

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE  
TOWN OF FARMINGTON HELD APRIL 20, 2015**

The Annual Town Meeting of electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Farmington, Connecticut, was held at the Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington Connecticut, on Monday April 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Paula B. Ray, Town Clerk called the meeting to order and read the Warning for the meeting, which was published in the Hartford Courant on April 7, 2015 and which is recorded in these records immediately preceding these minutes. There were 66 electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in attendance.

Mr. Christian R. Hoheb was chosen moderator of the meeting and Mrs. Paula B. Ray acted as clerk. Mr. Hoheb outlined the procedures that would be followed for the meeting and for the referendum process.

Item 1:

Mrs. Meredith Trimble introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. William Baker:

Resolved, that the Town Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 be approved.

The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the resolution passed.

Item 2:

Mr. Jeffery Apuzzo introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Peter Mastrobattista:

Resolved, that the budget recommended by the Town Council for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 be approved.

The Town Council Recommended Budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 is recorded following these minutes.

The Moderator called upon Mrs. Nancy Nickerson, Chair of the Town Council to make remarks. Mrs. Nickerson discussed the fiscal condition of the Town of Farmington using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item 2-1. She stressed the Council was guided by the need to provide quality services balanced against an appropriate tax rate. She reviewed the impact the proposed tax increase of 2.71 % would have on the average taxpayer. She told the meeting the proposed budget would move initiatives for both the Board of Education and Town forward in a fiscally responsible manner, while maintaining the current services.

The Moderator called upon Ms. Kathy Eagen, Town Manager to present the details of the Town Council Recommend Budget Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Ms. Eagan reviewed the expenditures for the Town, school system, debt service and capital improvements. She reviewed the Special Services charges, Westwoods Golf Course budget, Grand List, revenues, grants, and charges using the Annual Town Meeting Town of Farmington

2015-2016 Town Council Recommended Budget presentation recorded following these minutes as Agenda Item 2-2

The Moderator called upon Mrs. Mary Grace Reed, Chair of the Board of Education and Ms. Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools to make remarks.

Mrs. Mary Grace Reed, Chair of the Board of Education discussed the Board of Education's efficient use of resources. She explained that every dollar spent in the schools was tied to the Board of Education's mission. She told the meeting their support of the Board of Education's mission was critical to their success and that the Farmington schools have the most talented and gifted teachers and administrators in the nation. She talked about how other school districts follow the Farmington school's lead in curriculum. She explained how one of the ways the Board of Education saves the Town money is with the ground breaking health insurance accounts for all of the Board of Education employees the Board had implemented through negotiations.

Ms. Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools reviewed the details of the Board of Education budget accounts, of the achievements of the school system, of the cost containment measures, of the expanded learning opportunities, of the professional staffing overview and of the reductions made to the 2015-2016 Board of Education's Recommended Budget using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item 2-3.

The Moderator thanked the Town Council and Board of Education for work they had done on behalf of the Town of Farmington and called for comments on the Town Council's Recommended Budget.

Joanne Lawson of 9 Prattling Pond Road thanked the Council and Board of Education for all the work they had done to develop the budget. She asked what happened to unexpended funds on the Town side and was the Board of Education on target to stay under budget. The Town Manager answered that any unexpended funds get returned to the Fund Balance, and the Chair of the Board of Education told the meeting the Board would not come in over budget. She asked if the significant increase in the Board of Education Benefit Account was due to the change in the plan. The Superintendent answered that the contributions for the new plan were part of the increase, but it was expected the new plan would generate cost savings in the future. She asked if the unassigned teachers weren't hired what happens to the funding and how was the need to utilize one of the unassigned positions was tracked. The Superintendent explained how the class size was monitored over the summer.

Ned Statchen of 6 Bella Lane thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He had hoped to have been able to vote on the Board of Education's Recommended Budget as it had been presented and was concerned about the cuts to technology. He told the meeting he understood the budget was a result of negotiations to a common ground and that he would be supporting it. He asked if the other two bonding questions were reflected in the tax increase described earlier in the meeting. The Manager answered that they were not and their tax impacts would be discussed later when they came before the meeting.

Dongsheng Li of 6 Talcott Ridge Road asked if the schools had a relationship with University of Connecticut or with United Technology to receive some of their computers

that they didn't need anymore. The Superintendent explained that the relationships with the UTC are with the Robotics Team and the Farmington School Foundation, but that since the school technology was based on the wireless use of chrome books hand me down computers aren't useable in the schools.

Liz Fitzsimmons, Co President of Farmington Future thanked everyone that had been involved in the creation of the Town Council's proposed budget. She recognized it wasn't perfect but it did move both the school system and town services forward and that it was a good compromise. She pointed out the other two questions on the referendum ballot passed or failed no matter how many people voted for them unlike the budget, and she was supporting both of those questions as well as the budget. She believed both the Town and school services were excellent and a bargain compared to other towns. She asked if the proposed Foreign Language program would be continued up to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year. The Superintendent answered that the program would be expanded to fourth grade on a yearly basis.

David Houf of 4 Cobblestone Road thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He was concerned what the economic future would be in Farmington if the mill rate continued to increase every year. He understood what a bargain Farmington was presently, but didn't believe the bargain would be sustained without cost containments.

### Item 3

The Moderator informed the audience if they hadn't picked one up on the way in; the full resolution for Item 3 was available in the hall just outside the auditorium.

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Item 3 contained in the Warning.

Mr. Ned Statchen moved and Mr. Demetrios Giannaros seconded the resolution contained in the Warning for Item 3 pertaining to the need for additional funds to complete the Irving A. Robbins Middle School heating system project.

The Moderator called on Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools for a presentation on the motion and to answer any questions on the subject. The Superintendent discussed the need for a new heating system at the school using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item 3-1. The Manager reviewed the tax impact for the bonding for the project.

There were no questions or comments.

### Item 4

The Moderator informed the audience if they hadn't picked one up on the way in; the full resolution for Item 4 was available in the hall just outside the auditorium.

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Item 4 contained in the Warning. Mrs. Meredith Trimble moved and Mr. Jeffery Apuzzo seconded the resolution contained in Item 4 of the Warning pertaining to the purchase of two pumper fire engines.

The Moderator called on Kathy Eagen, Town Manger to make a presentation on the proposal, explain the tax impact for the bonding for the proposal and answer any questions on the subject. There were no questions or comments.

Item 5

The Moderator asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. Hearing none the Moderator moved to Item 6.

Item 6

The resolutions presented under items 2 through 4 will be placed upon the voting tabulators under the following headings, respectively:

1. "SHALL THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON PRESENTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BE APPROVED?"

YES

NO"

2. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON INCREASE BY \$900,000 THE \$1,100,000 APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE IRVING A. ROBBINS MTDDLE SCHOOL HEATING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT?"

YES

NO"

3. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$1,100,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF TWO PUMPER FIRE ENGINES TO BE STATIONED AT FARMINGTON FIRE STATION AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

YES

NO"

Voters approving a resolution shall vote "Yes" and voters opposing said resolution shall vote "No".

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn to referendum on the items contained in 2 - 4 of the Warning to the Annual Town Meeting.

Mrs. Nancy Nickerson moved and Mr. Peter Mastrobattista seconded to adjourn, for a vote upon voting tabulators on April 30, 2015 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm on the resolutions contained under Items 2-4 of the Warning, at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula B. Ray, Clerk