

Town of Farmington

New Hampshire

Minutes 3-9-2016

Moderator, Michael Morin opened the meeting at 7:15PM with Boy Scout Troop 188 posting the colors and leading us in the pledge of allegiance. Charlie King, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen then led us in a moment of silence for Gerry McCarthy who passed away suddenly while serving on the Board. He also presented Dale Sprague, Public Works Director with a plaque for 35 years of dedicated service to the Town of Farmington. David Connolly presented a certificate to the Public Works Department for their assistance with conservation projects. Randy Orvis then presented David Connolly with a certificate recognizing him for his years of dedication to the Conservation Commission. Rick Conway, Parks and Recreation Director, then presented a certificate of appreciation to Rebecca Howard for her dedication to the Recreation Department Bingo program. Mike then pointed out the fire exits and explained the need for 2/3 ballot votes on certain articles. He then read the results of Article 1 Election of Officers and the Zoning Articles. The results of the Zoning Amendments in Article 2 were as follows:

Amendment 1 Yes 436 No 199
Amendment 2 Yes 348 No 283
Amendment 3 Yes 323 No 315

Article 03: Construction of Safety Building

To see if the Town of Farmington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,363,000 to construct and equip a new public safety building on Town-owned land on Route 153 (the "Project"); and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,363,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver each of such bonds or notes and to determine the interest rate thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. (Two-thirds (2/3rds) ballot vote required).

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Mike then read Article 3 and announced that there will be a short presentation. He also stated that Article 10 did not have a public hearing and we will be looking to table that. There was then a power point presentation which pointed out the existing conditions of the Police and Fire buildings. Then Fenton Groen, who designed the new proposed building spoke. A motion was made and seconded to approve Article 3 as written. Some discussion ensued on the possibilities of solar panels, accessibility, response time, what would become of the other buildings, the need to invest in our infrastructure, etc. Lauri Vittorioso made a motion to call the question, seconded by Jacquie Capello and approved by a show of cards vote. The polls opened at 8:32. At 9:05 we kept the polls open, but went on to discuss Article 5. After the closing of the polls for Article 3 the vote was counted as follows:

Yes 156
No 34

Riley Stanchina made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 3, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 04: Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,513,234 for General Municipal Operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed separately.

Board of Selectmen Recommendation: No Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Penny Morin made a motion to approve Article 4 as written, seconded by Sylvia Arcouette. It was explained that the reason for a difference between the Board of Selectmen's budget and the Budget Committee Recommendation is \$10,000 for the Library and a reduction of \$1379 for Coast Bus. Several people spoke against the cut to the Library. Linda McElhinney made a motion to reduce the town budget by \$36,441. This increase is proposed to be a cut of \$47,820 from the Welfare line which would restore the \$10,000 to the library as well as the \$1379.00 to the Coast Bus and a reduction to the bottom line of the budget of \$36,441. This was seconded by Penny Morin and much discussion ensued regarding the welfare position now being funded as full-time. It was explained that some Economic Development duties had been moved to this position to fill the remaining full-time hours. A motion to call the question was made by Mr. Pelletier, seconded by Ann Titus which was approved by a show of cards vote. The vote on the amendment was called by the Moderator as failing. This counted cards vote was questioned by Paula Proulx with a motion to overrule the moderator, duly seconded. After a short discussion, this motion and second was withdrawn and the Moderator called for a show of hands vote on calling the question which failed to approve the amendment by Yes 46 No 60. More general questions about the administrative increases ensued. Brian Beaverstock made a motion to amend the bottom line by \$10,000 with the intention of increasing the library amount. This was duly seconded. More library questions were asked and answered. Riley Stanchina made a motion to call the question, seconded by Penny Morin with a standing vote taken Yes 49 No 28. There was a request for a secret ballot on this amendment. The results of the secret ballot was Yes 53 No 29. Eric Martin then made a motion to call the question, seconded by Penny Morin and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 4 was then approved as amended by a show of cards vote. Penny Morin made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Riley Stanchina and approved by a show of cards vote. Charlie King made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 5, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. We then continued with Article 10.

Article 05: Long Term Lease

To see if the Town will vote to ratify, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, a 20-year Real Estate Lease Agreement between the Town and Community Action Partnership of Strafford County ("CAPSC") for the purpose of leasing the town-owned land located at 120 Main Street to CAPSC, for consideration of one dollar per year, to allow the continued operation of a childcare center and Head Start programs. CAPSC is responsible for upgrades to, and maintenance of, the property. (Recommended by Selectmen 4 - 0).

Penny Morin made a motion to approve Article 5 as written, seconded by Alex Morin. Peter Scruton asked if there was an escape clause, which was answered in the affirmative. Some questions were asked of Betsy Parker, Director of the Farmington Daycare Center concerning vacancies, sliding scales and services to other towns. Riley Stanacina made a motion to call the question, seconded by Kayla Morin and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 5 was approved by a show of cards vote. Polls were closed on Article 3.

Article 06: Add to Highway Equipment CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Highway Equipment CRF, previously established. This is to assist the town to replacement for Highway Equipment.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Riley Stanchina made a motion to approve Article 6 as written, seconded by Jodi Connolly. There was no discussion. Emmanuel Krasner made a motion to call the question, seconded by Penny Morin and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 6 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 07: Recreation Equipment Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 to be deposited into the Recreation Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Riley Stanchina made a motion to approve Article 7 as written, seconded by Tracy Cameron. With no discussion, Article 7 was approved by a show of cards vote. We then went to Article 9.

Article 08: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve fund called Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Fund, to raise and appropriate the sum \$15,000 to be deposited in said fund, and further to name Selectman as agents to expend from said fund.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Anthony Vittorioso made a motion to approve Article 8 as written, seconded by Tracy Cameron. Peter Scruton asked questions about expected use, the total bill and recurring costs of training which were answered by Chief James Reinhert. Being no further discussion, Article 8 was approved by a show of cards vote. At this point we went back to the main money Article 4.

Article 09: Police Outside Detail Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$80,000 for the purpose of paying all expenses associated with payroll and equipment of police officers with said funds to come from the Police Outside Detail Special Revenue fund created for this purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve Article 9 as written, seconded by Alex Morin. A motion to call the question was made by Emmanuel Krasner, seconded by Alex Morin and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 9 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 10: Discontinue Building Permit SRF

Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c which restricted 100% of revenues from Building Inspection Fees to expenditures for the purpose of Building Inspection Fees? These funds will be placed in the towns general fund in accordance with RSA 31:95-d. 2/3 ballot vote required.

Emmanual Krasner made a motion to table, seconded by Jodi Connolly and approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 11: Add to Emergency Motorized Equipment CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be deposited into the Emergency Motorized Equipment Capital Reserve and to further fund this appropriation with \$40,000 by revenue from funds raised through ambulance billing and \$0.00 through general taxation.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Riley Stanchina made a motion to approve Article 11 as written, seconded by Stephen Henry and being no discussion, Article 11 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 12: Farmington Cable TV

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,000 for the purpose of staff payroll, cable TV programming and to renegotiate the cable franchise agreement with said funds to come from the Community Television Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve Article 12 as written, seconded by Ann Titus and, being no discussion, Article 12 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 13: Tax Increment Finance Development Program

To see if the Town will vote to approve the TIF Development Program and the TIF Finance and Revenue Plan for the previously established locations known as the as NH Route 11 Business Node/ Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, which is dated February 18, 2014.

Alexander Morin made a motion to approve Article 13 as written, seconded by Stephen Henry. Some discussion on this article ensued and it was explained that this Article and Article 14 should have been on the warrant last year. Penny Morin made a motion to call the question, seconded by Jodi Connolly and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 13 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 14: Tax Increment Advisory Board

To see if the Town will vote to create an Advisory Board for previously established 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.

Stephen Henry made a motion to approve Article 14 as written, seconded by Ann Titus and, being no discussion, Article 14 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 15: Landfill Closure Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,407 to be added to the Landfill Closure Fund. This sum comes from the Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Unlined Municipal Landfill Closure Grant Program. No amount to be raised by taxation.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee Recommendation: Yes

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve Article 14 as written, seconded by Jim Horgan and, being no discussion, Article 15 was approved by a show of cards vote.

|

Article 16: Landfill Closure/Transfer Station

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the purpose related to the closure of the Landfill/Transfer Station with said funds to come from the Landfill Closure/Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund previously established. No amount to be raised by taxation.

Selectmen recommendation: Yes Budget Committee recommendation: Yes

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve Article 16 as written, seconded by Sylvia Arcouette. Peter Scruton questioned what this was for when the Landfill was already closed. It was explained that it was for monitoring of the test wells, etc. There was no further discussion and Article 16 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 17: Bridges and Road Design CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Bridge and Road Design CRF, previously established. This is to pay the 20% of the required funding from NH State Bridge Aid.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes Budget Committee recommendation: Yes

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve Article 17 as written, seconded by Jodi Connolly. Randy Orvis questioned which is the next bridge and Dale Sprague explained which bridges are redlisted. It was also explained that the Main

Street Bridge is a project for the state in 2017. Being no further discussion, Article 17 was approved by a show of cards vote.

|

Article 18: Place tax impact on articles having a tax impact

To see if the Town of Farmington will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. (Majority vote required)

Penny Morin made a motion to approve Article 18 as written, seconded by Stephen Henry and, being no discussion, Article 18 was approved by a show of cards vote.

Article 19: Change purpose of Public Safety Building CRF

To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Public Safety Building CRF to the Public Safety Building and Equipment CRF to allow money from this fund to be used for the planning, construction and outfitting of a public safety building and furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend. (2/3 vote required)

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve Article 19 as written, seconded by Stephen Henry. Some discussion ensued and it was pointed out that this was just a ballot vote, not open for one hour. We went on to discuss Article 20 while the counting of Article 19 took place. Article 19 was approved by a ballot vote as follows: yes 59 No 6.

Article 20: Decorations for Poles (BY PETITION)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,500 for the purchase of banners and hardware to decorate poles. And, for the maintenance of the Christmas lights.

Board of Selectman Recommendation: No

Budget Committee Recommendation: No

Alexander Morin made a motion to approve Article 20 as written, seconded by Anthony Vittorioso. It was explained that it was for banners which would hopefully be funded going forward by sponsors. Jodi Connolly made a motion to call the question after some discussion, seconded by Sylvia Arcouette and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 20 was approved by a show of cards vote counted Yes 29 No 27,

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:54, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy L. Seaver, Town Clerk-Tax Collector

