

Town of Farmington
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Henry, Chairman
Sylvia Arcouette, Vice Chairman
Jodi Connolly, Secretary
Neil Johnson, Selectmen's Rep.
Angie Cardinal, School Board Rep.
Elizabeth Johnson
Tim Brown
Sam Cataldo

Others Present:

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
Bobbie Stormann

Committee Members Absent:

Heidi Mitchell

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Henry called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment:

Mrs. Stormann invited the committee to attend an informational meeting regarding economic development hosted by the Board of Selectmen and the Economic Development Committee to be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting will feature UNH Cooperative Extension Community and Economic Development Program Team Leader Charlie French and Extension Specialist Molly Donovan.

4).Review of Minutes:

Dec. 28, 2016- No errors or omissions.

Motion: (Arcouette, second E. Johnson) to approve the minutes as written passed 6-0-2 (Brown, Cardinal abstained).

Jan. 13, 2017- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Cardinal, second E. Johnson) to approve the minutes as written passed 6-0-2 (Cataldo, Arcouette abstained).

Jan. 25, 2017- No errors or omissions

Motion: (N. Johnson, second Arcouette) to approve the minutes as written passed 8-0.

Feb. 9, 2017- No errors or omissions

Motion: (N. Johnson, second Arcouette) to approve the minutes as written passed 8-0.

5). Review of Town Reports:

Mr. Capello said the MS 737 and warrant were signed, filed and posted. He said the salt budget is expected to be overspent as it is already more than half way spent at this point.

Mr. Brown suggested the line could be amended at Town Meeting so that the line is not

overspent.

Mrs. Connolly asked when the salt is delivered.

Mr. Capello said the salt is delivered when needed. He said there was an issue 2 storms ago when the salt truck got stuck on Rte. 495 but the order was eventually delivered.

Anticipated Revenues:

Ms. Cardinal noted that the content of the revenue report shows the current year at all zeros.

Mr. Capello said the first 3 monthly reports will show all zeros because technically there no budget until it is approved at Town Meeting in March.

Discussion included changing the fiscal year for the Town and School District budgets, challenges involved with budgeting 1 year to 18 months ahead and when salary increases “kick in” for union, non-union and contracted employees.

Actual Expenses & Encumbrances- Parks & Recreation:

There were no questions or comments on this report.

Actual Expenses & Encumbrances- General Fund:

Mr. Henry said he did not expect anything would be overspent at this point.

Mr. Johnson agreed except if there was some sort of emergency expenditure such as if the salt supply was completed expended.

Mr. Capello said the price for salt is \$58 a ton.

Mr. Johnson added this is no small expenditure as the Town typically uses 200-300 tons of salt per storm.

Mr. Brown asked if the Town has considered using liquid calcium or brine in addition to salt.

Mr. Capello said the DPW Deputy Director is looking into alternative substances for next year and to see if the Town equipment will need to be retrofitted for liquid uses.

Response to Committee Questions:

Mr. Capello provided answers to questions raised at the Town Budget Public Hearing as follows:

The Fire Chief is looking into billing for first aid calls.

The Town did receive a grant for “Tough Books” several years ago which were not replaced as they “died”. The cruisers will be outfitted to have computers installed but the Police Chief said the officers are not spending as much time doing reports as a lot of the information has already been backfilled into the system. The Chief did not want to ask the taxpayers for more money for computers this year with the Public Safety Building coming online.

The rate charged for Police details has increased to cover increased costs for retirement, etc.

The Fire Chief said other towns are not refilling the water in their engines unless they were here for mutual aid and then they fill up before they leave.

6). Review of School Reports:

There were no SAU representatives present at the meeting. Ms. Cardinal said any questions or requests for information will be brought back to the School Board for response.

YTD Expenditure Report- General Fund:

Ms. Cardinal said there is \$855,478 remaining in the General Fund. She said the snow removal budget is similar to the Town in that it is expected to go over budget. She added that the board budgeted \$39,000 for snow removal including sand and salt applications.

Mr. Johnson called snow removal budgeting a “crap shoot” and that you take your best option to

fund it.

Mr. Henry said the boards have the option to bid for pre-season prices or to average the cost for chemicals over a multi-year contract.

Ms. Cardinal updated the members on the status of the refrigeration unit at the High School. She said the unit is still running and no loss of food was reported. The new parts are being installed as needed and the adjustments to budget line are shown in the amendments column. The final amount for the replacements will be shown when the work is completed and the invoices have been received she said.

All Funds Revenue Report:

Ms. Cardinal reported receipt of revenues is very “fluid” but coming in as projected.

There were no questions or comments from the committee on this report.

7). Public Comment:

There were no comments from the public.

8). Other Business:

A). Agenda Topic- Ms. Cardinal asked how many of the members were running for office.

Mr. Henry said he, Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Cataldo are running for re-election and there are 2 open seats with no candidates for the seats.

Ms. Cardinal asked the Chairman to include a discussion of demographics of the Town, the purpose of the committee and the members’ opinions on who they feel they represent on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion included the committee’s job is to come up with a budget that meets the Town’s needs and is affordable, demographics have nothing to do with how members vote, statistical information is available from several sources, what number “significant” and “majority” means and if the discussion would be a waste of time.

Consensus of the committee was to allow Ms. Cardinal to provide demographic information in the meeting packets for members to review. The topic will not be included as an item for discussion on the next meeting agenda.

B). Veteran’s Tax Deduction- Mr. Cataldo reported that the amount of the Veteran’s tax deduction allowed has been increased at the state level. He said he will provide information for members at the next meeting.

9). Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7 p.m.

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Arcouette, second Connolly) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Stephen Henry, Chairman

