

*Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved at the next meeting. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office for a copy of final minutes.*

MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
OF THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
HELD OCTOBER 25, 2008

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Farmington, Connecticut, was held in the Town Hall Council Chambers, Farmington, Connecticut, on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Kathleen Eagen was chosen as Moderator of the meeting and Mrs. Paula B. Ray acted as clerk.

The Clerk read the Warning for the meeting. The Warning was published in the Hartford Courant on October 15, 2008, and is recorded in these records immediately preceding these minutes. There were approximately 30 citizens in attendance.

The Moderator explained the procedures the meeting would be following.

Item 1:

The Moderator stated that pursuant to Section 10.3 of the Town Charter the resolution presented under item 1 in the Warning would be submitted to vote upon the voting machines to be held November 4, 2008 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with the election to be held on that date.

Mr. Mike Clark moved the resolution noticed under item 1 of the Warning of this meeting, a copy of which resolution was made available to all those in attendance at this meeting and is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes of this meeting, which resolution was seconded by Mr. Michael Andreas.

The Moderator called on the Farmington Village Green and Library members to make a presentation on the project.

Mr. Ed Preneta, President of the Farmington Village Green and Library Association addressed some misconceptions about the Barney Library and the proposed building project:

- The Building is not underutilized, but in fact is used to its maximum allowed by the condition of the building. Library use is increasing in Farmington and nationally.
- This project was not hastily conceived but only proposed after all other options were considered for the building including demolition and sale. The project was proposed because after careful consideration it was believed to be in the best interest of the Town of Farmington.
- The building cannot be used for anything other than the present uses without becoming ADA compliant.

*Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved at the next meeting. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office for a copy of final minutes.*

- The scope of the project simply addresses the maintenance needs of a 100 year-old building and brings the building into ADA compliance.
- The project is a 3 million dollar project with 1 million coming from a State of Connecticut grant, 1 million from private fund raising and the last 1 million coming from the Town of Farmington by the proposed referendum question.

Mr. William Hayhurst, Chair of the Farmington Village Green and Library Association discussed the needs of the building and explained that to demolish the building because of the asbestos removal would be more expensive than to renovate it.

Mr. Jay Johnston, Library Director gave a quick overview of the details of the project and displayed drawings of what the Barney Library would look like after the building project were completed.

Mr. T. David Palmer, Chair of the Barney Building Committee reviewed the technical aspects of the project and explained there were three main goals for the project:

- To make the building ADA compliant.
- To make the building more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.
- To restore the architectural integrity of the building.

Mr. Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration for the Town of Farmington projected the cost of the bonding and used the handouts recorded with these minutes.

The moderator stated that the meeting was open for discussion of the foregoing resolution. The following comments were made:

Mr. Sam Iritano, President of the Farmington Taxpayers Association spoke against the project. He questioned the need to expand the size of the Barney Library and felt it was too much to ask of taxpayers to take on any more debt considering the down turn in the economy.

Nancy Nickerson, member of the Building Committee spoke in favor of the project. She told the meeting the project had been thoughtfully and economically planned from the beginning even before the economic down turn. She believed the energy efficiencies would help to off set the costs over time. She talked about the community uses for the building and that this was a library that people could walk to.

After the close of discussion, the Moderator stated that the resolution presented under item 1 of the Warning would be submitted to a vote upon voting machines of persons qualified to vote in town meetings on Thursday, November 4, 2008 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with the election to be held on that date. Electors shall vote at their regularly assigned polling places, as follows: Electors residing in the First Voting District and assigned to polling places 1-1 and 1-2 shall vote at Irving A.

*Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved at the next meeting. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office for a copy of final minutes.*

Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 1-3 shall vote at West Woods Upper Elementary School, 50 Judson Lane, Farmington, Connecticut. Electors residing in the Second Voting District and assigned to polling place 2-4 shall vote at the Community & Senior Center, 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling places 2-5 and 2-6 shall vote at the Municipal Campus, Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at the Registrar of Voters office in Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive Farmington, Connecticut. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

The resolution presented under item 1 will be placed upon the voting machines under the following heading:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$1,000,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO A GRANT TO THE FARMINGTON VILLAGE GREEN AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FOR RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE BARNEY LIBRARY AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

YES

NO”

Voters approving the resolution shall vote “Yes” and voters opposing the resolution shall vote “No”.

The town meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. for a vote upon the voting machines on the resolution under item 1 of the Warning. Said resolution was placed upon the voting machines under the heading set out above.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula B. Ray