

Minutes of the Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 12, 2020

Present:

C. J. Thomas, Chair
Joe Capodiferro
Brian F. X. Connolly
Christopher Fagan
Edward Giannaros
Peter Mastrobattista
Gary Palumbo

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Anna Savastano, Management Asst.

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Public Comment

There were no public comments made.

D. To consider and take action on the proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget

Economic Development

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Rose Ponte, Director of Economic Development reviewed the accounts on pages 14 & 15 of the budget and answered Council Questions.

The following areas were highlighted:

- Farmington's strong economic indicators
- Promotional materials that were developed and created in the previous year
- The new website created by Economic Development Commission (EDC) www.choosefarmington.com. And the various platforms (websites, social media, weekly e-newsletters, and promotional materials) that EDC uses to engage the community.
- The Streetscape Master Plan that was developed and the marketability of Parsons Property.
- The Small Business Resource Series created over the last year that she plans to continue in the coming year.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 14-15.

Adopted unanimously

Police

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Chief Paul Melanson reviewed the accounts on pages 31-41 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following areas were highlighted:

- Reductions were made to the department that may have an impact on services.
- One unmarked vehicle was cut from the budget due to budget restraints that was recommended in the vehicle replacement plan. The dollar amount was \$5,000 for one year of that vehicle lease (The Town Council made a note to return to this item at the next budget meeting)
- Chief recommended 4 additional patrol officers that were also cut from the budget that would have been included except for the tight budget target.
- Reorganization of the police department based upon needs assessment such as school safety and emergency management.
- Regionalized Dispatch Centers that allow for more grant funding
- Crossing Guard on Route 4 and Elm Street
- Response to the Opioid Epidemic

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 31-41.

Adopted unanimously

Public Works

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works/ Town Engineer reviewed the accounts on pages 43-54 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following items were highlighted:

- The position of Deputy DPW Director is vacant and not included in the current budget. The Town would like to fill it with a Civil Engineer for at least half a year. It would cost approximately \$35,000 for half a year (The Town Council made a note to return to this item at the next budget meeting)
- The seasonal help was reduced from 4 people to 1 people

- The accounts were funded at appropriate levels based on the past five-year averages
- Contractual Services account 54410 on page 45
- Being able to do designs in house has allowed the Town to receive additional grant funding from the State.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 43-54.

Adopted unanimously

Fire Marshal

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works/ Town Engineer reviewed the accounts on page 26 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following item was highlighted:

- Hydrant fees went up 6.8%, \$65,000

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve page 26.

Adopted unanimously

Building Inspector

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works/ Town Engineer reviewed the accounts on page 42 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following items were highlighted:

- The increase in salary was due to negotiations
- Software for online building permits

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve page 42.

Adopted unanimously

Planning

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Russ Arnold,

Director of Public Works/ Town Engineer reviewed the accounts on pages 18-20 of the budget and answered Council Questions.

The following items were highlighted:

- The budget remained flat, no changes

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 18-20.

Adopted unanimously

Refuse

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration and Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager reviewed the accounts on page 69-71 of the budget and the Council did not ask any questions.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 69-71.

Adopted unanimously

Fire & Rescue

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Steve Hoffmann, Director of Fire and Rescue Services reviewed the accounts on pages 27-30 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following items were highlighted:

- The account was flat overall due to a very tight budget
- IAFF Contract was settled, and three years' worth of salary increases were moved into this account
- Discussion of the SAFER Grant that pays for part of the salary of the 9th firefighter
- The purchase of new thermal imaging cameras

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 27-30.

Adopted unanimously

Community & Recreational Services

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Nancy Parent,

Director of Community & Recreational Services reviewed the accounts on pages 55-65 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following items were highlighted:

- The Town has taken over Dial-A-Ride services allowing the department to provide more service to residents and save money
- Question on miscellaneous supplies 52250 regarding supplies for the teen center and other needs for the youth
- Efforts to hold community events for all ages
- She told the Council she was always looking for grant opportunities.
- We are currently receiving eight different grants that fund four positions that work on youth counseling and youth initiatives

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 55-65.

Adopted unanimously

Westwoods Golf Course

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Nancy Parent, Director of Community & Recreational Services reviewed the accounts on pages 81-83 of the budget and answered Council questions.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 81-83.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to amend the original motion to tentatively approve pages 80-83.

The Amendment was approved unanimously

The Original Motion as amended was approved unanimously

Staples House

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Nancy Parent, Director of Community & Recreational Services reviewed the accounts on page 22 of the budget and answered Council questions.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve page 22.

Adopted unanimously

Recreation Fund

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration; Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager and Nancy Parent, Director of Community & Recreational Services reviewed the Recreation Fund Account and answered Council questions.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 72-79.

Adopted unanimously

Library

Ms. Lori Yu, Library Board and Caroline Ford, Assistant Library Director reviewed Library operations using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-1.

The following items were highlighted:

- Additional cameras in the library
- Question regarding e-books vs. regular books

General Government Administration

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration and Kathryn Krajewski, Management reviewed the accounts on pages 1-25 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following items were highlighted:

- Two part-time positions were eliminated from the budget: Land Acquisition Consultant and part-time Receptionist (The Town Council made a note to return to this item at the next budget meeting)
- The additional pay period in FY 2021-2022 is not being funded
- Question on account 50131 page 9 regarding saving part-time salary by combining the FHS Referendum and the Presidential Election
- Account 50111 on page 11 showed how salary adjustments were made

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 1-25.

Adopted unanimously

Benefits

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration and Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager reviewed the

accounts on pages 66-67 of the budget and answered Council questions. The Town Council made a note to return to this section at the next budget meeting.

The following items were highlighted:

- The pension contribution has been increased as a result of the changes to the actuarial assumptions related to mortality tables and other factors. However, this account is not funded to the recommended level in an attempt to meet the budget target. The Manager stressed that fully funding this account is very important. The additional amount needed to properly fund this account is \$150,000
- The Health Insurance account has been increased to reflect the stop-loss insurance renewal increase. However, the Town has had a good year so far overall
- The Worker's Compensation account has decreased due to favorable loss exposure
- The heart and hypertension account funds legal fees, medical claims, stipends and settlements. This budget does not include any money for settlements

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve pages 66-67.

Adopted unanimously

Debt Service

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration and Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager reviewed the accounts on page 68 of the budget and answered Council questions.

The following items were highlighted:

- The minimal increase in debt service is a result of the drop-off of debt that was refinanced in 2013

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve page 68.

Adopted unanimously

Revenues

The Manager; Erica Robertson, Assistant Manager; Joseph Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration and Kathryn Krajewski, Assistant Manager reviewed the projected revenues and tax implications of the Town Manager's Recommended 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget and answered Council questions.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to tentatively approve the projected revenues.

E. Adjourn to Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

F. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Adopted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Savastano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

Anna Savastano