

2012 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2012

Moderator, Dianna Parker opened the meeting at 7:05 with a presentation of the flags by Boy Scout Troop 188 who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dianna told us that Troop 188 is raising money to go to High Adventure Camp in April, so they are having a bake sale in the media room. She then read a brief statement regarding the rules and procedures for this meeting. She then read the election results from 3/13/12.

Article 1. Election of Officers

To choose two Selectmen for three years; three Budget Committee Members for three years; one Treasurer for one year; one Trustee of the Trust Fund for three years; one Moderator for two years and one Supervisor of the Checklist for six years. **(Official Ballot)**

Article 2. Zoning Amendments (Official Ballot)

Amendment 1

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the planning board for the Farmington Zoning Ordinance as follows: To make changes to the boundary of the Commercial Business District on the northerly side of Route 11 from Tappan St. to the New Durham town line in order to remove the following areas from the Commercial Business District and include them in either the Suburban Residential District or Rural Residential District: All parcels east of the Ela River from the New Durham town line up to and including R49 Lot 6; Beaver Pond Rd., Trotting Park Rd. (east side), Colonial Circle, Beechwood Ave. Cameron Dr., and portions of Pine Knoll, Loring Ave., Perkins Ave., Central St., Maple St. and Tappan St.?

Yes 341 No 258

Amendment 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the planning board for the Farmington Zoning Ordinance as follows: To add a new Section 4.05 – Lancelot Shores Overlay District to allow a front (street) setback of 25 feet?

Yes 378 No 213

Amendment 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the planning board for the Farmington Zoning Ordinance as follows: To add a new Section 3.08 – Small Wind Turbines (Small Wind Energy Systems) to define related terms, specify development standards, abutter and regional notification requirements, and abandonment of the system?

Yes 381 No 220

Amendment 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the planning board for the Farmington Zoning Ordinance as follows: To add a new Section 1.08 – Housing Maintenance and Occupancy Code (HMOC), currently included in the Zoning Ordinance by reference [Section 3.14 (A)(4)], and to delete Section 3.14 (A)(4)?

Yes 304 No 265

Before we began our deliberations, Board of Selectmen Chairman, Charlie King, said that he would like to thank everyone for coming out announce. He then announced that Police Chief, Scott Roberge will be retiring after 27 years. Scott spoke about his great experiences here and said that he is going to miss it. The Moderator then began the process of reading and deliberating on the warrant articles.

Article 3. Public Works Truck – Capital Lease

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long term lease-purchase agreement for 6 years in an amount up to **\$198,000 (One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Dollars)** for the purpose of leasing a 10 wheeler, plow, sander and wing and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$19,000 (Nineteen Thousand Dollars)** towards this purpose with the balance of the first year's payment in the amount of **\$14,000 (Fourteen Thousand Dollars)** to come from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (2/3 Ballot vote required)**

A motion to approve was made by Neil Johnson, seconded by Stephen Henry. Manny Krasner asked why we need this vehicle and asked if it was bigger than what we currently use. Scott Hazelton, Public Works Director stated that it is a 10 wheeler and spoke to the need. Manny made a motion to call the question which was duly seconded. Dianna explained that we would be leaving the polls open for 1 hour. Polling began at 7:15 PM. After it appeared that all present had voted, we continued to deliberate at 7:30 periodically announcing that the ballot box was still open until 8:15. After ascertaining that everyone had a chance to vote on Article 3, the balloting was closed at 8:15. After the ballots were counted the vote was as follows: Yes 47 No 32 (52 votes needed to pass.) This article was reconsidered. See Article 4.

Article 4. Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of **\$6,083,739 (Six Million, Eighty Three Thousand, Seven Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars)** for general municipal operations. The Selectmen recommend **\$6,107,947 (Six Million, One Hundred Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars)**. This article does not include appropriations in special or individual articles addressed separately. **(Majority vote required)**

Stephen Henry made a motion to approve \$6,083,739 (Budget Committee recommended), seconded by Arthur Capello. Dwayne Rhines questioned the % increase over last year and the effect on tax rate. The tax rate effect is \$.22. Tracy Cameron asked what the difference between budget committee and Board of Selectmen recommended budgets is. Pam Merrill explained the differences. Arthur Capello explained that several of the differences were taken out with the recommendations of the department heads. Stan Freeda made a motion to increase the library budget by \$6,000 because this is what the library trustees determined was needed. This was seconded by Billie Laferte. The moderator is on the board of trustees for the Library and stepped down asking Kathy Seaver to moderate for this amendment. Tracy Cameron pointed out that we were technically amending the bottom line and that the Board could still not give the \$6,000 to the Library. Eric Martin asked why this had been cut. Charlie King explained that the Library had come in with an increase of over \$11,000 and that the board had given them ½ of the increase asked for. He pointed out that all departments were asked to keep their budgets straight lined. Arthur Capello said that the Budget Committee followed the recommendation of the Selectmen. All departments were subject to cuts so it was not just library that had their request lowered. Stanley Freeda stated that he appreciated the need to save money in hard economic times. He felt that more people are using the library and he felt that this was something where the demand increases in bad times. After more views pro and con, Arthur Capello presented a petition with 5 signatures requesting a secret ballot. Since the ballot box is tied up until 8:15, Arthur Capello made a motion to move on to article 5 until can we do a secret ballot. This was seconded by Ann Titus. Upon returning to Article 4, Stephen Henry made a motion to add to the bottom line by \$20,000 to repair existing the dump truck, duly seconded. Scott Hazelton explained that the vehicle

intended to be replaced by Article 3 would need this much in repairs.. John Scruton said that it seems that if we restructure article 3 we can do it with a non appropriation clause. John made a motion to table the amendment until we can reconsider Article 3, seconded by Joe Pitre. This was approved by a show of cards vote. John Scruton made a motion to reconsider Article 3, duly seconded. Being no discussion., the motion was approved by show of cards vote. John Scruton made a motion to amend Article 3 to read: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long term lease-purchase agreement for 6 years in the amount of \$198,000 for the purpose of leasing a 10 wheeler, plow, sander and wing and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,000 towards this purpose . This lease will contain a non appropriation escape clause. This motion was seconded by Stephen Henry. The differences include that there could be no escape clause before because some funding was coming out of capital reserve. It also required a 2/3 majority because it had to be treated as a bond. Sylvia Arcouette asked what the benefit of leasing over buying is. It was explained that it was like a car payment and that it is a lease/purchase so we will pay \$1.00 at the end of the lease and own it. We do not have enough money in the reserve fund to buy it. There was much discussion about what this truck would include and be used for. Neil Johnson made a motion to call the question, seconded by Ann Titus and approved by a show of cards vote. The motion was approved by a show of cards vote. John Scruton made a motion to take the amendment to Article 4 off table, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. Stephen Henry withdrew his motion for \$20,000, and the second withdrew also. Stephen Henry made a motion to add \$2750 to restore tasers for the police department, duly seconded. It was explained why it was originally deleted from budget . Kevin Willey explained that there are times when more than 3 people are on duty so someone is not equipped with a taser. The intent is to have a taser for every officer. Actual cost of a taser is 1200 and the amount removed will lose the ability to buy 2 tasers. He said that active resistance has dropped significantly. Kathy King made a motion to call the question, seconded by Ann Titus and approved by a show of cards vote. This amendment was not approved by a show of cards vote. There was no further discussion. The original motion was approved by a show of cards vote. Eric Martin made a motion to restrict reconsideration of all previous articles as discussed, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 5. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Police Department

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the NEPBA Local 213 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Fiscal Year 2012 | \$ 9,875 |
| Fiscal Year 2013 | \$13,385 |
| Fiscal Year 2014 | \$ 3,365 |

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,875 (Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars)** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required)**

Manny Krasner made a motion to approve, seconded by Tracie Cameron. Jerry McCarthy explained and said that he felt that the town got a very good agreement. Gary Stenhouse, Interim Town Administrator explained the difference in the school vote yesterday and the town vote tonight prompted by a question from Laura Vitteroso. Tracy Cameron made a motion to call the question, seconded by Martin Laferte and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 5 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 6. Shall the Town, if Article 5 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at it’s option, to address Article 5 cost items only? **(Majority Vote Required)**

Since Article 5 passed, we did not act on Article 6.

Article 7. Public Buildings Maintenance CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars)** to be added to the previously established Public Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required)**

Joe Pitre made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy King. Martin Laferte said that he assumed that this is an ongoing amount. It was explained that it was an ongoing appropriation. Charlie King explained that projected repairs of over \$40,000 are needed which is going to deplete that account. for an emergency Carol O'Connell asked if Public Buildings included the school buildings. Joe Pitre explained that the town and school are two separate entities and that the school district also has capital reserve funds for building maintenance. Stephen Henry said that the borders of the school district sometimes different than the town. James Spaulding and Dwayne Rhines spoke. It was clarified that the \$.22 increase includes all of the special warrant articles. Being no further discussion Article 7 was approved by show of cards vote.

Article 8. Fire Vehicle/Equipment CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,500.00 (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars)** to be added to the previously established Fire Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote required)**

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Gail Ellis. Being no discussion, Article 8 was 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 **\$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars)** to be added to the previously established Town Employee Financial Obligation Capital Reserve Fund. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Joe Pitre made a motion to approve, seconded by Arthur Capello. Being no discussion, Article 9 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 10. Future Technology Improvement Fund CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$11,000 (Eleven Thousand Dollars)** to be added to the previously established Future Technology Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Gail Ellis made a motion to approve, seconded by Ann Titus. Barry Elliott felt that this was an odd number and asked for the reason. Charlie King felt this was a number the board came up with. Kathy Seaver said that this was the amount used in our capital plan that was dropped several years ago and that we appropriated no money last year. Billie Laferte asked if it is put into a reserve fund will it collect interest while sitting? It was explained that it is kept in savings accounts with the Trustee of Trust Funds and, therefore, does earn interest. After some discussion on what would be spent from this fund, Article 10 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 11. Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$27,800 (Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars)** for the purchase of one police cruiser and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$27,800 (Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars)** from the Police Outside Details Special Revenue Fund for this purchase. There is no Tax Impact. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Joe Pitre made a motion to approve, seconded by Ann Titus. Manny Krasner asked if it was going to be a Ford or Chevy. Chief Roberge said that it will be a Dodge with a 6 cyl. engine because of gas issues. Martin Laferte asked if it included the light package, etc. Chief Roberge said that it does. Stephen Henry asked if we had decided on sedan because a pickup had been mentioned in the budget process. Chief stated that he had mentioned pickup as an option and that it will be the new chiefs decision. Being no further discussion, Article 11 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 12. Ambulance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$146,000 (One Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Dollars)** for the purchase of a new ambulance and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$130,000 (One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars)** from the Emergency Medical Motorized Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of **\$16,000 (Sixteen Thousand Dollars)** is to come from general taxation. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority Vote Required)**

Gail Ellis made a motion to approve, seconded by Ann Titus. It was asked if we would be using up our balance. Chief Rich Fowler explained that we would and that we are replacing the 1996. He felt that we should be set for 6 or 7 years because we will start saving again next year. Barry Elliott stated that we seem to be purchasing a lot of equipment and he felt that he sees a lot of old equipment sitting around. He wanted to know what we going to do with the excess. A couple of department heads stated their plans and Charlie King said it needed to be looked at in order to get back as much money as possible. Article 12 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 13. HVAC System 8:20.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$145,000 (One Hundred Forty-five Thousand Dollars)** to install an HVAC system in the Town Office Building (formerly Main Street School). The sum of **\$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars)** to come from the Main Street School Operations and Maintenance Special Revenue fund; **\$91,000 (Ninety-One Thousand Dollars)** to come from the fund balance (surplus) and the balance of **\$44,000 (Forty-Four Thousand Dollars)** to come from AARA Grant Funding for this purpose. No amount is 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)**

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Gail Ellis. Charlie explained the situation with the grant which also had included energy efficient windows and insulation. Barry Elliott asked if it includes design engineering commissioning as. It does. Gary Stenhouse explained that we had also applied for another grant which will lower the fund balance amount. It was explained that we had already taken bids and decided on the award. Initially we had estimates, but realized it was not adequate so we went to a more involved bid spec which is when realized we needed additional money to complete. The company who had been awarded the job is NH based. Brian St Onge wanted to make one comment in that it is true that taking from the fund balance doesn't have a tax impact on this budget, but it does give less to use to buy down the tax rate with later. Being no further discussion, Article 13 was approved by a show of cards vote.

The results of the vote on Article 3 were read. (see above)

Article 14. Highway Garage Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Highway Garage Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal (\$5,622.01 as of 12/31/2011), are to be transferred to the Town's general fund. **This Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required)**

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Gail Ellis. Being no discussion Article 14 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 15. Housing & Occupancy Code

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the Housing Maintenance and Occupancy Code adopted in 1987, and incorporated in the Zoning Ordinance by reference. This article shall be void if Article 2, Amendment 4 does not pass. **(Majority vote required)**

Paul Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Charles Doke. Being no discussion Article 15 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 16. Sale of Municipal Vehicles and Other Equipment

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell to the highest bidder municipal vehicles and other equipment no longer needed as determined by the Selectmen, with proceeds to go into the General Fund. **(Majority Vote Required)**

Gail Ellis made a motion to approve, seconded by Neil Johnson approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 17. To transact such other business as may legally come before this meeting. (Majority Vote Required)

Neil Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 9:45, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy L. Seaver, Town Clerk-Tax Collector