

Minutes of the Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 13, 2021
Held in Person for the Council and presenters Zoom Webinar
Meeting for the public due to the COVID19 Pandemic

Attending:

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

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment

Sara Burns of 3 Hidden Spring Lane acknowledged how hard everyone was working to provide services to the residents over the past year. She believed even though the Town and Schools were asking for a high amount in their budgets it was justified because of Covid-19. She didn't want the budget reduced.

D. To consider and take action on the proposed 2021-2022 Budget

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to consider and take action on the proposed 2021-2022 Budget.

Adopted unanimously

Ellen Siuta, Chair of the Board of Education and Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools discussed with the Council how the Board of Education Recommended Budget could be reduced. Because of additional Federal Covid Relief funds the Superintendent felt she could move \$575,000 from the budget to federal funds, and money could be taken from teacher turn over due to retirements, out placement savings and facility project reductions totaling \$124,766. This would reduce the Board of Education Recommended Budget by \$699,000 without changing any services to the students. She told the Council, in the future some of these funds may

need to be returned to the operating budget if the challenges created by Covid-19 continue for students. The Superintendent reviewed possible cuts to the Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan. The Technology Infrastructure reduced by \$150,000, Classroom Furniture reduced by \$185,000 and District-wide Mechanical Equipment reduced by \$250,000.

The Manager reviewed her suggestions for cuts to the other Capital Improvement Plan accounts. She told the Council the Town had received \$175,000 in LOCIP funds. She suggested to change the Youth Center and Stone House Renovations to Other category for funding by using the LOCIP funds to pay for them. She suggested cutting \$40,000 Highway & Grounds Irrigation Improvements; reducing \$50,000 Fire Department Communications Upgrades, cutting \$100,000 Fire Department Medic 16, reducing \$25,000 Fire Department Fire Station Renovations; reducing \$25,000 Town Manager Technology Improvements.

The Council asked for further reduction suggestions. The Manager suggested the Land Indexing from Town Manager for \$30,000, the Supervisor's SUV in the Police Department for \$70,000, reducing \$25,000 from Town Hall Improvements under Town Manager, and the ToolCat Highway & Grounds for \$80,000. The Town Manager said her first two choices of these would be the Land Record Indexing and Town Hall Improvements.

The Chair asked the Superintendent of Schools if the Board of Education budget needed to be reduced by \$200,000 would she like it to come from the Capital Improvement Plan or the Operating budget? The Superintendent wanted any further reductions to come from the Capital Improvement Plan. She suggested reducing School Security by \$25,000, reducing Code & Safety by \$40,000, reducing Telephone by \$25,000, reducing the FHS Mascot by \$5,000, reducing Vehicle Replacement by \$95,000.

After discussion it was decided not to reduce School Security for \$25,000 or Code & Safety for \$40,000.

The Chair asked the Manager to consider other cuts and to add the Medic 16 truck back into the Capital Improvement Plan budget.

Mr. Swetcky, Director of Finance and Administration suggested Debit Service Cost could be reduced by \$130,000 without ramification because of a financial forecast. He suggested increasing Delinquent Tax Revenue \$10,000 and adding \$10,000 to the Interest and Lien Fees revenue due to current year trends.

After putting the motions together to get the budget to a 2.99% tax increase, Mr. Swetcky suggested increasing the Delinquent Tax Revenue by an additional \$5,000.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to reduce the proposed Board of Education Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget by \$700,000 for a total expenditure of \$72,288,934.

Adopted unanimously

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to reduce the proposed Debt Budget by \$130,000 for a total of \$8,272,347.

Adopted unanimously

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/) to reduce the Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan by Districtwide Mechanical Equipment by \$250,000, Technology by \$150,000, Classroom Furniture by \$185,000, Vehicle Replacement by \$95,000, FHS Mascot by \$5,000 and Telephone System by \$25,000 for a total reduction of \$710,000.

Adopted unanimously

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to reduce the Town Capital Improvement Plan by Highway & Grounds – Irrigation \$40,000, Fire Department – Communications Upgrades \$50,000, Fire Department – Fire Station Renovations \$25,000, Town Manager- Technology \$25,000, Town Manager - Town Hall Improvements \$25,000 and Town Manager - Land Re-indexing \$30,000, Community & Recreation - Stone House Renovations and Youth Center Renovations to be switched to Other from General Fund for a General Fund reduction of \$175,000 for a total Town Capital Improvement Plan reduction of \$370,000.

Adopted unanimously

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to set the Capital Improvement Plan Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 at \$3,147,166 for an increase of \$1,455,183 or 86% over the current year budget.

Adopted unanimously

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to increase the Delinquent Tax Revenue account by \$15,000.

Adopted unanimously

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to increase the Delinquent Interest Revenue account by \$10,000.

Adopted unanimously

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to set the Town of Farmington proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget for the Board of Education at \$72,288,934 or a 3.3% budget increase above Fiscal Year 2020/2021; for the Town Budget at \$32,317,083 or a 2.99% increase above Fiscal Year 2020/2021; the Debt Service at \$8,272,347 or a 6.39% decrease over Fiscal Year 2020/2021; the Capital Improvement Plan Budget at \$3,147,166 or a 86% increase above Fiscal Year 2020/2021; the Board of Education Defined Pension Contribution at \$75,000 or a 50% increase above Fiscal Year 2020/2021, resulting in a total appropriation of \$116,100,530 or a 3.72% increase over the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget.

Adopted unanimously

- E. To approve the Warning of the April 19, 2021 Annual Town Meeting and the April 29, 2021 Referendum

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to approve the attached Warning of the April 19, 2021 Annual Town Meeting and the Warning of the April 29, 2021 Referendum.

Adopted unanimously

- F. Adjourn to Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

- G. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Adopted unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,



Paula B. Ray, Town Clerk

WARNING
TOWN OF FARMINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING —APRIL 19, 2021
REFERENDUM — APRIL 29, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Farmington and those qualified to vote at town meetings of said Town are hereby warned and notified that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Farmington is called for Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Farmington High School Auditorium, 10 Monteith Drive in Farmington, Connecticut, for the following purposes:

1. To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Town Council that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Town Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 be approved.

2. To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Town Council that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the budget recommended by the Town Council for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 be approved.

3. To consider the recommendation of the Town Council that a resolution be adopted:

(a) to appropriate \$1,284,000 for costs related to the design and implementation of an expansion of the cafeteria at the Irving A. Robbins Middle School, and related work and improvements. The appropriation may be spent for design, installation and construction costs, engineering and other consultant fees, materials, equipment, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project;

(b) to authorize the issue of bonds or notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$1,284,000 to finance the appropriation; to provide that the amount of bonds and notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project; to authorize the issue of temporary notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$1,284,000 in anticipation of such bonds or notes and the receipt of project grants; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds, notes or temporary notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds, notes or temporary notes;

(c) to take such action to allow temporary advances of available funds which the Town reasonably expects to reimburse from the proceeds of borrowings; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized by the resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years, and to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds, notes or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes; and

(d) to authorize the Board of Education to apply for and to accept or reject one or more state grants for the project; and to authorize the Board of Education, the school building committee or committees established or to be established for the project, the Superintendent of Schools and other proper officers and

officials of the Town to file applications with the State Board of Education, to execute grant agreements for the project, and to file such documents as may be required by the State Board of Education to obtain grants for the costs of financing for the project; and to authorize the Town Council, the Town Manager, the Town Treasurer, the Board of Education, the school building committee or committees established or to be established for the project, and other proper officers and officials of the Town to take any other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to complete the project and to issue bonds, notes or temporary notes and obtain grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

4. To consider the recommendation of the Town Council that a resolution be adopted:

(a) to appropriate \$450,000 for costs related to the partial replacement of the roof of the Noah Wallace School, and related work and improvements. The appropriation may be spent for design, installation and construction costs, engineering and other consultant fees, materials, equipment, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project;

(b) to authorize the issue of bonds or notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 to finance the appropriation; to provide that the amount of bonds and notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the projects; to authorize the issue of temporary notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 in anticipation of such bonds or notes and the receipt of project grants; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds, notes or temporary notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds, notes or temporary notes;

(c) to take such action to allow temporary advances of available funds which the Town reasonably expects to reimburse from the proceeds of borrowings; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized by the resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years, and to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds, notes or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes; and

(d) to authorize the Board of Education to apply for and to accept or reject one or more state grants for the project; and to authorize the Board of Education, the school building committee or committees established or to be established for the project, the Superintendent of Schools and other proper officers and officials of the Town to file applications with the State Board of Education, to execute grant agreements for the project, and to file such documents as may be required by the State Board of Education to obtain grants for the costs of financing for the project; and to authorize the Town Council, the Town Manager, the Town Treasurer, the Board of Education, the school building committee or committees established or to be established for the project, and other proper officers and officials of the Town to take any other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to complete the project and to issue bonds, notes or temporary notes and obtain grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

5. To consider the recommendation of the Town Council that a resolution be adopted:

(a) to appropriate \$2,000,000 for costs related to repairs to and reconstruction of such various Town roads and drainage systems as may be determined by the Town Manager and the Town Engineer from time-to-time. The appropriation may be spent for design, installation and construction costs,

engineering and other consultant fees, materials, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project;

(b) to authorize the issue of bonds or notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000; to authorize the issue of temporary notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in anticipation of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes;

(c) to take such action to allow temporary advances of available funds which the Town reasonably expects to reimburse from the proceeds of borrowings; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by the resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years, and to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes; and

(d) to authorize the Town Council, Town Manager, the Town Engineer, the Town Treasurer and other proper officers and officials of the Town to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds, notes, or temporary notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

6. To consider and act upon any other business which may properly come before said meeting.

7. The moderator shall adjourn this meeting and the resolution presented under item 2 of this Warning, as submitted to the Annual Town Meeting, or as modified thereby, shall become effective unless rejected, and the resolutions presented under items 3, 4 and 5 of this Warning shall become effective only after having been submitted and approved, by a vote on voting machines of persons qualified to vote in town meetings on Thursday, April 29, 2021 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. 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, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 shall vote at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 1-5 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 2-6 shall vote at the Community & Senior Center, 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 2-7 shall vote at the Municipal Complex, Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling place at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, West Woods Upper Elementary School, the Community & Senior Center, or the Municipal Complex. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

Said resolutions shall be placed upon the ballots under the following headings:

1. "SHALL THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON PRESENTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BE APPROVED?

YES

NO"

2. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$1,284,000 FOR THE IRVING A. ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA EXPANSION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

YES

NO"

3. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$450,000 FOR THE NOAH WALLACE SCHOOL PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

YES

NO"

4. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$2,000,000 FOR REPAIRS TO AND RECONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWN ROADS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, 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 a resolution shall vote "No".

Dated at Farmington, Connecticut this 13th day of March 2021.

PER ORDER OF THE FARMINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Council Chair

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Town Clerk