2014 TOWN OF FARMINGTON MINUTES
March 20, 1014 – (postponed from 3/12/2013)

Moderator, Christopher Somma, opened the meeting at 7:15 PM. He welcomed everyone and apologized for the postponement due to the impending storm that did not come. He announced Boy Scout Troop #188 who did the presentation of the flags and led us in the pledge of allegiance. Chris then announced his ground rules which included that everyone has to have a voice and they have to respect one another even when there are differences of opinion. Everyone who is a registered voter will be allowed to speak. Also, non-resident department heads, town administrator, town attorney, etc. as needed. There will be no yelling or disrespect. The Moderator announced that, Charlie King, Chairman of Board would like to say few words. Charlie King thanked everyone for attending. He said that he would like to thank three people who had participated in this community. First was Jim Horgan who served on the Board of Selectmen, but did not rerun. Second was Bonnie Lauze for her 27 years of service to town first in the Town Clerk-Tax Collector's Office and then in the Assessing Office. Last but not least Chief Willey who will be retiring next month. All received a round of applause. The next presentation was from the conservation committee. Dave Connolly, Chairman announced that the Farmington Conservation Commission Citizens of the year for 2013-14 was the Farmington Police Department for their support and contributions. He read the citation and presented it to Chief Willey.

The Moderator announced that Articles 1 and 2 were voted on at the election on March 11, 2014.

Matthew Scruton move to discuss Article 25 first because it will greatly increase Article 3. The motion was seconded by Ann Titus. Matt explained that we may need to increase the highway budget line if this is accepted. It was approved by a show of cards vote. Article 25 was opened. (see discussion under Article 25)

Article 3. Operating Budget To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of **$6,118,542** (Six Million one Hundred Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Forty Two Dollars) for General Municipal Operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed separately. **(Majority Vote Required)**

Matt Scruton made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 25, seconded by Neil Johnson. This was approved by a show of cards vote. Arthur Capello made a motion to approve Article 3, seconded by Ann Titus. Brian Beaverstock made a motion to amend to increase by $23, 707 for the Goodwin Library. The motion was seconded by Manny Krasner. Brian Beaverstock spoke in favor explaining that this was less than what was cut because there was a surplus left from last year that could be used to bring it back to where it was funded last year. Because it was stated by Arthur Capello that it is bottom line budgeting and the Board of Selectmen do not have to spend this on the library, Jodi Connolly expressed her support for this amendment and stated that she was concerned that the Selectmen will listen to the will of the people who voted them in. Many people

spoke of the significance of the library and their employees. It was pointed out that the library is not a town department and that the town does not have a say in it's budgetary funding. After much discussion on bottom line budgeting and the benefits of the library, Mary Barron made a motion to call the question, seconded by Riley Stanchina and approved by a show of cards vote. There was a petition for a secret ballot vote. The moderator reminded everyone that they must raise a yellow card to speak. It was questioned who were the 5 individuals who requested a secret ballot vote. The moderator read their names. While we were giving a few more minutes for the secret ballot, Heather Branch said that she would like to have the coast bus. She made a motion to reinstate the full budget of $21,943, duly seconded John Sutton. She presented a petition with 416 signatures of people who want the bus to run. She stated that it carries people to go for dialysis, Portsmouth, eye doctors, mammograms, etc. if not for coast bus. It has been a part of Farmington for 18 years and is an important part of our community. Amy Vento said that she was asked by 2 elderly people to speak on their behalf because they have no other way to get around. Rich Stanley asked what was the rationale in cutting this out of the budget. Charlie King stated that the Board had questions and concerns. He explained that the funding is made up of several components. 9% is from the town and that gets matching funds to bring it up to around 25%. The other 75% has already been received from the federal government. It was unclear why they would remove the service altogether when they will have their 75%. Charlie also stated that they had met with the Coast Bus representative this week, so that the reason for the increase is more clear. It was pointed out that this appears to be a yearly issue and the Board needs to start talks with them earlier than the week of town meeting. Chris Somma stepped back for a minute from his role as moderator and stated that it is incumbent on the Board of Selectmen to figure out what the problem is. Kathy King talked about a program whereby Coast Bus helped people in Durham, Madbury and Nottingham get a grant so volunteers could give rides to people. She also stated that we need someone to sit on the coast board according to the Selectmen. Matt Scruton stated that as a point of order, he felt that the Moderator should recuse himself from any discussion on this. Since he had appointed someone to fill in for him as moderator when he spoke, it was felt he did not. There was continued discussion on the pros and cons of not funding this. Amy Vento volunteered to sit on the Coast Bus board. Brian Beaverstock asked if we could restrict to not allow a secret ballot vote. It was explained that 5 voters can petition to have a secret ballot which means that you have to have one. Joshua Whitehouse made a motion to call the question, seconded by Ann Titus, approved by show of cards vote. Results of the Library secret vote were No 20, Yes 74. Another secret ballot vote has been requested on the Coast Bus. Vote on coast bus was No 18 Yes 74. Brian Beaverstock made a motion to restrict reconsideration on the library vote, seconded by Jodi Connolly and approved by a show of cards vote. We returned to discussion on Article 3. Stephen Henry moved to table article 3 until votes are counted. Motion to limit reconsideration on the amendment to the coast bus, seconded by Neil Johnson. This was approved by a show of cards vote. Arthur Capello made a motion to take Article 3 off table, seconded by Charlie King. It was determined that the new bottom line number is $6,164,192. Manny Krasner and John Scruton asked for explanations of 2 lines which were explained. Article 3, as amended was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 4. Collective Bargaining Agreement- Police Department
To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the one year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the NEPBA Local #212 which call for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level.
Fiscal Year 2014 $22,592
And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **$22,592 (Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Two Dollars)** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. **This article recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Joseph Pitre made a motion to approve, seconded by Ann Titus. Being no discussion, Article 4 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 5. Reconsideration
Shall the Town of Farmington, if Article 8 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 8 cost items only? (Majority Vote)

Passed over because Article 4 was passed.

Article 6. Collective Bargaining Agreement-Public Works
To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the one year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Teamsters Local #633 which calls for the following increases and decreases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels.

Year	Increase (Wages)	Increase/Decrease Benefits
2014	$6,234	2014 ($17,187)

This represents a decrease of ($10,953) in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the new collective bargaining agreement. **This Article Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article recommended by the Budget Committee.** (Majority Vote Required)

Penny Morin made a motion to approve, seconded by Neil Johnson. Stephen Henry asked if it had been finalized to which Charlie King replied that it had. It was questioned where the savings were. The bulk of the savings were from the voluntary move to their unions health plan. There was an increase in wages and benefit. Joseph Pitre asked if they were part of NH Retirement system. They are not. Being no further discussion, Article 6 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 7. Reconsideration
Shall the Town of Farmington, if Article 10 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 10 cost items only"? (Majority Vote)

Passed over because Article 6 passed.

Article 8. Future Technology CRF
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $**20,000** (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Future Technology Fund previously established for this purpose. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Stephen Henry. The current value in the fund is $26,719 Jodi Connolly asked what it is used for. The answer by Arthur Capello was, computers, software, etc. only to be used for technology. Article 8 was approved by a show of cards vote. Back to vote on 3 – coast bus No 18 and yes 74. Penny Morin made a motion to restrict reconsideration seconded by Rich Stanley and approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 9. Town Employee Financial Obligation CRF
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$10,000** (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, to assist the town to pay out accrued leave time for employees who quit or retire. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee (Majority Vote Required)**

Joseph Pitre made a motion to approve, seconded by Stephen Henry. The fund now has $27,284 as of December. Stephen Henry asked if the retirement mentioned earlier deplete that fund. It did take some money out of the fund, but did not deplete it. Article 9 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 10. Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/FCTV
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$60,000** (Sixty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of staff payroll, cable TV programming and to renegotiate the cable franchise agreement for the town and authorize the withdrawal of up to $60,000 from the Community Television Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Gerry McCarthy. Jodi Connolly said that we see this every year saying that no amount is raised by taxation. Jodi felt that we have to be at some point when we put money in, It was explained that this is a user fee paid through one's cable bill, not paid by taxpayers. Brian St. Onge state that is true, but would save taxpayers if it went into the general fund. It was explained that this user

fee is specifically set up to go into a special revenue fund. It cannot go into the general fund. Being no further discussion, Article 10 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 11. Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/ Police Outside Detail
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$80,000** (Eighty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose to pay for the cost of Police Outside Details and authorize the withdrawal of up to $80,000 from the Police Department Outside Detail Special Revenue Fund previously established for this purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Matt Scruton made a motion to approve, seconded by Arthur Capello This fund was explained. Being no further discussion, Article 11 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 12. Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/Building Inspection
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$45,000** (Forty Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of paying for the Building Inspector and authorize the withdrawal of up to $45,000 from the Building Inspector Position Special Revenue Fund previously established for this purpose. No amount to be raised by taxation. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Stephen Henry made a motion to approve, seconded by Arthur Capello. It was explained that this was funded by building permit fees. Article 12 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 13. Power Cot
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$16,000** (Sixteen Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of a Power Cot for the Fire Department and authorize the withdrawal of $16,000 from the Fire Vehicle & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No amount to be raised by taxation. **This Article recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee (Majority Vote Required)**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Ann Titus. Chief Fowler explained what a power cot was. Jodi Connolly stated that if we take money from this fund then we will need to replace it. Matt pointed out that is what the capital reserve accounts are for so that you don't see a large increase all at once budgeting for these purposes. Article 13 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 14. CRF Appropriation Emergency Medical Motorized Equipment
To see if the Town will to raise and appropriate the sum of **$25,000** (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Emergency Medical Motorized Equipment Fund a Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose. **This Article recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy King. This is coming out of taxation to help fund a replacement of an ambulance down the road. Article 14 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 15. Police Cruisers
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$64,000** (Sixty Four Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of two police cruisers and the authorize the withdrawal of **$54,000** (Fifty Four Thousand) of surplus funds from the Police Outside Details Special Revenue Fund to apply for the purchase, with the balance **$10,000** (Ten Thousand) to come from general taxation. **This Article recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote required)**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Joseph Pitre. The fund was explained whereby revenue from details for the officers pay/benefits as well as revenue for the use of a cruiser are put into this fund. The cruiser revenue is meant to be used for cruiser replacement. Chief Willey explained we are replacing two 2009's. It was explained that it covered buying the vehicle and equipping it. After some discussion about the numbers of police officers on average on at the same time, being no further discussion, Article 15 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 16. Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund
To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **$66,000** (Sixty Six Thousand) for the purpose related to the closure of the landfill and authorize the withdrawal of up to $66,000 from the Landfill Closure Fund previously established. No amount to be raised by taxation. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote required)**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Ann Titus. Stephen Henry asked how is this funded. This account had previously been funded by the pay-per-bag money. This is the money left over to be expended for monitoring. Article 16 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 17. Landfill Closure Fund Capital Reserve Fund
To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of expenditures related to the closure of the landfill and to raise and appropriate the sum of **$51,000** (Fifty One Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to be agents to expend. This sum comes from the Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Unlined Municipal Landfill Closure grant Program and no amount to be raised by taxation. **This Article recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote required)**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy King. It was explained that this was to be $250,000 over 5 installments. Being no further discussion, Article 17 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 18. Sale of Municipal Vehicles and Other Equipment
To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell in the best means possible, municipal vehicles and other equipment no longer needed, as determined by the Board of Selectmen with proceeds to go to the General Fund. **(Majority Vote Required)**

Matt Scruton made a motion to approve, seconded by Arthur Capello. Being no discussion, Article 18 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 19. To see if the town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to accept for consideration requests for community revitalization tax relief incentives pursuant to RSA Chapter 79-E.

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy King. Jodi Connolly asked for an explanation. Charlie King explained that this was program for revitalizing. Matt Scruton spoke against this article because he felt it would raise taxes. Rich Stanley made a motion to call the question, seconded by Arthur Capello, and approved by a show of cards vote. A counted show of cards vote was taken. Yes 25 No 14

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA chapter 162-K, MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION DISTRICTS, to provide the Town Meeting with the power to create development districts and to establish development programs and tax increment financing (TIF) plans.

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Parker. Gerry McCarthy asked to have an explanation about what a TIF District is and how it will affect us. Kathy Menici, explained that, when you create to establish a tax base line it comes to $18.98/M. For the duration those in the district would pay that rate and any taxes over that will go into the TIF. John Scruton said that they have their value but he is not sure the timing is right. He also felt that it was not the tax rate that is frozen, but the tax amount. After much back and fourth, Attorney Kerri Roman explained that you are establishing a base line of taxes, not basing it on a rate. Gerry McCarthy stated that he would like to know what he is voting on and felt it should be let go for another year. Kerri Roman explained that, legally, in order to adopt and implement this district Articles 20-23 all have to be passed. If Article 20 passes without 21-23 it would mean we can establish a district in the future, but no funding would occur until then. Jodi Connolly made a motion to call the question seconded by Rich Stanley. This was approved by a show of cards vote. A request for secret ballot was presented. We moved to Article 24 while awaiting results. Results were: No 26 Yes 18

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to create a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, with a total acreage of approximately 319.7 acres, encompassing an area beginning just south of the Route 153/Route 11 intersection and continuing west on Route 11 to Pound

Road, and beginning at the Route 153/Route 11 intersection and running north on route 153 to a town-owned parcel, the boundaries of which are depicted on the map titled "Route 11 Business Node/TIF District" and dated Feb. 3, 2014.

A Motion to combine 21-23 was made by Joseph Pitre, seconded by Jodi Connolly and approved by a show of cards vote. There was a motion to table articles 21-23, seconded by Neil Johnson. John Scruton stated that he wanted to be clear that he hopes that the town comes back with a more thorough and complete plan next year. Articles 21-23 were tabled by a show of cards vote.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to approve the TIF Development Program and the TIF Finance and Revenue Plan for the NH Route 11 Business Node/Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, which is dated Feb. 18, 2014

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to create an Advisory Board for the NH Route 11 Business Node/Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, to consist of five (5) members, appointed and removed under the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.

Article 24. Discontinue Flagstone Avenue
To see if the Town will vote to completely discontinue a portion of the road known as Flagstone Avenue. Portion of the road to be completely discontinued is located adjacent to Route 11 and abuts the property of Cameron's Home & Garden Center.

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Arthur Capello. John Scruton asked if this was requested by Camerons. It was explained by Charlie King that it was at their request. It was explained that the discontinuing should have done last year. Being no further discussion, Article 24 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 25. Road Acceptance by Petition
This petition is to ask the Town of Farmington to accept Golden Circle Drive as a Class V Public Road.

See motion prior to Article 3. Paul Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Robert Guilbault. Paul Parker read a statement. He stated that they wanted the town to plow and sand only. Arthur Capello asked if they had gone through the road acceptance policy. It was not put through that process. Neil Johnson asked what is required to bring the road up to current standards. Paul reiterated that they were only seeking acceptance for plowing and sanding. However Howard Champagne asked if anyone from the town was able to answer if accepting would not give the town legal liability for a road that cannot be brought up to town specs. It was stated that we would be accepting as a Class V road that would include maintenance and upgrades to address deficiencies and safety issues. It was also felt that we would be accepting all of the liabilities and costs. After more discussion on the issues involved with this, Arthur Capello made a motion to call the question, seconded by Jodi Connolly. The motion to call the question was approved by a show of cards vote. Article 25 was opposed by a show of cards vote.

Article 26. To transact such other business as may legally come before this meeting. **(Majority Vote Required)**

A motion to restrict reconsideration on all previously passed articles was made, seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. A motion to adjourn was made by Manny Krasner, seconded by John Scruton and approved by a show of cards vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy L. Seaver, Town Clerk-Tax Collector