

Minutes of the Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
February 14, 2017

Present:

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

Kathy Eagen, Town Manager
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Presentations and Recognitions

1. State Legislators – Update on legislative priorities and state budget

The Manager began the discussion by reviewing the handouts she had prepared to guide the discussion recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item C-1. State Representative 21st District Mike Demicco, State Representative 19th District Derek Slap and State Senator 6th District Terry Gerratana discussed Governor Malloy's proposed budget with the Council and answered Council questions.

Mr. Mastrobattista began the discussion by asking the legislators what they were hearing about the Governor's budget and what were their thoughts and plans moving forward.

Mrs. Gerrantna told the Council the Governor's budget was not going to be what would be passed in the spring that this was just the beginning of the process. She acknowledged that both Farmington and Berlin that she represented were facing severe cuts in the Governor's budget but that the City of New Britain was proposed to get a funding increase. She believed the General Assembly always strived for fairness in funding when creating their budget.

Mr. Demicco reminded the Council this was only the Governor's proposed budget and represented the beginning of the dance to create a budget for the State of Connecticut. He told the Council he was sympathetic to the problem the Council had trying to create the Town's budget without complete information on State funding, and the Council should not go by the Governor's numbers because the vast majority of the

colleagues he had spoken with were not in support of the Governor's proposals. He acknowledged that the Governor had done some things with his budget that people had been talking about for many years such as reforming the ECS formula and addressing the unfunded teacher pension liability. He felt the issues were now at least being addressed. However as a result, he wasn't happy with the numbers for Farmington and didn't believe they would be the final numbers.

Mr. Slap told the Council he was sure that if the Governor's Budget were put up for a vote it wouldn't pass. He assured Farmington that it wasn't alone in its dismay and frustration over the Governor's proposals to address Connecticut's financial problems. He felt the positive things in the budget were the preservation of the safety net for Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens and asking for concessions from the State labor unions. He acknowledged it was easy to say no to the proposed budget but the challenge now would be for all factions to work together to create a more acceptable budget.

Mr. Landry pointed out the Governor's Budget was a massive wealth redistribution scheme. He asked Mr. Demicco what do you see yourself doing to defend Farmington's position regarding the loss of ECS money and the pension liability shift to the municipalities and how do we get pension reform.

Mr. Demicco explained the ECS was recalibrated to reflect the measure of a town's wealth by using the equalized town's grand list, which then determined ECS funding. He went on to say rather than saying Farmington was being punished under the new formula the way he looked at it was that we were victims of our own success. He explained Farmington was a great community with a robust grand list that grows every year and no one in the room would trade our grand list for more aid from the State of Connecticut. As a result a Town like Farmington suffers under the new formula because we have such a strong grand list.

Mr. Landry pointed out he would prefer to have other towns manager their fiscal affairs the way Farmington did instead of trading our grand list for a baseball stadium.

Mr. Demicco pointed out not every town has the advantages Farmington has such as an educated population and the per capita income level Farmington has, and it was very easy to bash other towns but Farmington is in an advantageous position.

Mr. Landry believed Farmington was in a strong position due to 50 years of strong leadership.

The Chair pointed out Farmington wasn't in Education Reference Group A and was a diverse community.

Mr. Demicco pointed out Farmington wasn't in the bottom ERG Group either. He believed the new formula was trying to shift funds to the communities in the bottom of the wealth spectrum. He told the Council he wasn't trying to defend it but merely trying to explain it.

The Manager explained that one of the problems with the ECS Grant was that money was constantly being shifted around. That money would be taken from one area of the grant and shifted to another, which affected the amount of State aid the Town received even if the overall amount of aid appeared equal.

Mr. Slap told the Council he felt there was a will to start meaningful pension reform but cautioned it would be a long time before the problem could be fully address.

Mrs. Gerratana told the Council that the reform of the ECS formula was partly to address the court cases facing the State over unfair education funding and she preferred to talk about getting every child the resources they needed to be successful and not who was getting more money and who was getting less pitting communities against each other.

The Chair asked Mr. Demicco for his thoughts about pensions.

Mr. Demicco believed the pension obligations were obligations and because the State had not been as responsible as it should have been to fund the obligations it was now in a position of catch up, which was very costly. In general he believed people that worked hard all their lives deserved an expectation of retirement that afforded them a certain amount of security. He felt it was fashionable to look at some of the excesses that had happened under the State pension plan but that the average State employee pension was around \$30,000. Going forward the problems needed to be addressed in a fair way but that exaggerations were unfair.

Mr. Landry pointed out that it was harder for those in the private sector to fund their retirements when they were being forced to take on unfunded and mismanaged State pensions. He also pointed out the State was the largest employer in the State of Connecticut and that created a lot of \$30,000 pensions.

Mr. Mastrobattista told the legislators his concern was the potential increase in the Town of Farmington's budget due to the shifting of these expenses to the towns. He felt there were many people living in Town on fixed incomes or just making ends meet and that the increased property taxes would beyond their ability to pay.

Mrs. Trimble told the legislators that part of the reason Farmington's grand list was so strong was because that the Town of Farmington created an environment for growth potential and a large part of that environment was the ability of the Town of Farmington to keep its tax and mill rate low. She was concerned that the Administration's actions were imperiling that environment. She believed as the balance tilted communities were being punished for good leadership. She believed funding alone wasn't going to improve poor performing school districts but how the money was spent was an important part of the equation. She quoted State Senator Beth Bye's comments about how the Governor's proposed budget punished communities for their successful good management. She also explained the problem Farmington was facing in light of the reduced funding when considering the Farmington High School project.

Mr. Demicco pledged if a budget is presented that is going to harm Farmington he would be voting no. He told the Council he wasn't going to defend the Governor's proposed budget and that he had only been trying to explain it. He believed all four of Farmington's legislators were going to work hard to make sure Farmington was going to be taken care of in the upcoming budget deliberations, which was what they always did.

Mrs. Suffredini told Mr. Demicco she was glad to hear him say he was going to work hard for Farmington. Her concern was the cuts in services and education that would be necessary to meet the loss in State funding the Governor was proposing. She didn't believe Farmington being a fiscally conservative town would simply raise taxes to meet the loss in funding.

The Chair commented that the State's poor fiscal situation had been created over many years of mismanagement and contrasted Farmington's fiscal management to the State's. She questioned Mr. Demicco's commitment to recovering funds for Farmington because of his statements referring to Farmington's relative wealth and that we should feel lucky to have what we have.

Mr. Demicco explained you had misunderstood what he was trying to say. He hadn't meant to suggest Farmington was all set. He didn't deny Farmington was a well-run Town only that it did have certain advantages.

The Chair told the legislators that as she attended regional meetings she was constantly hearing the towns have to support the cities. These assertions were being made on the fact that a town like Farmington has a strong grand list and fund balance so therefore can afford it. She felt the strong fiscal management of towns like Farmington shouldn't be punished for good behavior. She also asked the legislators to cut the unfunded mandates that punish the towns.

Mr. Demicco told the Council he felt in reviewing the Manager's memo that almost all of the items would be addressed during the session.

Mr. Vibert questioned how effective the Governor's ECS reforms were when a wealthy town such as Simsbury still maintained the bulk of their ECS money. He believed their grand list situation had been a conscious decision to keep Simsbury residential.

Mr. Slap agreed with Mr. Vibert that there were great number of inconsistencies when the list was examined using the new ECS formula and believed the Governor should have focused more on policies to promote job growth and the reformed ECS formula pitted towns against each other.

Mr. Vibert told the legislators that when costs were shifted from the State to the towns the property taxes go up punishing the home owners. He believed as the burden on the homeowner becomes larger the price of homes go down, so not only does the homeowner have to pay higher taxes the value of their home goes down.

The Chair told the legislators that over time she had heard from families that they want to be here for the schools but can't afford for their taxes to go up too much. She reminded them that Farmington was a diverse community and that many of the residents couldn't afford high tax increases. She asked the legislators to look at the spending in the State budget to save money as well as looking for increase income such as tolls.

Mrs. Suffredini asked the legislators to keep Farmington well informed as the process moved forward.

Mr. Demicco reminded the Manager the deadline for requests for State conveyances of land to the towns was coming up and to please let him know what issues the Town needed help with as session progressed.

2. Presentation - Town of Farmington Audit FY Ending June 30, 2016 Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C.

Leslie Zoll from Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C. reviewed their findings in the Town Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit, the State Single Audit, the Federal Single Audit, and the Management Letter and answered Council questions. The Town received a clean audit opinion.

D. Public Hearing

There was no public hearing held.

E. New Items

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to add as Agenda Item L-14 an appointment to the Veteran's Memorial Committee.

Adopted unanimously.

F. Public Comments

Bill Colton of 5 Serra Drive told the Council he had been a resident of Farmington since 1973. He asked the Council not act on Agenda Item N-5 to send a proposed easement involving Serra Drive to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review. He explained the history of the house on the south side of Serra Drive and how the neighbors had been promised that would never happen again. The incident 10 years prior had been very contentious, and he hoped that that type of situation could be avoided this time.

Annette Perzan of 3 Serra Drive told the Council she agreed with everything Mr. Colton had said. She had done her due diligence before she had bought her home and was told that the land across the street on Serra Drive was Town of Farmington open space and nothing would be built there. She explained how important the buffer of open space was to Serra Drive.

Victor Dacruz of 9 Serra Drive explained that the neighbors could have had the new house torn down but agreed to the easement for its driveway to Serra Drive in exchange for the assurance that no other homes would be built.

Christian Hoheb spoke as the representative of the applicant seeking the easement. He told the Council the action to move it forward was not substantive and in no way an approval. He had not come across any agreement the Town had with the home owners of Serra Drive. His client was simply asking for an easement similar to what had been granted for Lot 2 previously.

Annette Perzan of 3 Serra Drive told the Council the address of the proposed home was 1686 Farmington Avenue and therefore the driveway should come from Farmington Avenue not Serra Drive.

Christian Hoheb as representative of the applicant explained the topography was too steep to have the driveway come from Farmington Ave.

Betty Dacruz 9 Serra Drive was concerned the zoning was different for Farmington Avenue and a residential area such as Serra Drive, which could lead to problems in the future if the owner wanted to use the home for a business. She told the Council that the original builder of the development had wanted to build more homes and was denied by the Town.

Christian Hoheb as representative of the applicant told the Council the zone there was the same as Serra Drive and ZBA would never allow a business in the neighborhood. He wasn't concerned by environmental impacts from this project and TPZ could order mitigation of any as part of the permit.

G. Reading of the Minutes

1. January 10, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously.

2. January 24, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously.

H. Reading of Communications and Written Appeals

The Manager called the Council's attention to the letter she had written to legislative delegation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item H-1.

I. Report of the Committees

1. UConn Health Committee(s)

The Chair reported the Committee had met the previous week, the issues with the roads had been finished and the rest of the work would be interior.

2. Land Acquisition Committee

There was no report for Agenda Item I-2.

3. Green Efforts Committee

Mr. Vibert reported the Committee was looking into programs to promote recycling such as West Hartford and New Britain were implementing.

4. Joint Town of Farmington/City of Hartford Committee

5. Bicycle Advisory Committee

There was no report for Agenda Items I-4 or I-5.

6. Farmington Gateway Committee

Mr. Mastrobattista reported at the last meeting the Committee had accepted the report of the BL Company, and the next step was to present the report to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for incorporation into the Plan of Conservation and Development. He urged anyone interested to look at the report on the Town website. He encouraged the public to continue to come to the meetings as they started their next project. He thanked Mr. Jeff Apuzzo for his work that had started the project, the residents that had participated in the process, the Town Manager, Town Planner and Director of Economic Development for their support as well as the entire staff that had participated in the project. Mrs. Suffredini reported there had been a large turnout for at their last meeting and the public had had excellent questions and comments about the plan. She believed everyone was enthusiastic about getting the plan implemented.

7. Farmington High School Building Committee

Mrs. Trimble reported the Committee had formed a subcommittee to develop two more alternatives for consideration because Plan A and Plan D as presented were much larger than the State of Connecticut would consider for reimbursement and both were very similar in cost. The Committee wanted true alternatives to consider. The subcommittee created a revised Plan A based on 65% renovation and 35% new construction and a revised Plan D for a new school. The Committee will have the four plans for consideration at their March 1, 2017 meeting. It was expected at the meeting one plan would be selected to be moved forward to the Board of Education and Town Council. She assured the public the Superintendent of Schools was part of the development of all the options to assure each option met the needs of the students and staff.

J. Report of the Council Chair and Liaisons

1. Chair Report

The Chair reminded the Council and public the Council budget workshops were coming up in March, the Capital Project part of the budget was scheduled for the second meeting in February, and she planned on scheduling a second meeting with the legislative delegation to keep the Council updated on the State budget process.

2. Board of Education Liaison Report

Mr. Landry reported the Board of Education of Education had completed their recommended budget which had a 2.61% increase over the current year, which represented \$1,636,566.

3. Unionville Village Improvement Association Liaison Report

4. Town Plan and Zoning Liaison Report

There were no reports for Agenda Item J-3 or J-4.

5. Water Pollution Control Authority Report

Mrs. Trimble reported the WPCA was holding a public hearing on their proposed budget on March 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room. They proposed no increase in the rates from the previous year.

6. Economic Development Commission Liaison Report

There was no report for Agenda Item J-6.

7. Human Relations Commission Report

Mrs. Suffredini reported she had attended the Farmington Valley Muslim Center Open House which she felt was very well attended and a very positive experience for all the attendees. She told the Council that the Commission wanted them to know how helpful Matt Blume had been to the Commission and how helpful Officer Dan Apparo was to the Commission. She asked Kathy to look into the handicapped bathroom situation at Farmington High School, because she had heard from a resident that her only opportunity to use a bathroom was the custodian's bathroom and that was very stressful for her.

8. Chamber of Commerce Report

9. Other Liaison Reports

There were no reports for Agenda Items J-8 or J-9.

K. Report of the Town Manager

Colt Highway at I-84 Exit Ramp

The Manager reviewed the plans for the improvements to the I-84/Route 6 intersection and asked for Council consensus on a preferred solution. The Council gave consensus to move forward to begin the process.

Senior Exercise Equipment

The Manager reported that Nancy Parent, Director of Recreational and Community Services wanted the Council to know how popular and well utilized the new exercise equipment for seniors was.

State Grant Estimate Report

The Manager reported there had been no changes since last month.

Grand List

The Manager reported the grand list had grown for the fourth year in a row. The increase was \$22,007,458 or .62%. Real estate increased .27%, Personal Property increased 5.2% and motor vehicle increased 1.08%.

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

Adopted unanimously.

L. Appointments

1. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (R)
2. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (R)
3. North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc. (Wienke)(R)
4. Building Code Board of Appeals (Hammerberg)(D)
5. Farmington Historic District Commission Alternate (Haviland)(R)
6. Housing Authority (Mason)(D)
7. Housing Authority (Lawless) (R)
8. Joint Green Efforts Committee (Foote)

There were no appointments made for Agenda Items L-1 – L.9.

9. Joint Green Efforts Committee

Motion was made and seconded (Vibert/Suffredini) that Rodger Phillips be appointed to the Joint Green Efforts Committee beginning immediately for an indefinite term.

Adopted unanimously.

10. Farmington Valley Health District (Parlow) (D)

There was no action taken on Agenda Item L-10.

11. Town Plan & Zoning Commission

Motion was made and seconded that Jack Matava be appointed to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission beginning immediately and ending January 2018.

Adopted unanimously.

12. Justice of the Peace

Motion was made and seconded (Vibert/Suffredini) that Mary Grace Reed be appointed as a Justice of the Peace for the balance of a four-year term beginning immediately and ending January 4, 2021.

Adopted unanimously.

13. Human Relations Commission

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) that Lisa Berzins be appointed to the Human Relations Commission for the balance of a two-year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2017.

Adopted unanimously.

14. Veteran's Memorial Committee

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) that James Hayes be appointed to the Veteran's Memorial Committee for the balance of a six-year term beginning immediately and ending January 2020.

Adopted unanimously.

M. Old Business

1. To take action on the 2017 Blighted Building List.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to remove from the table the motion to take action on the 2017 Blighted Building List:

23 Lakeview Drive
63 Main Street (Unionville)
15 Walnut Street.

Passed

Voting yes Nickerson, Landry, Mastrobattista, Palumbo, Suffredini and Trimble.

Voting no Vibert.

N. New Business

1. To set a public hearing on March 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Manager's 2017-2018 Recommended Budget.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to set a public hearing on March 14, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Manager's 2017-2018 Recommended Budget.

Adopted unanimously.

2. To set a public hearing on March 14, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers to amend Chapter 55 "Purchasing" of the Farmington Town Code.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to set a public hearing on March 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers to amend Chapter 55 "Purchasing" of the Farmington Town Code.

Adopted unanimously.

3. To appoint Members of the Unionville Historic District and Properties Commission as a Historic District and Properties Study Committee.

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

Adopted unanimously.

4. To authorize the Town Manager to execute all documents necessary for completion of the project associated with the construction of the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Temple.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to authorize the Town Manager to execute all documents necessary for completion of the project associated with the construction of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints Temple.

Adopted unanimously.

5. To make a referral to Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a report under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes to request an easement across town property to allow 1686 Farmington Avenue to access Serra Drive for the purpose of constructing a single family home.

Mr. Palumbo recused himself because he owed property that abuts the property in question.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to make a referral to Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a report under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes to request an easement across town property to allow 1686 Farmington Avenue to access Serra Drive for the purpose of constructing a single family home.

After discussion, Mrs. Trimble withdrew her motion and Mr. Mastrobattista withdrew his second.

6. To accept Nadia's Way as a Town Road, from the intersection of Main Street(Route 10) a distance of approximately 510 Feet to its existing terminus.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to accept Nadia's Way as a Town road, from the intersection of Main Street (Route 10) a distance of approximately 510 feet to its terminus.

Adopted unanimously.

7. To authorize the Town Manager to execute the required documentation for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farm Viability Grant Program Award for the purpose of infrastructure improvements at Fisher Farm/Sub Edge Farm located at 199 Town Farm Road.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to authorize the Town Manager to execute the required documentation for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farm Viability Grant Program Award for the purpose of infrastructure improvements at Fisher Farm/Sub Edge Farm located at 199 Town Farm Road.

Adopted unanimously.

8. To approve property tax refunds.

Mr. Palumbo recused himself from participation on this agenda item because his business appears on the list.

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

NAME	REASON	AMOUNT
1)Acar Leasing Limited	Assessor's adjustment	\$266.93
2)Ari Fleet LT	Assessor's adjustment	\$905.91
3)Jasper Arnone	Double payment	\$14.18
4)Denise Atkinson	Assessor's adjustment	\$6.45
5)Ellen Babcock	Assessor's adjustment	\$18.04
6)Lucille Bessoni	Assessor's adjustment	\$186.39
7)CCAP Auto Lease	Assessor's adjustment	\$96.65
8)J & D Cianciolo	Double payment	\$2,316.73
9)Robin Cmiel	Assessor's adjustment	\$12.46
10)CMS/I Recruit	Double payment	\$298.80
11)Country Club of Farmington	Assessor's adjustment	\$5,099.32
12)Farmington Bank	Overpayment	\$1,000.00
13)Alfred Ferri	Assessor's adjustment	\$58.57
14)Catherine Gibson	Assessor's adjustment	\$265.92
15)Honda Lease Trust	Assessor's adjustment	\$20.91

16)Hyundai Lease Titling	Assessor's adjustment	\$284.63
17)Armen Kevorkian	Return of trash barrel	\$117.48
18)JP Morgan	Assessor's adjustment	\$333.08
19)Marceli Kuprewicz	Assessor's adjustment	\$149.26
20)Claire Ludlam	Assessor's adjustment	\$38.67
21)Mackb LLC	Double payment	\$6,608.58
22)Main St. Co LLC	Double payment	\$2,024.51
23)Ruth & Thomas Miller	Assessor's adjustment	\$41.30
24)Motorlease Corp.	Assessor's adjustment	\$34.41
25)Kenneth Namnoun	Double payment	\$1,810.02
26)Kathleen Perry	Assessor's adjustment	\$8.66
27)Porsche Leasing	Assessor's adjustment	\$2,043.14
28)Powerhouse Ptrs	Double payment	\$826.12
29)Bradley Schuster	Assessor's adjustment	\$43.00
30)J & J Seldorff	Double payment	\$9,867.04
31)Matthew Stamp	Assessor's adjustment	\$27.54
32)Zeena Tawfik	Assessor's adjustment	\$230.56
33)USB Leasing	Assessor's adjustment	\$110.75
34)Vault Trust	Assessor's adjustment	\$550.61
35)Ajaliyu Wamuo	Assessor's adjustment	\$400.10
36)James Welch	Assessor's adjustment	\$34.57
37)Steven Wilson	Assessor's adjustment	\$235.63
	TOTAL:	\$36,386.92

Adopted unanimously.

O. Executive Session

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to move to Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. for the discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate with the Town Council and Town Manager present.

The Council returned to Open Session at 9:30 p.m.

P. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula B. Ray

Paula B. Ray, Clerk

**MESSAGE TO OUR STATE LEGISLATORS
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

- 1) GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE
- 2) WORK FOR MANDATE RELIEF FOR MUNICIPALITIES
 - ELIMINATE THE SPENDING CAP
 - INCREASE PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLDS
 - ELIMINATE THE CHRO SET ASIDE PROGRAM
 - LOBBY THE FEDERAL EPA - STORM WATER PERMIT - TO REDUCE THE REQUIREMENTS OF PERMIT
- 3) NO NEW MANDATES / WORK TO REFORM CURRENT MANDATES
- 4) DON'T PUNISH FARMINGTON FOR BEING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

THANK YOU!

Agenda Item C-1

Mandates – Speaking Points

- **Prevailing Wage**
 - Increase the prevailing wage thresholds. Numbers have not been increased since 1991. Prevailing wage adds significant costs to town projects.
- **Defer the CHRO municipal mandate (Set asides)**
 - In October 2015 the state set-aside requirements were extended to municipalities. This applies to state-funded public works contracts in excess of \$50,000. The contract must be set-aside for a certified Small Business Enterprise. While the Town supports small and minority owned businesses, this requirement is onerous to manage and may increase the cost of certain public works contracts if potential lowest qualified bidders do not meet the requirements of the set aside program.
- **Eliminate municipal spending cap for all municipalities.**
 - We have shown that we can be fiscally responsible; the State need not set caps on Farmington.
- **Binding Arbitration Modernization**
 - The current statutory used by arbitrators are vague, and the process limits the review capacity of the local legislative authority in that it effectively turns over local budgets to arbitrators who are not town residents.
- **Storm Water Permit**
 - The Storm Water Permit is an onerous and expensive mandate from the Federal government.
 - Since this is a federal mandate we understand that the State cannot change the requirement. However, we would like to see the State of Connecticut lobby the EPA to reduce the requirements of maintaining in compliance with the permit.

Farmington's Summary: Governor's Proposed Budget

Agenda Item C-1

- Loss of approximately \$2 million in state grants.
- Requires the Town to pay an additional \$3,343,850 to fund a portion of the State Teacher's Retirement fund.
- This equates to approximately a 5% tax increase or a 1.26 mill increase. (With no other changes to the budget)
- The average homeowner will see a \$295 tax increase. (Average assessment - \$232,074)
- Farmington is ranked 28 out of 169 towns for the largest negative impact from the reduction of grants/increase of expenses.



Agenda Item C-1

Town of Farmington: State Grants as Adopted/Proposed in State Budget		
	FY 17	FY 18
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$ 3,134,814	\$ 2,526,231
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$ 29,691	\$ 19,650
Grants for Municipal Projects	\$ 545,804	\$ -
MRSF - Revenue Sharing	\$ 335,287	\$ 482,637
Town Aid Road	\$ 373,438	\$ 373,438
ECS Grant	\$ 1,289,833	\$ 382,416
TOTAL	\$ 5,708,867	\$ 3,784,372
		-33.71%

INCORPORATED 1645



January 4, 2017

Senator Beth Bye
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Michael Demicco
Legislative Office Building, Room 400
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Terry Gerratana
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Derek Slap
Legislative Office Building, Room 400
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

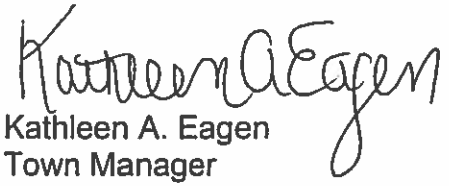
Dear Senator Bye, Senator Gerratana; Representative Slap, Representative Demicco:

This letter is intended to express the Town of Farmington's opposition to Governor Malloy and the Office of Policy and Management's decision to cut \$50 million in municipal aid for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17). Farmington has already passed its budget. Mid-year cuts in state aid could mean further cuts in necessary local services, higher property taxes and/or more employee layoffs. Per a December 29, 2016 letter from the Office of Policy and Management, The Town of Farmington will lose \$194,073 of its State aid for education funding and \$137,501 from LoCIP for FY17.

In addition to maintaining public education, PILOT and sales tax sharing with towns, the Fiscal Year 2017 State Budget must mitigate the impact of any cuts through structural mandates reform. Education and infrastructure improvements are the foundation of services provided by local governments and the services taxpayers expect. Cuts in state aid, especially mid-year, could severely impact local budgets and compromise our ability to provide these fundamental services. In addition, cuts in aid are harmful to the State's overall economy, further demonstrating the continued need for State and Local collaboration.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at 860.675.2350 with further questions.

Sincerely,


Kathleen A. Eagen
Town Manager

KAE/as



MOTION:

Agenda Item N-3

To appoint the attached members of the Unionville Historic District and Properties Commission as a Historic District and Properties Study Committee.

/Attachment



N-3

January 10, 2017

Ms. Nancy Nickerson, Town Council Chair
Farmington Town Council
1 Monteith Dr.
Farmington, CT 06032

Dear Ms. Nickerson,

On behalf of the Unionville Historic District and Properties Commission (UHDPC), I would like to request that the Town Council appoint a Unionville Historic District and Properties Study Committee. The UHDPC is excited to embark on an undertaking to expand the existing historic district. There are currently four property owners that have expressed interest in having their properties added to the Unionville Historic District. The first step in this process is to have the Town Council appoint the Study Committee. The Study Committee will be comprised of the same members currently serving on the UHDPC. They are the following individuals:

Members: Lisa Johnson, Chair; Matt Pogson, Vice-Chair; Matt Ross, Secretary; Sherry Horton and Bob Hoffman

Alternates: Chris Forster, Howard Martin and Ann Vibert Wuelfing

Many thanks for your assistance with this matter.

Best regards,

Shannon K. Rutherford, P.E.

Assistant Town Planner

Staff Assistant to the Unionville Historic District and Properties Commission

Cc: Kathleen Eagen, Farmington Town Manager
Lisa Johnson, Chair UHDPC
Paula Ray, Town Clerk
File

