

**2015 TOWN OF FARMINGTON**  
**Minutes 3-11-2015**

Moderator, Michael Morin opened the meeting at 7:10PM by introducing the Boy Scout troop to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and post flags. Mike pointed out the exits and read his rules for the meeting. Dave Connolly presented the Conservation Commissions Citizen of Year award to Randy Orvis. He then read the election results for the municipal and school elections.

**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 amend *Paragraph D. – Site Plan Review Authority of Section 1.02-Authority* to add “*the Fire Chief or his/her designee*” as a member of the Site Plan Review Committee?

Yes 355 No 139

**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 delete *Child Care Operation of 3 children or less* for Section 5.01 – Home Occupation, Paragraph 8? (*The reason for this Amendment is that Section 5.01 Paragraph 8 as written conflicts with the Farmington Zoning Ordinance Table of Permitted Uses.*)

Yes 311 No 162

**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 delete *Child Care Operations of 5 children or less* from Section 5.02-Home Occupation, Paragraph 3? (*The reason for this amendment is that section 5.02 Paragraph 3 as written conflicts with the Farmington Zoning Ordinance Table of Permitted Uses.*)

Yes 293 No 183

**Article 3. Operating Budget** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,303,357** for General Municipal Operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed separately. **This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee. This Article is not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Arthur Capello made a motion to move Article 3 until after Article 20, seconded by Ann Titus. Arthus explained that he felt it was important Articles 17 & 18 be moved on first. There was no further discussion. A show of cards vote was taken and the Moderator said that it failed. Arthur Capello asked for a hand count which resulted in the motion being defeated by 52 yes 65 no. Mary Barron made a motion to approve Article 3 as written, seconded by Joe Pitre. Brian Beaverstock made a motion to amend by adding \$20,517, seconded by Jim Horgan. Bran explained that he wanted it to be added to the Library accounts #4550-4559. He said that he knows that it is a bottom line budget, but is asking

for it to be used for the Library so that they have a budget equal to the 2013 budget. After much discussion on the pros and cons of increasing the library budget and questions as to where the unexpended funds from prior years go, Joshua Whitehouse made a motion to call the question, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. The moderator announced that he had 2 requests for a secret ballot and he named the signers to determine if they were present. After everyone was given the opportunity to vote and while votes are being counted, the moderator continued with a discussion on the budget as a whole. Stan Freeda made a motion to add \$4500 for the Parks & Recreation Department to add back in fireworks and the security cameras for outside at Fernald Park. This was seconded by Stephen Henry. Discussion ensued concerning fundraising efforts and what is planned and for what expenditures, along with a discussion of the budgeting process. At this point in the discussion the results for the first amendment were announced as follows: Amendment 1 Yes 55 No 66. Motion failed. Arthur Capello made a motion, duly seconded to call the question, approved by a show of cards vote. The motion was opposed by a show of cards vote. We are back to the original motion. Brian Beaverstock asked to hear why there is a discrepancy between the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee. That was explained. Tim Brown made a motion to call the question, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 3 was approved by a show of cards vote. Joshua Whitehouse made a motion seconded by Penny Morin to restrict reconsideration. This 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 two year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the NEPBA Local #212 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level.

Fiscal Year 2015 \$8,697

Fiscal Year 2016 \$26,770

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,697 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 Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Joseph Pitre made a motion to approve Article 4 as written, seconded by David Connolly. There was no discussion and Article 4 was approved by a show of cards vote. Tim Brown made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Arthur Capello and approved by a show of cards vote.

#### **Article 5. Reconsideration**

Shall the Town of Farmington, if Article 4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 4 cost items only?

N/A

#### **Article 6. Collective Bargaining Agreement-Public Works**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement 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/Decrease
2015	(-\$8,341)
2016	\$16,652
2017	\$14,977

Such sums represent the costs attributed to the new agreement in Salaries and Benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. **This Article Recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Penny Morin made a motion to approve Article 6 as written, seconded by Ann Titus. Brian Beaverstock asked how many employees this involved and inquired about the capping of our health insurance. This was explained. Being no discussion Article 6 was approved by a show of cards vote. Arthur Capello made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Penny Morin and approved by a show of cards vote.

#### **Article 7. Reconsideration**

Shall the Town of Farmington, if Article 6 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article 6 cost items only"? (Majority Vote)

N/A

#### **Article 8. Town Employee Financial Obligation CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** to be added to the Town Employee Financial Obligation CRF, previously established. This is to assist the town to pay out accrued leave time for employees who resign or retire. **This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Joseph Pitre made a motion to approve Article 8 as written, seconded by Ann Titus. Being no discussion Article 8 was approved by a show of cards vote.

#### **Article 9. Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/FCTV**

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. **This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve Article 9 as written, seconded by Jim Horgan. Being no discussion, Article 9 was approved by a show of cards vote. Penny Morin made a motion to restrict reconsideration, seconded by Jacqueline Capello and approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 10. Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/ Police Outside Detail**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$80,000** for the purpose of Police Outside Details with said funds to come from Police Department Outside Detail Special Revenue Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. **This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

David Connolly made a motion to approve Article 10 as written, seconded by Neil Johnson. Howard Champagne asked for an explanation of what outside details are. This was explained by Police Chief Drury. Randy Orvis made a motion to move the question, seconded by Arthur Capello and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 10 was approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 11. Withdrawal from Special Revenue Fund/Main Street School Operations and Maintenance Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$33,907** for the purpose of maintaining the Main Street School Facility with said funds to come from the Special Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No amount to be raised by taxation. **This Article recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve Article 11 as written, seconded by David Connolly and approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 12. Power Cot**

To see if the Town will to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$19,470** for the purchase of a Power Cot and authorize the withdrawal of \$16,000 from the Fire Vehicles and Equipment Fund a Capital Reserve Fund with the balance of \$3,470 is to come from general taxation. **This Article recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Arthur Capello made a motion to approve Article 12, seconded by Jim Horgan and approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 13. Police Cruisers**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$38,000** for the purchase of one police cruiser with said funds to come from the Police Outside Details Special Revenue Fund for the purchase. No amount to be raised by taxation. **This Article recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Joseph Pitre made a motion to approve Article 13 as written, seconded by Jim Horgan. There was an explanation about what was being replaced (2007 Ford Explorer) and that it would go into the town's fleet. The vehicle cost is \$28,000 but much of the equipment will not fit or is getting tired, so the balance will be used for newer equipment. Being no further discussion Article 13 was approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 14. Withdrawal from Landfill Closure/Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,429 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. **This Article is recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Neil Johnson made a motion to approve Article 14 as written, seconded by Stephen Henry. Being no discussion Article 14 was approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 15. Landfill Closure Fund Capital Reserve 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. **This Article recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Penny Morin, made a motion to approve Article 15 as written, seconded by Arthur Capello. Being no discussion, Article 15 was approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 16. Purchase of Poles for Hanging Holiday Decorations (BY PETITION)**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,000 for the purchase and installation of a total of 26 new 30' telephone poles for the purpose of hanging the town's holiday decorations. **This Article is not recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Sam Cataldo made a motion to approve Article 16 as written, seconded by Jodi Connolly. The petitioner, Tom DeJulio, spoke and explained the current situation. Much discussion ensued on choices of poles, prices and locations of poles. The Board of Selectmen explained that they did not approve because they did not feel that they had the answers to all of their questions. Neil Johnson also said that the Budget Committee felt that there were a number of issues. All were in agreement that Tom had done a lot of work and commended him for that. After much discussion on the merits of continuing in some way with the lights, Penny Morin made a motion to call the question, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 16 was opposed by a show of cards vote. A motion to restrict reconsideration was made by Penny Morin, seconded by Neil Johnson and approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 17. Purchase of Pole for Hanging Holiday Decorations (BY PETITION)**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,400 for the purchase of a total of 26 new 30' telephone poles and for the installation of 6 of those poles for the purpose of hanging the town's holiday decorations. The installation of the remaining poles would be budgeted on a separate warrant article over the next 4 years at approximately \$3,600 per year. **This Article is not recommended by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.**

Sam Cataldo made a motion to approve Article 17, seconded by Jodi Connolly. Much discussion ensued about whether we were ready to take on this project or not. Tom DeJulio thanked everyone who worked on the lights. Jackie Capello stated that if we don't set aside some funds for some of this we will not have lights next year. After some discussion on how to accomplish this, Charlie King made a motion to amend the article to state \$11,400 for purchase and possible installation of poles and/or other equipment to continue the purpose of the town's holiday decorations. This was seconded by Arthur Capello. Worst case scenario would be that no decision is made and the money is not spent. Jerry McCarthy said that he agrees, but wants it to be clear that a lights committee should be set up right off because there will be money to do something. Being no further discussion the amendment was approved by a show of cards vote. Article 17, as amended, was approved by a counted 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.

Joseph Pitre made a motion to approve Article 18 as written, seconded by Neil Johnson and approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 19.** 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.

Angela Cardinal made a motion to approve Article 19 as written, seconded by Mary Hunting, Jack Meattay made a power point presentation concerning TIFS. Discussion ensued concerning the merits of TIFS and their success or failure in the area. It was explained that this was just an article to allow the town to create the district. Jerry Stanchina made a motion to call the question, duly seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 19 was approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 20.** 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.

Jackie Capello made a motion to approve Article 20, seconded by Sam Cataldo. Discussion ensued about the need for water/sewer infrastructure out on Route 11 and the accommodation at the new sewer plant. Kevin Hogan commented that, on one hand we are being told that it is not going to affect the tax rate, then someone says it is which is confusing. Arthur Capello stated that it will indirectly affect it because of the increase

going to the fund, not to the fund balance. Neil Johnson also pointed out that it would if there were to be another decrease in property values. Stephen Henry asked if we had seen any businesses who were interested turned away because you we do not have sewer out on Rte 11. The response is that they don't know directly if anyone has gone away because of it. Much discussion ensued concerning what happens if we do or do not do this. Jodi Connolly made a motion to call the question, seconded and approved by a show of cards vote. Article 20 was approved by a show of cards vote.

**Article 21.** To transact such other business as may legally come before this meeting.

Penny Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:25, seconded Jackie Capello and approved by a show of cards vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Seaver, Town Clerk-Tax Collector