be looked at to see what the ramifications would be of changing this line. Charlie suggested reducing line 01-4241-20-290 code enforcement mileage to \$200 and the Board agreed.

H. Administration Highway & Streets – Line 01-4311-10-140 highway overtime was reduced to \$25,000. Line 01-4311-10-630 highway building repair was reduced to \$4,000.

I. Highway & Streets – Keith explained they cut line 01-4312-10-632 erosion control to \$1,000 and line 01-4312-10-633 calcium chloride was reduced to \$26,000. Also, line 01-4312-10-691 crushed gravel was reduced to \$20,000. Line 01-4312-20-392 contract sweeping was reduced to \$8,000 and line 01-4312-20-393 removal of trees was zeroed out. Keith also said they were able to cut line 01-4312-20-661 repaint trucks to \$2,500, line 01-4312-20-741 traffic signs to \$2,000 and line 01-4312-30-630 cleaning catch basins to \$6,500. Last in this section line 01-4312-30-741 guard rails was zeroed out.

J. Bridges – The bridges line 01-4313-10-630 was reduced to \$6,000.

K. Sanitation Administration – Line 014321-20-140 landfill overtime was reduced to \$1,100.

L. Solid Waste Disposal – Line 01-4324-10-310 scale certification was reduced to \$850. Line 01-4324-20-836 solid waste hauling can be reduced to \$15,600 based on a contract price and line 01-4324-20-837 solid waste tipping fees can be reduced to \$70,000. Then Scott H. stated he could reduce line 01-4324-90-660 loader repairs to zero. Paula suggested moving the landfill closing monitoring line of \$25,000 out of the budget and funding this cost with the landfill closure fund. It was discussed that this would be reasonable.

M. Intergovernmental Welfare Payments – Arthur suggested level funding line 01-4444-90-963 Strafford County Community Action and the Board agreed this would be a good idea.

N. Parks & Recreation – Keith stated they were able to make several cuts. Line 01-4520-10-140 parks and rec overtime was cut to \$1,191 and line 01-4520-10-243 parks and rec training was reduced to \$1,000. The telephone line 01-4520-10-341 should stay the same at \$2,760. Also line 01-4520-10-635 rec. dept. gasoline was reduced to \$1,000 and line 01-4520-20-630 maintain parks was reduced to \$1,340.

O. Library – It was questioned if the library budget should be level funded. Deb Christie replied that their budget is amazingly bare bones and a level fund budget would cause them to make serious cuts to their services. Charlie explained that the town is in a budget crisis and needs to make serious cuts and maybe even cut jobs in order to bring forward a responsible budget to the taxpayers. After much discussion the consensus was to leave the figure at \$281,117.

P. Other Culture & Recreation – Many reductions were made. Line 01-4589-10-836 hay day was reduced to \$1500, line 01-4589-10-838 summer program was reduced to \$2,000 and line 01-4589-40-680 special events was reduced to \$2,000. Lastly line 01-4589-50-960 printing recreation bulletin was zeroed out.

Q. Patriotic Purposes line 01-4583-10-964 was reduced to \$1,000.

R. Capital Outlay – Arthur noted that he could not find the \$25,400 for the software for the revaluation transferred to the revenues and Keith stated he would look into it tomorrow with Pam.

S. Interest Long Term Bonds and Notes – Charlie asked if line 01-4721-10-981 tax anticipation note interest can be reduced to \$1 because if an emergency arises where the TAN note is needed the money can be found. The Board agreed to reduce the line to \$1.00.

T. Capital Outlay –Machinery – Line 01-4902-70-761 2007 fire truck (for the rescue/pumper) should be \$58,792.

At 7:18pm, Arthur Capello motioned for a short recess, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

At 7:53pm the Board reconvened.

Based on the cuts so far the tax impact will be a \$0.at \$0.99 increase to the tax rate and if the Board decides to buy down the taxes again this year with the same amount as 2012 then it would be a \$0.30 increase. These figures do not include the changes to revenue that were discussed. For instance there should be a \$25,400 revenue from the Future Technology Fund and the revenue for the motor vehicles could be flat lined at \$832,000.

Kathy Seaver noted the trend has been new cars for the past six months and therefore an increase in revenue. The Board consensus was to load the revenue at \$832,000. Keith plugged in those figures and the updated revenue figure is \$2,939,340 which would change the tax impact to \$0.21 with a \$325,000 projected buy down.

2. Discussion on Employee Raises:

Keith explained that he calculated the wage increase cost with a 3% increase to be \$17,200 which does not include the five employees who are at the top of their wage scale or the police department bargaining units. Jim noted he would be in favor of a 3% wage increase. Arthur stated he would be in favor of a merit increase between 0 and 3% and not a cost of living raise and Charlie agreed it would be a good idea. Paula stated she would be comfortable moving forward with a small cost of living increase (like 1.5%) plus a merit increase and Joan commented that she does not feel the department heads are prepared to justify merit increases so she would be in favor of the 3% increase. Arthur responded that the town does have an evaluation process and if the department heads need help carrying it out then Keith will need to make sure they are assisted. The consensus was to budget 2% of the salaries to place in a pool of money to be utilized for merit raises though Joan and Jim were against the plan.

3. Revisit the Operating Budget:

Some of the Board members were not comfortable presenting the budget as is to the Budget Committee and so the Board looked back at the budget. Line 01-4312-10-630 rebuild/repave/repair roads was relooked at. Scott H. stated that he would work with whatever figure the Board gave him. It was discussed to cut the line by \$100,000 to make it \$338,456 but then put \$50,000 in a warrant article to go to the Road Improvement and Paving CIP. All Board members were in favor of this cut besides Jim.

Jim Horgan motioned to forward the budget as amended tonight, 2nd Joan Funk. Motion carried with all in favor except for Charlie King.

Jim noted that he would like to revisit purchasing a police cruiser this year because if we don't get a new one this year than two cruisers would most likely be needed next year. Arthur replied that he is not in favor of purchasing a cruiser this year. Charlie added that the detective cruiser is being used at a higher level than anticipated so he feels we can get away with not purchasing a vehicle this year plus there is not enough funds in the PD detail line to purchase the vehicle. Joan disagreed and feels a vehicle should be purchased this year.

4. Other Business to Come Before the Board:

A. Joan stated that Steve Dean asked for the Board to consider increasing the Veteran Tax Incentive to \$500. Charlie asked Keith to look into how this change could be made and what the impact would be.

At 9: 24pm, *Joan Funk motioned to adjourn, 2nd Paula Proulx. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Accepted 2-20-13

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary

Chairman, Charlie King

Jim Horgan

Paula Proulx

Arthur Capello

Joan A. Funk