

Minutes of the Town of Farmington  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
March 10, 2015

Present:

Nancy W. Nickerson, Chair  
Jon Landry  
Peter M. Mastrobattista  
Amy Suffredini  
Meredith A. Trimble  
Jon Vibert

Kathleen Eagen, Town Manager  
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council and members of the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Presentations and Recognitions

1. Officer Joseph Capodiferro and Drak

The Chair read the following proclamation, and the Council thanked officer Capodiferro for his and Drak's service to the Town of Farmington.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of the Town of Farmington are of the utmost importance to the prosperity and livelihood of Farmington families and communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Farmington Police Department decided to add a K-9 team to the force and chose Officer Joseph Capodiferro and Drak to be the first members of that team; and

WHEREAS, during their tenure on the K-9 team, Officer Capodiferro and Drak displayed courage and commitment to protecting the safety of the citizens of Farmington and of surrounding communities on many occasions, particularly in 2006 when they successfully captured a bank robber in New Britain, and again in 2009 when they apprehended a kidnapper in Farmington; and

WHEREAS, Officer Capodiferro was the recipient of the Daniel Wasson Memorial K-9 Award in 2009 for the outstanding work he and Drak did on the 2009 kidnapping case; and

WHEREAS, Officer Capodiferro and Drak worked together to maintain the safety and protection of our community while striving to uphold the laws of the land daily through their efforts in discovering countless drugs, locating lost persons, and apprehending fleeing suspects; and

WHEREAS, Officer Capodiferro and Drak have been outstanding goodwill ambassadors for the Farmington Police Department through the countless demonstrations they conducted for the students in the Farmington Public Schools and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, Drak displayed great versatility in his ability to work with children of all ages while always being prepared to respond to life threatening situations with courage and strength; and

WHEREAS, Officer Capodiferro and Drak enjoy their downtime together as a family at home with Officer Capodiferro's wife Kim, and his sons Nathan and Cooper.

NOW THEREFORE, the Farmington Town Council hereby commends Joseph Capodiferro and Drak for their excellent work on behalf of the Town of Farmington and we hereby thank Drak for his nine years of dedication, as well as his immeasurable contributions and commitment to the Town and its residents. The Farmington Town Council hereby extends to Drak best wishes in his retirement and wishes him luck in his transition to his new life of leisure as the Capodiferro family dog.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015, at Farmington, Connecticut.

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Nancy Nickerson  
Chair, Farmington Town Council

D. Public Hearing

1. A public hearing on the Town Manager's 2015-2016 Recommended Operating Budget.

The Chair called the public hearing to order at 7:10 p.m. and the Clerk read the legal notice recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-1. The Chair reviewed the procedures for the public hearing for the public. Kathy Eagen, Town Manager reviewed the Town Manager's Proposed 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget except for the Board of Education accounts using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-2. Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools reviewed the Board of Education's Recommended Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-3.

Pam Fisher of 5 Julles Court spoke in favor of renovations to the music wing at the High School a year ago during budget development. She was pleased that a comprehensive facility review had been done over the past year. She listed some of the needs recognized in the report: ADA compliance issues especially in the music wing; poor acoustics in the auditorium; safety concerns about the number of entrances; difficult traffic patterns for students and faculty; inadequate space in both the cafeteria and auditorium. She told the Council about the hardships for students created by the listed problems and that it was time to invest in the High School and the building had become woefully inadequate and embarrassing.

Sara Burns of 3 Hidden Spring Lane told the Council she had moved here 5 years ago. She was very impressed with the schools and asked the Council to support the Board of Education budget.

Jenny Sherrill of 121 Woodpond Road spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget both the operating and Capital Improvement Plan. She told the Council she had three daughters at the High School. She wanted the High School renovations done because of the acoustic problems, ADA non-compliance, and mechanical problems in the music wing, poor HVAC in the music rooms that could be damaging the instruments and broken seats in the auditorium.

Bill Beckert of 14 Hemlock Notch and member of the Board of Education spoke as a parent to the Council. He thanked the Council for pushing for a comprehensive facility plan for the High School. He told the Council that giving the Board of Education a budget target in January was a poor way to do budgeting. He felt the Board of Education should be allowed to do their work without the constraints of a target. The setting of a target creates expectations in the community that don't reflect the educational needs of the school system. The Board of Education should make their budget based on the school systems needs and then collaborate with the Council to come to an agreement on the amount of funds available. When the Board of Education brings a budget to the Council that is higher than the Council's target it should not be perceived as disrespectful to the Council but as what is needed for the school system to move forward. He believed that since we were in better economic times there was no need to have lean budgets. He wanted the Council to bring the needs to the community at referendum and let the public decide whether to support them or not.

Michelle Keough of 54 Wolf Pit Road spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget and specifically the mental health team. She talked about her children being pulled out of class because of a child acting out in the classroom.

Andy FHS Student Council President spoke in favor of the BOE budget. He told the Council every time the budget passed he saw the benefit in his classes proving the education dollars are spent well.

Jack a FHS Senior spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget. He told the Council the schools need to be innovative to keep up with the changing world. New programs are needed to allow the students to be successful in the future fields they pursue.

Kush FHS Junior told the Council he had seen something new every year in the schools. He hoped that would continue in the future. He told the Council there were many needs at the High School especially in the music areas.

Omar FHS Senior told the Council that the schools have not kept up with the technology advances in society, because the budgets have grown much slower than the needs.

Liz Fitzsimmons of 6 Bella Lane told the Council the Town Manager's Proposed Budget was excellent. She believed the services in Farmington were excellent and the taxes were low. She asked the Town Council not to reduce the Board of Education because of the target. She believed that all day kindergarten was going to be mandated by 2017 and that it fit nicely in the budget this year in a thoughtful manor. She stated that the proposed budget was not a burden on the taxpayers as presented and not to reduce it. She wanted the voters to decide.

Danielle FHS Senior and the Student Council Treasurer talked about improvements in science and technology during her years at FHS. She believed the proposed renovations for the High School would be an enormous benefit for learning in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics "STEM" educational area.

Austin FHS Senior Class President felt that the renovations for the music wing were greatly needed. He told the Council the best thing about the High School was the diverse opportunities and diverse student body.

Aaron Jainchill of 18 Garden Gate asked the Council not to reduce the Board of Education budget. He talked about his child having to be pulled out of class because a student was acting out so badly the rest of students need to leave the classroom. He wanted to make sure there was enough funding to support children in classes with special needs and for out placements if necessary.

Beth Kintner of 24 Farmstead Lane thanked the Council and Board of Education for their work on the budget. She didn't like budget targets because some of the Board of Education members focus on the targets instead of the educational needs of the students. She thought the process was arbitrary. She asked the Council not to reduce the Board of Education because it was well thought out. She believed that some of the comments during the Capital Improvement Plan Budget were negative and unproductive toward the Board of Education. She hoped that the collaborative nature between the Board of Education and Council would be continued.

Liz Coello of 2 Lido Road thanked the Town Council for listening to the public. She was not in favor of all-day kindergarten and hoped that if cuts had to be made that

that would be cut. She hoped that whether to send your child to all-day kindergarten could remain a parent's choice. She appreciated the low taxes in Farmington and wanted them to continue.

Annie FHS Senior and President of the Music Honor Society talked about all the needs of the music wing and especially the auditorium. She told the Council the facilities for music don't match the quality of the programming.

An FHS Junior spoke in favor of the proposed renovations at the High School especially in the music area. He talked about how he had seen improvements in school technology the past few years. He believed there needed to be more spaces for after school academic opportunities.

Lisa McMahon of 9 Old Field Road spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget. She felt the Superintendent had worked very hard to address the needs of all Farmington students in the budget. She felt the Board of Education budget was appropriate and the community had shown for many years its support of education. She hoped the Council would honor the community's desires and not cut the Board of Education budget.

Emily Pettit of 30 Dunne Wood Court spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget even though she wasn't in support of all-day kindergarten. She asked the Council to adopt the budget as presented.

Monique Daragjati-Bannon of 47 Oakridge told the Council after growing up in Farmington and then living away for 15 years, she chose to come back to for the schools based on her education as a child. She spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget and asked it not be cut.

Ralph Passaro of 7 Cobble Court told the Council he moved here 11 years ago for the schools. He believed Farmington was not just a great school system but a great community, and the 4.25% budget increase being requested was modest and fiscally responsible. He asked the Council to support the Board of Education budget.

Joe Jakupco of 1 Longridge Court spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget. He didn't believe the request was too high and requested the Council not politicize the Board of Education budget by reducing it arbitrarily.

Hearing no further public comments the Chair closed the hearing at 8:55 p.m.

#### E. New Items

There were no new items added to the agenda.

#### F. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

**G. Reading of the Minutes**

1. February 10, 2015 Special Town Council Meeting  
Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Trimble) to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 Special Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously.

2. February 10, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting  
Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously.

3. February 23, 2015 Special Town Council Meeting  
Motion was made and seconded (Landry Trimble) to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 Special Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously.

4. February 24, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting  
Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously.

**H. Reading of Communications and Written Appeals**

1. Town Manager to the Farmington Legislative Delegation

The Manager called the Council's attention to the letter recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item H-1 regarding State of Connecticut grant funding.

**I. Report of the Committees.**

1. UCONN Committee(s)
2. Land Acquisition Committee

There were no reports for Agenda Items I-1 or I-2.

3. Green Efforts Committee

Mr. Vibert reminded everyone Farmington Clean Up Day was April 25, 2015.

4. Joint Town of Farmington/City of Hartford Committee
5. Bicycle Advisory Committee

There were no reports for Agenda Items I-4 or I-5.

6. Future Public/Private Land Development Initiatives Committee

Mrs. Suffredini reported the charettes were scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup> and the walking tour on March 27<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged the public to participate. The Committee was very pleased with the facilitator for the charettes.

#### 7. Web Page Sub-Committee

Mr. Landry reported the committee had finalized the RFP, which had been sent out.

#### J. Report of the Council Chair and Liaisons

##### 1. Chair Report

The Chair reported she had attended the Farmington High School girls' basketball game and school production of the Wizard of Oz the past Friday evening. She was very impressed with the student athletes and thespians.

##### 2. Board of Education Liaison Report

Mr. Landry reported the Board of Education would be reviewing their budget with the Council the next evening.

##### 3. Town Plan and Zoning Liaison Report

There was no report for Agenda Items J-3 or J-4.

##### 4. Water Pollution Control Authority Report

Mrs. Trimble reported the WPCA would be having a public hearing on the sewage usage rate the next evening.

##### 5. Economic Development Commission Liaison Report

There was no report for Agenda Item J-6.

##### 6. Human Relations Commission Report

Mrs. Suffredini reported the next meeting was March 25, 2015.

##### 7. Chamber of Commerce Report

Mr. Landry reported the Chamber of Commerce would be holding their pizza taste contest on March 31, 2015 at Farmington Gardens and the proceeds go to Farmington High School scholarships.

##### 8. Other Liaison Reports

Mrs. Trimble reported the Farmington Public Schools Foundation was holding their trivia bee on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair asked the Council to consider forming a Town Council team for the Relay for Life, which was being held on May 16, 2015.

#### K. Report of the Town Manager

##### Legislative Update

The Manager called the Council's attention to the issues before the legislature she had been tracking: unfunded mandates, playground equipment standards and prevailing wage legislation.

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Trimble) to accept the report of the Town Manager.

Adopted unanimously.

L. Appointments

1. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (Erickson) (R)
  2. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (Landry) (R)
  3. North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc. (Wienke) (R)
  4. North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc. (Parady)
  5. Farmington Valley Health District (Jones) (D)
  6. Housing Authority (Cowdry) (R)
  7. Building Code Board of Appeals (Schadler) (R)
  8. Water Pollution Control Authority (McGrane) (U)
  9. Unionville Historic District and Properties Commission Alternate (Hoffman) (R)
  10. Justice of the Peace (Quigley)
  11. Tourism Central Region District (Bremkamp)
  12. Green Efforts Committee (Groueten) (R)
- There was no action taken on Agenda Items L-1 through L-12.

13. Justice of the Peace (Landry) (R)

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) that Dr. Carl Nissen be appointed as a Justice of the Peace beginning immediately and ending January 2, 2017.

Adopted unanimously.

M. Old Business

There was no old business conducted.

N. New Business

1. To set a public hearing on **Monday**, April 6, 2015 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Council's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Motion was made and seconded (Landry /Trimble) to set a public hearing on Monday April 6, 2015 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Council's Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016.

Adopted unanimously.

2. To cancel the March 24, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

No action was taken on Agenda Item N-2.

3. To accept the Annual Report.

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) to approve the motion recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item N-3.

Adopted unanimously.

4. To set a public hearing for April 6, 2015 at 7:10 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers to consider the acceptance of a gift of property owned by Howard W. Griffin Jr. located at Lot 5 Crescent Avenue (approximately 0.17 acres).

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Trimble ) to set a public hearing on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 7:10 p.m. in the Town hall Council Chambers to consider the acceptance of a gift of property owned by Howard W. Griffin, Jr. located at Lot 5 Crescent Avenue (approximately 0.17 acres subject to receipt of an acceptable report; and subject to due diligence, including but not limited ot title search.

Adopted unanimously.

5. To award bid # 215 "Sanitary Sewer System Replacement-Farmington Avenue from Garden Street to Mountain Spring Road" to Paramount Construction, LLC of Newington, CT at a contract price of \$2,435,307.

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) to award Bid # 215 " Sanitary Sewer System Replacement - Farmington Avenue from Garden Street to Mountain Spring Road" to Paramount Construction, LLC of Newington, CT at a contract price of \$2,435,307.

Adopted unanimously.

6. To award bid # 216 "Miss Porter's Sanitary Sewer System Replacement-Maple Street to Garden Street" to Suburban Sanitation Services, Inc. of Canton, Connecticut at a cost of \$173,887.45.

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) to award Bid#216 "Miss Porter's Sanitary System Replacement - Maple Street to Garden Street" to Suburban Sanitation Services, Inc. of Canton, Connecticut at a cost of \$173,887.45.

Adopted unanimously.

7. To approve a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign an agreement between the CT DOT and the Town of Farmington which will allow state project #51-269 for the Reconstruction of South Main Street at New Britain Avenue and Railroad Avenue to commence.

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Trimble) to approve the motion recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item N-7.  
Adopted unanimously.

8. To approve property tax refunds.

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) to approve the following property tax refunds:

NAME	REASON	AMOUNT
1)Accenture	Excess payment	\$604.89
2)Apple Six Hos. Owners inc	Excess payment	\$3,589.14
3)Sherryl Barth	Excess payment	\$79.80
4)Irene Bent	Excess payment	\$535.00
5)Joseph Biron	Excess payment	\$87.25
6)Mark & Kristen Blore	Excess payment	\$7.05
7)Seth Brody	Excess payment	\$2,769.06
8)Olga Chojnacka	Excess payment	\$58.54
9)Lisa Cianchetti	Excess payment	\$1,897.28
10)Megan Clerkin	Excess payment	\$294.32
11)Greg & Gosia Czeladko	Excess payment	\$300.00
12)Daimler Trust	Excess payment	\$575.86
13)Daniel Denehy	Excess payment	\$1,642.40
14)Dunning Sand & Gravel	Excess payment	\$5,716.27
15)Engineering Resource	Excess payment	\$32.94
16)Euclid Chemical	Excess payment	\$190.84
17)Martin & Coleen Pazzani	Excess payment	\$235.00
18)Mary & Adam Jason	Excess payment	\$535.00
19)Jigesh & Alka Shah	Excess payment	\$541.35
20)Denise Figlio	Excess payment	\$34.09
21)Follett Higher Education	Excess payment	\$730.45
22)Sandra-Garrett-Rodrigues	Excess payment	\$535.00
23)D & M Gianoli	Excess payment	\$3,439.81
24)Joseph Guinan	Excess payment	\$1,500.00
25)Brian Hunter	Excess payment	\$68.47
26)Hyundai Lease	Excess payment	\$363.09
27)Naji Jahaf	Excess payment	\$25.22
28)John & Marie Kean	Excess payment	\$2,530.15
29)K & M Knecht	Excess payment	\$1,302.41
30)P. Kouromihelakis	Excess payment	\$8.02
31)Lake Garda Improvement	Excess payment	\$17.11

32)Elizabeth Landon	Excess payment	\$3,215.82
33)Kathleen Livingston	Excess payment	\$1,563.31
34)E & A McCarthy	Excess payment	\$2,472.96
35)Frank McLaughlin	Excess payment	\$235.00
36)Merry Maids	Excess payment	\$82.36
37)Joseph Miano	Excess payment	\$535.00
38)Motorlease	Excess payment	\$106.39
39)S Natarajan	Excess payment	\$3,372.72
40)Sarah Tufano	Excess payment	\$11.31
41)Mary Ellis Nevius	Excess payment	\$3,597.34
42)Steve Nicastro	Excess payment	\$235.00
43)Nissan Infiniti	Excess payment	\$372.00
44)Alan & Mary Norris	Excess payment	\$15.23
45)W & S Olender	Excess payment	\$535.00
46)A & S Samardge	Excess payment	\$252.63
47)Phyllis Sharasheff	Excess payment	\$10.00
48)Mae Sonmez	Excess payment	\$8.68
49)SPA Family	Excess payment	\$4,923.68
50) G. Subraya & A. Karanki	Excess payment	\$318.00
51)M. Tacinelli & B Tartaglia	Excess payment	\$535.00
52)Eric Jipp	Excess payment	\$235.00
53)Toyota Motor Credit Corp	Excess payment	\$323.98
54)USB Leasing	Excess payment	\$316.74
55)Robert Wheeler	Excess payment	\$100.00
56)Wheels LT	Excess payment	\$85.34
57)Rosalind Wiggins	Excess payment	\$30.46
58)Agron & Suzana Zenko	Excess payment	\$100.93
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$53,835.69</b>

Adopted unanimously.

#### O. Executive Session

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Trimble) to move to Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. with the Town Manager, Town Council and William Wadsworth present for the discussion of the selection of a site or lease, sale or purchase of real estate.

Adopted unanimously.

The Council returned to Open Session at 10:07 pm.

**P. Adjournment**

Motion was made and seconded (Landry/Mastrobattista) to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula B. Ray, Clerk

DRAFT

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
LEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing will be held on March 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Manager's 2015-2016 Recommended Budget.

Dated at Farmington, Connecticut this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2015.

Kathleen A. Eagen  
Town Manager

March 10, 2015

Farmington Town Council and Members of the Public:

I present for your review the Town Manager's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016. This budget is proposed, as always, with the Town of Farmington Vision Statement in mind. The Town of Farmington Vision Statement is that:

*"...Farmington will be recognized as an historic and progressive town with an engaged citizenry committed to the betterment of the entire community. To that end, high quality services will be provided to a diverse population living and working in a balanced blend of open space, and residential housing and commercial properties supported by stable and equitable revenues..."*

The General Fund Budget includes the recommended spending for the Town, for the school system, for debt service and for capital improvements. The recommended budgets for Westwoods Golf Course, the Recreation Fund and solid waste collection and disposal are also included for your review.

The Town Council set a target in which the Town expenditure portion of the budget would increase no more than 3.25% above current expenditures and asked that I strive to maintain existing services. Along with the Town Council's budget target, the Town's Strategic Plan and the Town's Capital Improvement Policy were the policy guidelines at the forefront when formulating this budget. The budget building process focused around three funding themes. These themes were:

- 1) **Maintain current service levels.** Continue to fund accounts at levels that will enable the service level to remain at high standards.
- 2) **Significantly increase the pension allocation.** Based on the recommendations of the Pension Board, new assumptions have been adopted for the pension fund. The new assumptions changed the overall funding level of the pension. Therefore, these changes result in the need for an increased contribution to keep the Pension Plan funded at an acceptable and appropriate level.
- 3) **Increase Capital Funding.** The cost of maintaining the Town's infrastructure through the Capital Budget is a necessary expense that has to be recognized. The cost of not maintaining the Town's property, buildings, and equipment will have a significant long-term impact. This year's increased appropriation exceeds our Capital Improvement Policy guidelines and will allow us to make significant headway toward meeting the Town's capital improvement needs.

The recommended Town budget contains a 3.25% spending increase for Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016. This increase has afforded me the ability to meet all of the above mentioned guidelines and policy directions for town services and spending. An increase in spending of 3.25 % ensures service levels that residents expect in Farmington and it also allows for significant investment in areas like the Pension Fund and capital improvements.

**EXPENDITURES:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>2015/2016 TM Recommended</b>	<b>% Increase (Decrease)</b>
General Administration	\$6,053,613	2.19%
Public Safety	\$9,438,734	0.61%
Public Works	\$4,192,749	4.25%
Community and Rec.	858,122	(1.43)%
Other	\$6,487,500	8.45%

**General Administration**

The General Administration group of accounts includes expenses for the administrative branch of the Town government and funding for non-profit organizations that the Town supports.

**Some areas to note:**

- The Central Operations account includes a full-time Confidential Clerk position. This is replacing a part-time receptionist position. This position will support the Town Manager's office, answer town wide phone calls and will be located in the front of the Town Hall so that it can serve the incoming public as well.
- The Salary Reserve account in the Personnel budget will cover salary adjustments for all Town employees. At this time there are no contracts in place for FY 15/16.
- The Registrars budget has been increased to reflect anticipated election events.
- The Legal Services account has been increased to reflect expected legal work. Negotiations of all five contracts create the possibility of interest arbitration and other associated legal work.
- The contribution to the library is \$2,355,402 which is a 3.25% increase above current budget levels.
- The Insurance account has decreased by \$21,850 or 7.6% over current budget levels.
- The Electricity account in the Town Hall account has been reduced to better reflect spending and pricing.

The proposed budget requested for this group of accounts is \$6,053,613 or a 2.19% increase above the current budget.

**Public Safety**

The Public Safety group of accounts includes fire, police, emergency medical and ambulance services, dispatching, and building inspection functions.

**Some areas to note:**

- The Fire Hydrant fees are projected to decrease slightly for the upcoming fiscal year due to reduction in rates this year from Connecticut Water-Unionville Water Company.

- The Police Fleet account includes funding for three new 24-hour patrol vehicles and three leased unmarked cars. This is in line with our police vehicle replacement plan.
- The Gas and Diesel account has been decreased to reflect reduced pricing.
- The Heating Fuel account has been reduced to reflect savings expected by switching over to natural gas heating fuel.
- The Overtime account has been increased to reflect actual spending to maintain a fully staffed Communications Center. Due to an error in not adequately funding for holiday pay this account has been underfunded in recent years.

The proposed budget request for this group of accounts is \$9,438,734 or a 0.61% increase above the current budget

### **Public Works**

The Public Works group of accounts includes Public Works and Development, Highway and Grounds and Engineering.

#### ***Some areas to note:***

- The Highway and Grounds Operations account shows funding for (4) seasonal employees who will be used to supplement regular staff.
- The Full-time payroll account has been increased to support a 53<sup>rd</sup> week of payroll as well as two years of prior salary adjustments.
- The Technical Equipment account includes funding for the replacement of small tools and equipment.

The total request for the Public Works group of accounts is \$4,192,749, an increase of 4.25%

### **Community and Recreation Services**

The Community and Recreation Services group of accounts include Community Services and Housing.

#### ***Some areas to note:***

- The Office Supplies account includes funds for a quarterly Social Services Department Newsletter.
- The Relief Payment account is used to meet the needs of eligible residents that are not met by State relief programs. This account is offset by fundraising efforts by the department.
- The Busing Account has been increased to better reflect spending.

The total request for the Community and Recreation Services account is \$858,122 a decrease of (1.43) %.

## **Other**

The Other group of accounts includes funds for employee benefits and contingency. The proposed budget request for this group of accounts is \$6,487,500, an increase of 8.45%.

### **Some areas to note:**

- The Pension contribution has been significantly increased as a result of changes to the interest rate assumption used by the Plan Actuary to value the Plan and determine its funding status. This action is in accordance with the recommendation of the Pension Board.
- Based upon the renewal provided by our health insurance carrier, the Town's contribution to the health insurance account has to increase by \$184,000. The increase is due to significant increases in prescription drug claims and increases in the cost for Individual Stop Loss insurance.
- Based on the Self-Insurance Reserve Policy I am recommending using a portion of the Town's excess reserves in the Self-Insurance Fund to pay claims.

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The proposed total Town General Fund Appropriation is \$27,030,718, which is a 3.25% increase above the current budget.

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## **Debt**

The Debt group of accounts includes appropriations to make principal and interest payments on the Town's long term bonded debt. The total recommended amount for next fiscal year is \$6,818,620. This is a decrease of \$169,576 or 2.43% from the previous year. Debt service payments are continuing to decrease as a result of the maturing of older debt and because no new debt was issued during the past year.

## **Refuse Collection**

The Refuse Collection budget includes the cost of collecting and disposing of solid and bulky waste generated by town residents and the Town's landfill operation. This budget proposes no rate increase. The annual fee will remain at \$235.00 per household.

## **Capital Improvements**

The proposed General Fund appropriation to support the Capital Improvements is \$3,234,000 which is 3.3% of projected annual General Fund revenues allocated to the operating budget. Based on the Town's Capital Improvement Policy the Town's objective is to contribute at least 2.5% of the annual General Fund revenues allocated to the operating budget.

The proposed Capital Budget recommends funding above the policy limit in order to take advantage of a reduction in next year's debt service payments. For FY 2015/2016 there is a reduction of \$169,576 in debt service payments. This reduction is anticipated to be temporary as we will soon be increasing the Town's outstanding debt to finance the upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Since the reduction is expected to be short term, I am recommending that we use these funds to increase the capital budget to fund improvement projects of a non-recurring nature. In the following years, when the Town's debt service increases we will then be able to move these funds back to the debt service budget to help mitigate the impact to the tax rate.

This Capital Budget will allow us to make significant headway to meet the Town's capital improvement needs especially in the areas of technology, infrastructure/maintenance, and equipment purchases.

The Town's Capital Improvement Policy and the Town's Strategic Plan were the policy guidelines that were at the forefront when formulating the CIP while focusing the appropriations into two main funding themes. These themes are equipment/infrastructure/maintenance improvements, and technology initiatives.

### ***Equipment/Infrastructure/Maintenance Improvements Summary***

Last year we made progress in this area but significant equipment, infrastructure, and maintenance improvements are still needed throughout town. Each department has equipment replacement plans that are funded in the CIP. This plan supports replacement of equipment throughout town. This critical equipment keeps our volunteer firefighters safe when responding to calls for service. It allows our roads to be plowed during winter emergencies. It also keeps our parks and golf course looking clean and ready for play during the warm weather months. Equipment replacement ensures the Town's ability to offer high quality services to our residents and businesses.

This Capital Improvement Plan proposes to fund significant equipment purchases including a bond appropriation for two large fire engines at Farmington Fire Station. Equipment purchases include a large dump truck, a road maintenance truck, a backhoe loader, and mowers in the Public Works Department.

This proposed Capital Improvement Plan continues to fund the Town's road reconstruction and paving plan, miscellaneous bridge repairs, repairs and replacement of the Senior/Community Center walkway and funds to replace existing fence along the rails to trails which has been damaged over the years. The Plan includes a bond appropriation for the Irving A Robbins Heating Plant.

### ***Technology Summary***

In the 21st century a town's technology infrastructure must be maintained. It must keep up with the rapidly changing world of technology, as well as the expectations of residents and businesses. Town-wide technology improvements, as well as improvements specific to the Police Department, Town Clerk, Public Works, and Administration, are proposed in this Capital Improvement Plan.

In the Public Works department we are planning to convert the current permitting system to a new software platform. The new platform would take these functions off of the old 1980's ADMINS system and place them on a system specifically developed for these tasks. A new software platform will streamline workflow and allow for on-line permit application and tracking, as well as onsite electronic building inspections. Overall, this project will automate a great deal of what is now a manual process of moving permits through various departments for approval thereby greatly increasing efficiency and accuracy. It will also allow residents and contractors to use an online system for various phases in the permitting process.

There is also money in the proposed capital budget to upgrade the computer system at the Police Department. Last year the virtualization of servers at Town Hall was approved in the capital budget and this year we are looking to complete the same process at the police department. This upgrade would replace physical servers with a virtual environment allowing more virtual servers on a smaller number of physical servers. This will conserve energy by more efficiently using processors and reducing cooling in the server room. This process will also greatly improve backup routines performed nightly.

Funds have been included in the technology capital budget to upgrade the Town of Farmington web page. As you know, the web page committee will be working on enhancements to the web page to improve public services. This proposed funding will cover expenses to develop and design a more user friendly, valuable, and upgraded web page.

We are also looking to update field irrigation systems at various school and park locations. The new computerized system would allow for the irrigation systems to be computer controlled. With the addition of sensors, this new system will also save water usage by being able to precisely control the amount of water used and taking precipitation into account when calculating run times for sprinklers.

The Town Clerk's Office will continue the land records re-indexing program with its proposed funding. This funding will allow a full 40 year title search using electronic records. This search would be available in the Town Clerk's vault as well as on the internet. This is the final year of a multi-phase project.

**Water Pollution Control Authority**

The Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a public hearing on its budget on March 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The budget shows a 2.5% increase in the sewer usage rate.

**Westwoods Golf Course**

The Fiscal-Year 2015-2016 recommended budget for Westwoods Golf Course is \$ 642,212

**Board of Education**

The Board of Education account includes a request of \$60,711,941, an increase of 4.25% above the current year budget. Details of the Education budget are included in the budget document provided by the Board of Education.

**Expenditures**

The total recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 is \$97,795,279, an increase of \$3,445,985, or 3.65% above the current budget.

Category	2014-2015	2015-2016	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Board of Ed	\$58,236,460	\$60,711,941	\$2,475,481	4.25%
Town Operations	26,179,873	27,030,718	850,845	3.25%
Debt Service	6,988,196	6,818,620	(169,576)	(2.43)%
Capital Outlay	2,944,765	3,234,000	289,235	9.82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94,349,294</b>	<b>\$97,795,279</b>	<b>\$3,445,985</b>	<b>3.65%</b>

**GRAND LIST**

The Grand List is broken down into three categories: Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles. The Real Estate account shows a 0.74% increase, the Personal Property account shows an 4.01% increase and the Motor Vehicles account shows a 1.11% increase. In summary, the Grand List increased by 0.95%, or \$33,219,587 for a total of \$3,533,281,325.

Category	2014-2015	2015-2016	Increase/Decrease	% Increase/Decrease
Real Estate	\$ 3,080,593,965	\$ 3,103,537,170	\$ 22,943,205	0.74 %
Personal Property	\$ 193,391,908	\$ 201,150,865	\$ 7,758,957	4.01 %
Motor Vehicles	\$ 226,075,865	\$ 228,593,290	\$ 2,517,425	1.11 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,500,061,738</b>	<b>\$ 3,533,281,325</b>	<b>\$ 33,219,587</b>	<b>0.95 %</b>

**Some areas to note:**

- Personal Property increased 4.01%. This is a significant increase and demonstrates the strong business environment in Farmington. Businesses are continuing to invest in Farmington.

**REVENUES**

I have broken down revenues into eight categories: other property taxes, licenses and permits, fines and penalties, interest, grants, service charges, other, and fund balance. In summary, projected non-tax revenues are \$9,974,809 a 2.11% increase over the current year.

**Some areas to note:**

- Licenses and Permits have increased 9.62% mainly attributed to increased Building Permit Fees.
- Service Charges have declined 1.47 % due to a decrease in Town Clerk Fees, and Tower Rental Fees.
- I am not recommending using any Fund Balance.

Revenues	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	% Change
Other Property Taxes	\$1,040,000	\$1,079,000	3.75%
Licenses and Permits	769,500	843,500	9.62%
Fines and Penalties	47,200	39,200	(16.95)%
Interest	80,000	75,000	(6.25)%
Grants	6,314,425	6,471,275	2.48%
Service Charges	1,308,000	1,288,834	(1.47)%
Other	209,562	178,000	(15.06)%
Fund Balance			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,768,687</b>	<b>\$9,974,809</b>	<b>2.11%</b>

**Recommended Tax and Mill Rate:**

The recommended General Fund budget will require a property tax rate of 25.17 mills, an increase of 0.73 mills. Below is the cost for the average homeowner with a house assessed at \$232,074.

Proposed Tax and Mill Rate	FY 14/15	FY 15/16 Town Manager Recommended
Tax Levy	\$ 85,185,607	\$ 88,553,470
Mill Rate	24.44	25.17
Mill Rate Change	0.37%	0.73%
% of Change	1.54%	2.98%
Real Estate Taxes for the Average Home Owner	\$ 232,074	\$ 232,074
Dollar Increase /decrease	\$ 86.09	\$ 168.82
Percent Increase/decrease	1.54%	2.98%

## CONCLUSION

The Town Council set a target in which the Town expenditure portion of the budget would increase no more than 3.25% above current expenditures and asked that I strive to maintain existing services. The recommended budget as presented maintains current service levels. Yet some areas of the budget have been significantly increased. This budget substantially increases the pension allocation. The Capital budget has also been increased in a very deliberate effort to meet our capital needs. Moreover, the recommended budget appropriately funds accounts that have been historically underfunded during difficult budget years.

While the budget maintains current services levels, it should be noted that several spending categories took up the bulk of the 3.25% expenditure increase. A 3.25% increase above current expenditures is an increase of \$850,845. Four areas of spending consume almost all of this allocated increase; salary increases total \$286,104; \$353,507 is allocated for pension increases; \$184,287 is allocated for health insurance increases; and \$22,000 is allocated for social security increases. These increases total \$845,898 or 3.08% of the 3.25 % increase. Clearly, there was very little room to consider expansion of services.

Category	Dollar Increase	% increase over current appropriation	% increase Total Budget
Personal Services	\$286,104	2.37%	1.0%
Pension	\$353,507	13.97%	1.3%
Health Insurance	\$184,287	10.15%	0.7%
Social Security	\$ 22,000	2.32%	0.08 %
Total	\$845,898		3.08%
3.25% Increase	\$850,845		3.25%

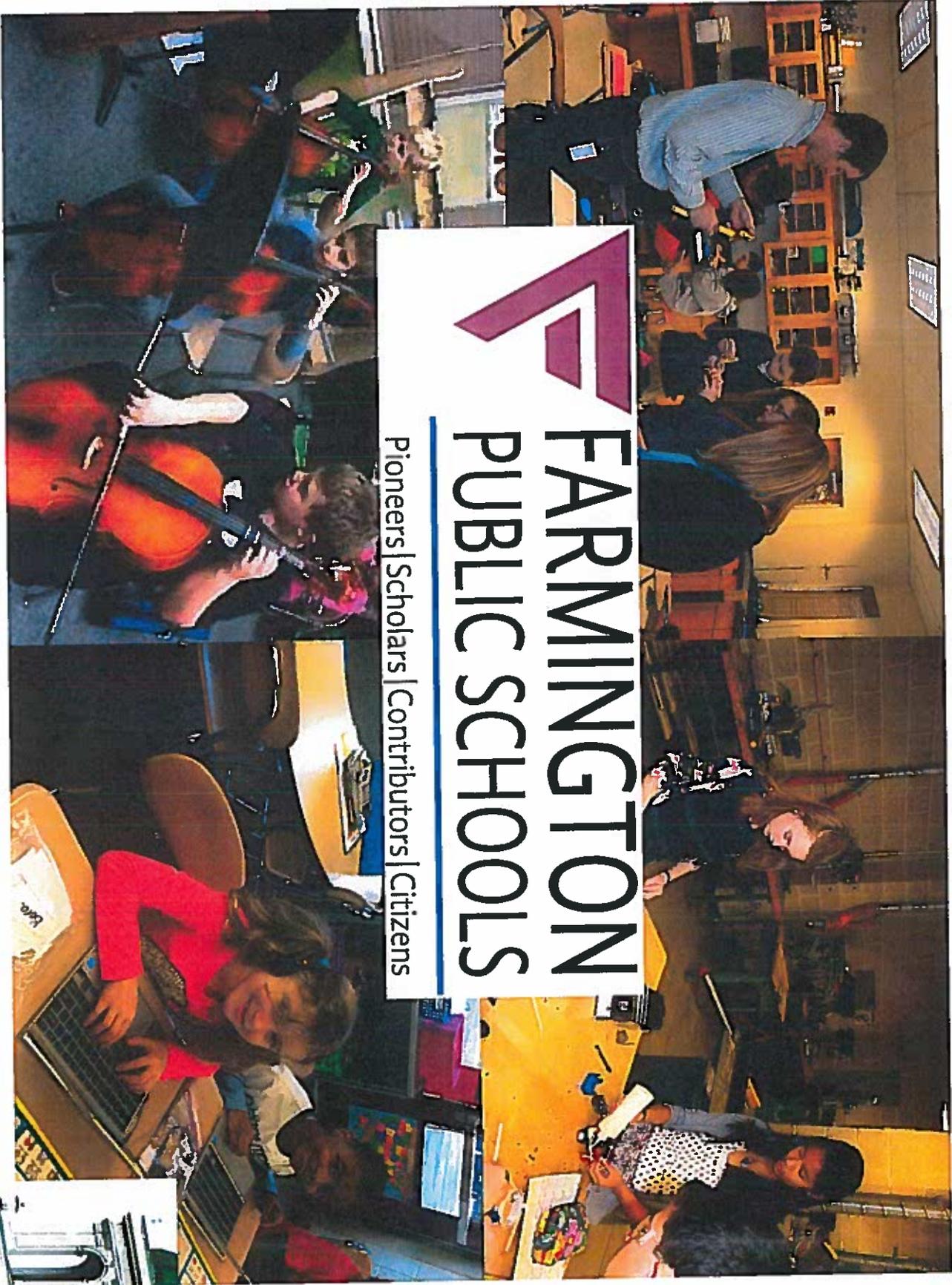
Modest changes in individual accounts, savings in certain areas such as utilities, along with the spending increase, allowed me to propose a budget that meets service expectations while appropriately funding policy decisions such as the Pension allocation and increased spending for the infrastructure and maintenance of the Town through the capital budget. While inroads were made in some areas, real expansion of any program or department was extremely limited. For example, due to the considerable increase required to fund the Pension account, in addition to a 10.15% increase in Health Insurance, I was unable to increase staffing levels to the extent that was requested by various departments. The only significant personnel increase is a part-time receptionist has been slated to increase to a full-time position. Programs remain flat and no real expansion is proposed in this budget.

The recommended budget shows a tax rate change of 2.98%. To put that number in perspective, the 10 year average is 3.69% and the five year average is 2.70%.

We continue to serve the community at a high level with fewer resources. We do this while our population, infrastructure and calls for service have grown significantly over the last decade. While it is becoming more and more difficult to keep up with rising municipal demands, we continually review the organization for efficiencies, cost savings and implementation of best practices of municipal government.

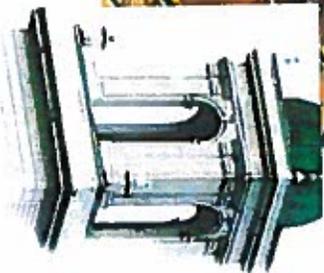
The Town Council asked that I present a budget that would maintain core services and existing service levels. The budget I am recommending maintains existing services with modest change to individual accounts to ensure that Farmington's standards are preserved. My staff and I stand ready to assist you in your deliberations during the next week.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Eagen  
Town Manager



# FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pioneers | Scholars | Contributors | Citizens



## **Budget Priorities and Guidelines: Compelling Mission Statement**

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The mission of the Farmington Public Schools is to enable all students to achieve academic and personal excellence, exhibit persistent effort and live as resourceful, inquiring and contributing global citizens.



# Farmington Public Schools: Leading the Way

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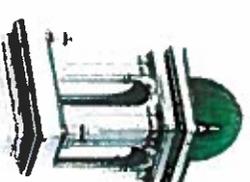
- ✓ National list of 25 schools “Worth Visiting” (The only school in Connecticut listed as “Worth Visiting” in Education Week)
- ✓ NerdWallet: #5 in Connecticut for the “Best Schools for your Buck”
- ✓ State and National Assistant Principal of the Year (Dr. Krista Bauchman, IAR Assistant Principal)
- ✓ Partnership with Jackson Lab (JAX)
- ✓ P21 National District Exemplar
- ✓ Students and faculty continue to be recognized at the state and national levels for their many, varied accomplishments
- ✓ National and State Level Rankings—top 10 in Connecticut (U.S. News and World Reports, Washington Post and Daily Beast)
- ✓ PISA ranked Farmington among the top performing school districts worldwide in reading and math
- ✓ First Ever FPSF Innovative Initiative Grant (Three-Year Grant)



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
21ST CENTURY SKILLS



FARMINGTON  
PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION



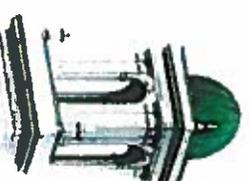
# Effective Cost Containment: Expenditure Rankings

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*\*Exceptional management of taxpayer dollars:*

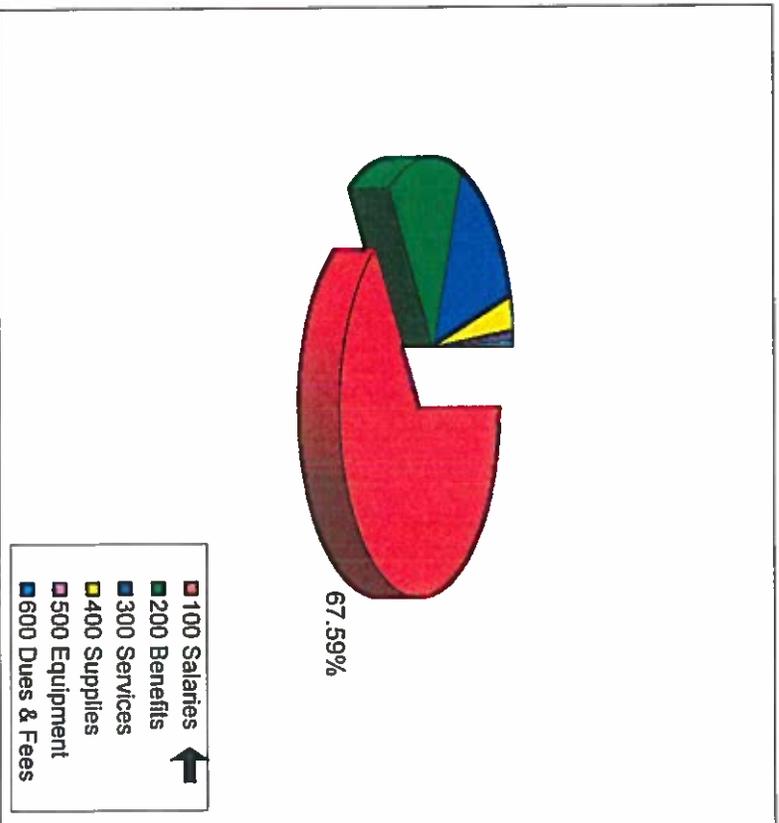
- School based Administration – 152
- General Administration – 156
- Special Education – 156
- Plant Services – 146
- Regular Education Transportation – 142
- Total Transportation Expenditures – 135
- Purchased Services – 119

*\*Of 169 towns: #1 spending the most and #169 spending the lowest*



# Salaries-100

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**2015-16 Superintendent Budget**      **\$41,038,217**  
**2014-15 Approved Budget**          **\$39,686,658**  
**Total Increase Requested**          **\$ 1,351,559**  
**Percentage Increase**                  **3.41%**

Provides funding for school district employees, including teachers;

2015-16 represents the second year of the Teachers' three year agreement; and

Account reflects the following negotiated increases:

Teachers

1.25% GWI max  
step/.50% lower  
step

Administrators

2.75%

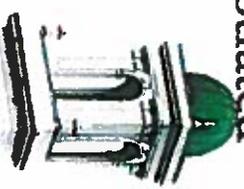
Nurses

2.5%

Classified Staff

To be negotiated

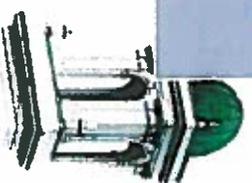
Primary Faculty increases in 2015-16 for full day kindergarten



## Example: Repurposing and Innovation: Expanded Learning Opportunities

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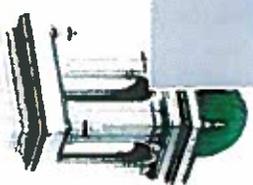
FTE	School	Proposed Staff Positions
0	FHS	AVID Teacher – using existing staff to expand the program for incoming freshmen
0	FHS	Capstone Courses – using existing staff to expand course options
0	FHS	Cambridge Thinking Skills – using existing staff to expand the number of sections offered
0	FHS	Art – expanding course offerings in fashion design
0	FHS	Career Center – expanding new and exciting internship, job shadowing, and career pathways opportunities for all students



# Professional Staffing Overview

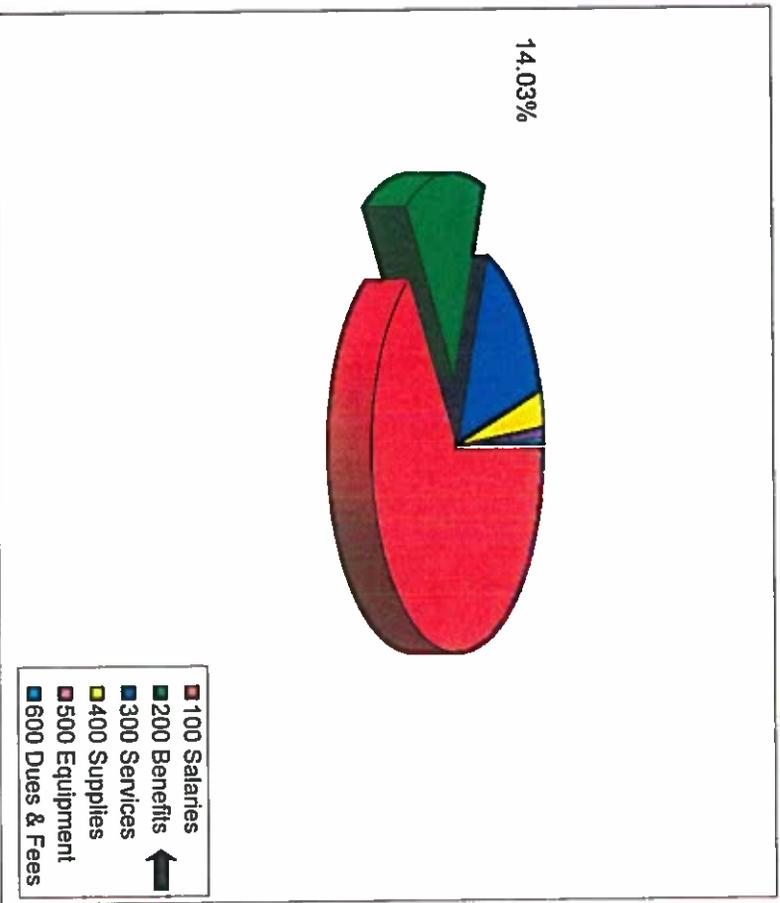
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School	FTE Change	Focus
FHS	+ .3	Math Intervention
IAR	+ .8	.8 Literacy Specialist
WW	- 1.0	Grade 5 Classroom Teacher
Special Ed.	+ 2.5	Mental Health Team - 1.0 Sp.Ed. Teacher / .5 Social Worker English Language Learners Teacher 1.0
Elementary	+ 6.5	Kindergarten Teachers
Elementary	- 5.0	Enrollment
Elementary	+ 2.0	World Language
Townwide	+ .2	.2 Assistive Technology
<b>Total</b>	<b>+6.3*</b>	*does not include annual provision for teachers at elementary level to respond to volatile enrollment possibilities (3.0)



# Benefits-200

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**2015-16 Superintendent Budget**     **\$8,516,960**  
**2014-15 Approved Budget**         **\$7,313,658**  
**Total Increase Requested**         **\$1,203,302**  
**Percentage Increase**                    **16.45%**

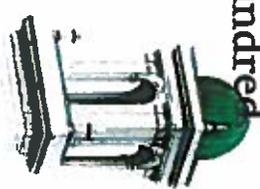
In 2015-16 this account provides 100% of expected paid claims and administration of employee health insurance less partial use of the self-insurance reserve;

Farmington's preventative care measurements show best in class rates across almost all items;

Farmington employee cost of health care services is significantly below industry average;

The Farmington BOE and Town have collaborated on a self-insurance policy that is a model for the state; and

Life Insurance cost is \$.21/thousand and Long Term Disability cost is \$.33/hundred



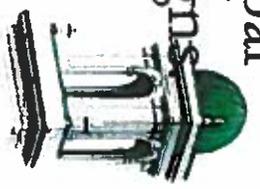
# Farmington Public Schools CIGNA Utilization Analysis January 2015

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- Farmington Emergency Room utilization is the lowest of any population in the CIGNA Connecticut Municipal Norm
- Preventative care measures show best in class rates across almost all items
- Cancer screening compliance results are well above norm
- Plan spend per member per year:

Farmington	Norm
\$5,266	\$6,020

Norm: Represents CIGNA Connecticut average for municipal and Board of Education clients across all medical plan designs

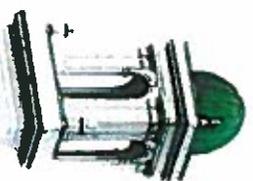


# Collaborative, Strategic and Effective Cost Containment

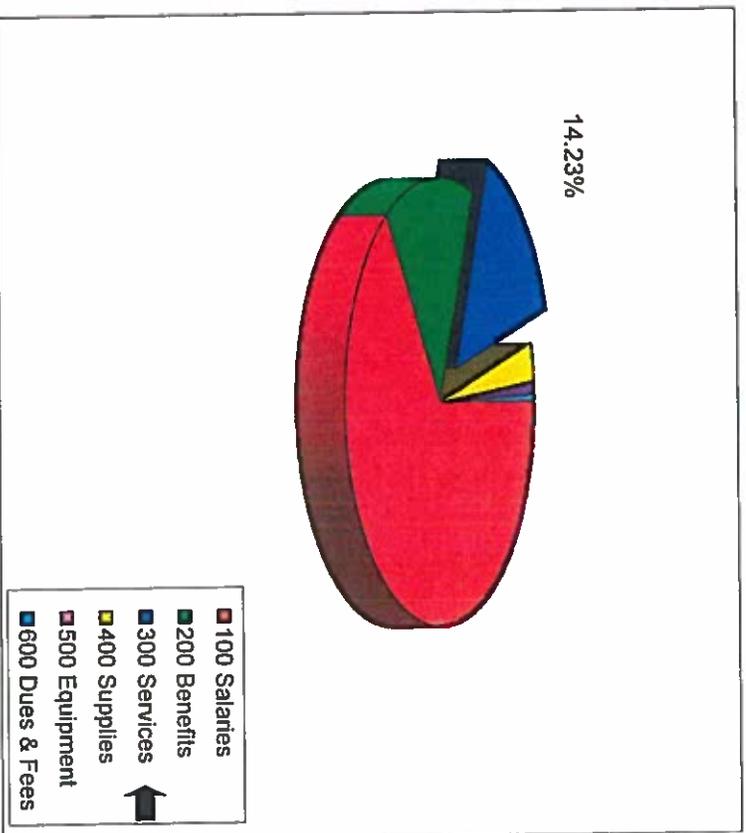
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- Negotiated a High Deductible Health Plan w/Health Savings Account (HDHP-HSA) for custodians, secretaries, paraprofessionals and tutors resulting in an estimated cost containment or avoidance of \$356,588 over the life of the contract.
- Negotiated a HDHP-HSA for teachers resulting in an estimated cost containment or avoidance of \$600,000-\$700,000 over the life of the contract.
- Negotiated a HDHP-HSA for administrators resulting in an estimated cost containment or avoidance of \$192,000 over the life of the contract.



# Services-300



**2015-16 Superintendent Budget**      **\$8,640,785**  
**2014-15 Approved Budget**          **\$8,579,242**  
**Total Increase Requested**          **\$ 61,543**  
**Percentage Increase**                  **.72%**

The Board's management of its public utility needs has enabled instructional programs to be spared;

The Board has contracted with Connecticut Natural Gas to heat our facilities at the lowest possible cost;

Account provides for Professional Development Programs to improve teaching and learning;

The Board and Town collaborated on a very successful energy service company performance contract which will bring further efficiencies to Board and Town buildings; and

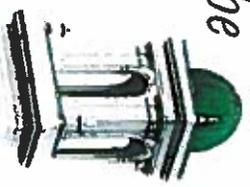
In-district Special Education programs have reduced the cost of outplacements by over \$600,000 in the past 3 years.



# Collaborative, Strategic and Effective Cost Containment

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- Energy-savings performance contract through the Joint Town/Board of Education Green Efforts Committee increased energy efficiency and upgraded facilities without increasing the school district budget. Rebates will allow for additional energy savings projects in 2015-2016 that will lead to additional savings in the coming years (*Plant Services ranks 146<sup>th</sup> out of 169 towns in spending-1 spending the most, 169 spending the least*).
- Opened specialized special education programming in district for students identified with special needs to provide exemplary educational opportunities for all students in district while containing costs. In turn, the school district reduced outplacement costs by over \$600,000 in a three (3) year period (*156<sup>th</sup> out of 169 towns in spending - 1 spending the most, 169 spending the least*).



# Effective: Special Education Expenditures

(As a % of Total Educational Expenditures)

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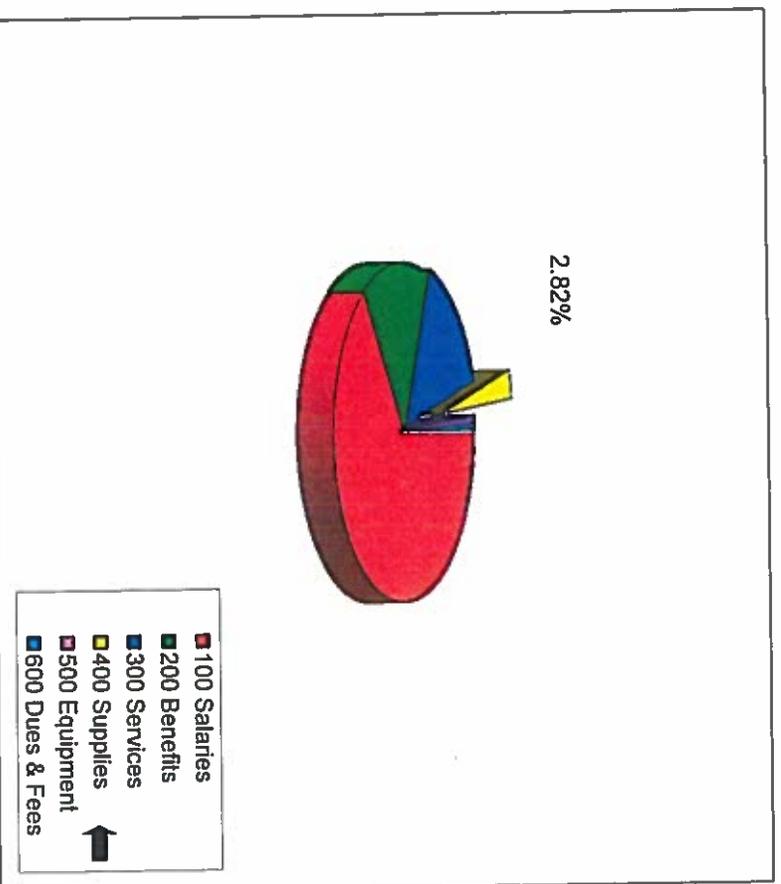
Town Name	Special Education Expenditure
Fairfield	23.61%
Cheshire	23.47%
Greenwich	22.49%
Madison	21.08%
Simsbury	20.67%
South Windsor	19.86%
Avon	17.63%
<b>Farmington</b>	<b>16.95%</b>
Glastonbury	16.75%

Source: 2013-2014 End of School Report



# Supplies-400

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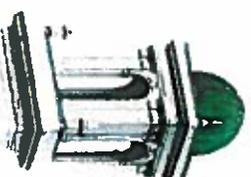


**2015-16 Superintendent Budget \$1,710,045**  
**2014-15 Approved Budget \$1,680,780**  
**Total Increase Requested \$ 29,265**  
**Percentage Increase 1.74%**

Farmington ranks 95th in amount spent per pupil on instructional supplies;

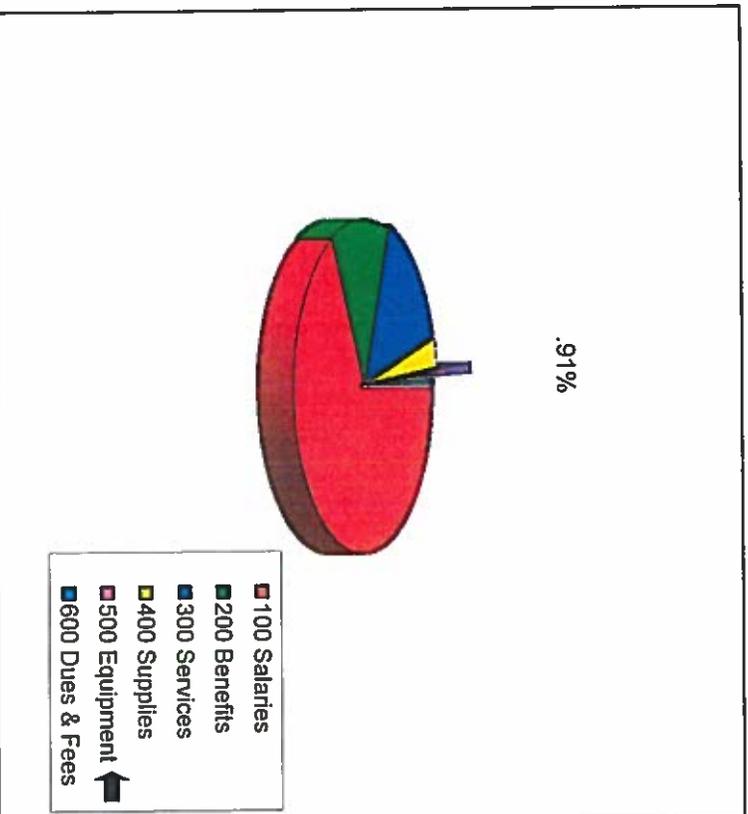
Account provides for facilities used in swimming and ice hockey competitions; and

Account provides for the purchase of a wide ranging group of items such as instructional, health, custodial, computer, and testing supplies.



# Equipment -500

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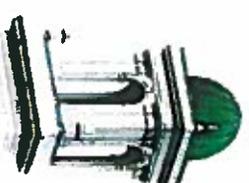


<b>2015-16 Superintendent Budget</b>	<b>\$550,628</b>
<b>2014-15 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$691,058</b>
<b>Total Increase Requested</b>	<b>(\$140,430)</b>
<b>Percentage Increase</b>	<b>(20.32%)</b>

The district has prioritized all potential technology purchases;

Having successfully built technology capacity in the classrooms over the past six (6) years, the district now turns its emphasis to replacing/repurposing chromebooks;

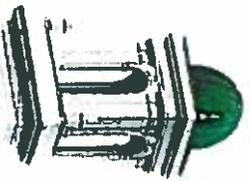
Chromebook carts have been budgeted at the elementary schools to accommodate the devices being moved from West Woods.



# Collaborative, Strategic and Effective Cost Containment

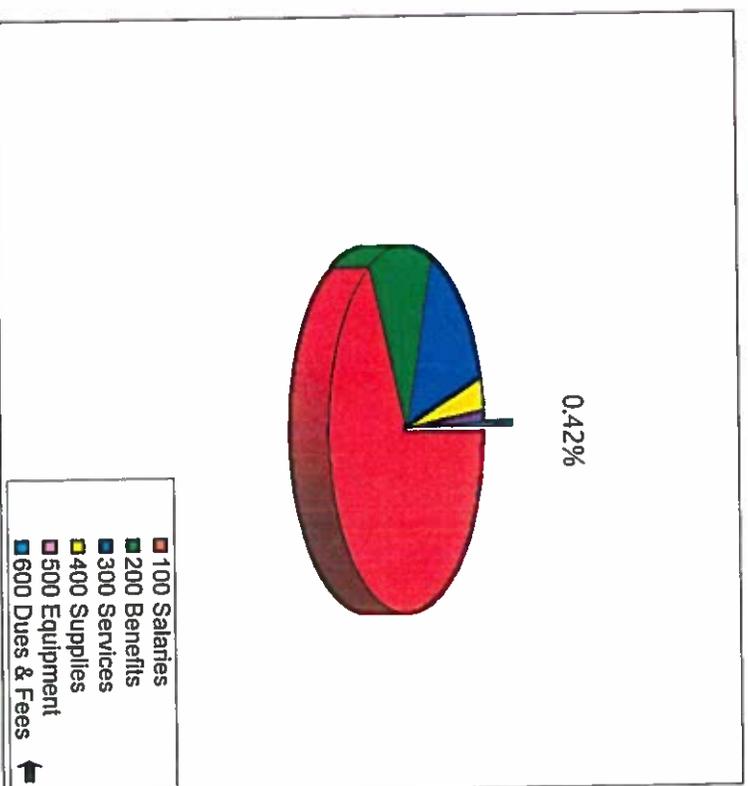
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- Farmington has received over \$550,000 in grant funding for security and technology upgrades and over \$210,000 in art, media and engineering grants. This funding has helped to avoid additional budget dollars above requested levels in the 2015-2016 recommended budget.



# Dues and Fees-600

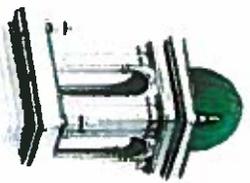
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**2014-15 Superintendent Budget**      **\$255,306**  
**2013-14 Approved Budget**          **\$285,064**  
**Total Increase Requested**            **(\$ 29,758)**  
**Percentage Increase**                    **(10.44%)**

As a result of a request for proposal in the spring of 2014, significant savings were realized in the liability and property insurance areas.

Memberships in organizations such as the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents are included here.

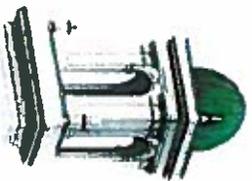


# Collaborative, Strategic and Effective Cost Containment

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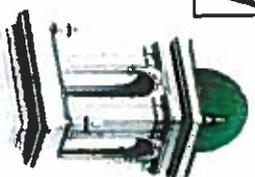
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- As a result of a request for proposal in the spring of 2014, significant savings were realized in the liability and property insurance areas
- Superintendent and the Board of Education cut request by building Principals and program leaders by \$469,131 to arrive at the Board of Education's recommended budget.



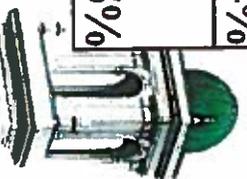
## Summary of Reductions to 2015-2016 Board of Education's Recommended Budget

Major Areas of Reduction	Amount of Reduction
Technology & Equipment	\$21,821
Personnel	\$163,623
Services	\$130,000
Supplies	\$24,156
Texts	\$9,531
Insurance	\$120,000
<i>Superintendent's and Board's Total Reductions</i>	<i>\$469,131</i>



# Budget Summary 2015-2016

ACCOUNT	2014-2015	2015-2016	Change	Percent
SALARIES	\$39,686,658	\$41,038,217	\$1,351,559	3.41%
BENEFITS	\$7,313,658	\$8,516,960	\$1,203,302	16.45%
SERVICES	\$8,579,242	\$8,640,785	\$61,543	0.72%
SUPPLIES	\$1,680,780	\$1,710,045	\$29,265	1.74%
EQUIPMENT	\$691,058	\$550,628	-\$140,430	-20.32%
DUES/FEES	\$285,064	\$255,306	-\$29,758	-10.44%
TOTALS	\$58,236,460	\$60,711,941	\$2,475,481	4.25%



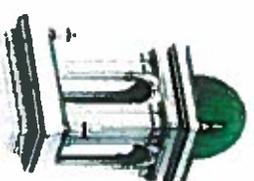
# Effective Cost Containment: Expenditure Rankings

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*\*Exceptional management of taxpayer dollars:*

- School based Administration – 152
- General Administration – 156
- Special Education – 156
- Plant Services – 146
- Regular Education Transportation – 142
- Total Transportation Expenditures – 135
- Purchased Services – 119

*\*Of 169 towns: #1 spending the most and 169 spending the lowest*



Agenda Item H-1

THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON



INCORPORATED 1645

TOWN HALL  
1 MONTEITH DRIVE  
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032-1053

INFORMATION (860) 675-2300  
FAX (860) 675-7140  
"BULLETIN BOARD" (860) 675-2301

February 26, 2015

State Senator Beth Bye  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

State Senator Terry Gerratana  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Brian Becker  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4009  
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Mike Demicco  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: The Governor's Proposed Budget

Dear Senator Bye, Senator Gerratana, Representative Becker & Representative Demicco:

I wanted to take a moment to share some of the Town of Farmington's concerns regarding the Governor's budget that was released on February 18, 2015. In particular, the Town is concerned about the reduction in the state PILOT funds that the town will receive over the next few years. The Town is also concerned about any future losses that the Town may experience due to the miscalculation that placed the budget over the State of Connecticut's spending cap.

Overall, Governor Malloy's budget increased state aid to municipalities, from \$4.93 billion this year to \$4.95 billion next year and almost \$4.96 billion in 2017. Despite this increase, the Town of Farmington will actually experience a decrease in state aid of about 2.7% or \$167,000. Particularly concerning is the fact that the Town's PILOT funding will decrease by 5.4% or about \$188,752. Only one Connecticut municipality experienced a larger percent decrease in aid than the Town of Farmington. The Town had hoped that the Governor's budget would have held Farmington harmless, as so many other towns were.

As the legislature begins to deliberate the Governor's proposed budget, I would to ask for your assistance in holding Farmington harmless by protecting its current levels of state funding. As a town with large amounts of state-owned and tax exempt property, including the University of Connecticut Health Center and Tunxis Community College, it is important that the Town of Farmington continues to receive the current level of payment in lieu of taxes.

On behalf of the Town, I would like to offer my help to you as you advocate for Farmington's interests in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [eagenk@farmington-ct.org](mailto:eagenk@farmington-ct.org) or by phone at 860.675.2350 if I can be of any assistance to you as you move forward to deliberate this budget.

I would like to thank you for your tireless dedication to serving the residents of the Town of Farmington in the state legislature.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Eagen  
Town Manager

CC: Farmington Town Council Members

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



**MOTION:**

**Agenda Item N-7**

To approve the attached resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign an agreement between the CT DOT and the Town of Farmington to allow State Project #51-269 for the Reconstruction of South Main Street at New Britain Avenue and Railroad Avenue, to commence.

**NOTE:** This authorization will allow the project to proceed. The Town of Farmington will manage the project as it has with previous STP Urban projects. The funding is 80% Federal, 10% State and 10% Town. The Town will proceed to hire a consultant engineering firm to perform the design of the project.

Attachment

State Project No. 51-269  
Federal-Aid Project No. 0177(001)

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Farmington for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Reconstruction of South Main St at New Britain Avenue and Railroad Avenue utilizing federal funds under the Urban component of the Surface Transportation Program"

ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON CONNECTICUT THIS  
\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date