

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF FARMINGTON HELD APRIL 25, 2016**

The Annual Town Meeting of electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Farmington, Connecticut, was held at the Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington Connecticut, on Monday April 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Paula B. Ray, Town Clerk called the meeting to order and read the Warning for the meeting, which was published in the Hartford Courant on April 12, 2016 and which is recorded in these records immediately preceding these minutes. There were 47 electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in attendance.

Mr. Christian R. Hoheb was chosen moderator of the meeting and Mrs. Paula B. Ray acted as clerk. Mr. Hoheb outlined the procedures that would be followed for the meeting and for the referendum process.

Item 1:

Mrs. Meredith Trimble introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Michael Clark:

Resolved, that the Town Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 be approved.

The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the resolution passed.

Item 2:

Mr. Peter Mastrobattista introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Philip Dunn:

Resolved, that the budget recommended by the Town Council for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 be approved.

The Town Council Recommended Budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 is recorded following these minutes.

The Moderator called upon Nancy Nickerson, Chair of the Town Council to make remarks. Mrs. Nickerson discussed the fiscal condition of the Town of Farmington using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item 2-1. Mrs. Nickerson explained the Town Council had based their recommended budget on the goals outlined in the Town of Farmington Strategic Plan and the goal to maintain excellent services while being fiscally responsible. She pointed out the Town of Farmington had the lowest mill rate of the 22 towns and cities in the Hartford area, and at the same time excellent schools, excellent town services and a nationally accredited police department. She told the audience the Town of Farmington was strong economically, and she believed the Town Council Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 continued the Town's commitment to excellent services to the Town's businesses and residents as well as this year providing for the expansion of services.

The Moderator called upon Kathy Eagen, Town Manager to present the details of the Town Council Recommend Budget Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Ms. Eagan reviewed the expenditures for the Town, school system, debt service and capital improvements. She reviewed the Special Services charges, Westwoods Golf Course budget, Grand List, revenues, grants, and charges using the Annual Town Meeting Town of Farmington 2016-2017 Town Council Recommended Budget presentation recorded following these minutes as Agenda Item 2-2

The Moderator called upon Christopher Fagan, Chair of the Board of Education and Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools to make remarks. They reviewed the Board of Education's portion of the Town Council's Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget and discussed the goals and accomplishments of the school system using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item 2-3.

The Moderator called for comments on the Town Council's Recommended Budget.

Don Dube of 94 Oakridge Road asked what funding the Town of Farmington received from the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government in education grants. He asked if the Town had a contingency plan if State Grant funding was drastically reduced because of the current State of Connecticut budget crisis.

Rakesh Kansara of 74 Alpine Drive believed the increases in the Salary and Benefit Board of Education accounts were very high in comparison to the rate of inflation.

Beth Kintner of 24 Farmstead Lane thanked all the Town officials and staff for their work on the budget. She felt the Board of Education budget had been reduced too much. She pointed out even some of the Board of Education members had tried to reduce the Board of Education budget in harmful ways. She felt the effort to manage the tax rate had been done to the detriment to the school system. She told the audience she was having trouble getting parents to support the budget because of their dissatisfaction with the reductions made to the Board of Education budget.

Michael Clark of 13 Tanglewood Road told the audience he was enthusiastic about the proposed budget. He believed the low turnout for the Annual Town Meeting was the result of the contentment with the proposed budget and the Town's services in general. He pointed out that neither the Town nor the schools were getting budget cuts and that they were both getting increases to their budgets. He thanked everyone for their work on the budget.

Emily Pettit of 30 Dunne Wood Court thanked everyone for their work on the budget and respected their efforts to be fiscally responsible. She was concerned though that the schools had been cut too much and that over time it would affect the quality of the schools.

Ned Statchen of 6 Bella Lane thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He asked for an explanation of the new traffic officer position in the budget.

Demetrios Giannaros of 56 Basswood Road thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He told the audience how important it was to invest in education and hoped the schools would expand the world language programming. He was disappointed the technology budget for the schools had been cut.

David Houf of 4 Cobblestone Road thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He believed the budget was appropriate and should be accepted by reasonable adults. He pointed out that during hard economic times proposed budgets needed to be realistic.

Dawn Ruhland Polking of 16 Pequabuck Lane asked that Reading Recovery not be cut any further.

Paul Kix of 53 Garden Street thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He disagreed with a previous speaker that cuts hadn't been made to the Board of Education budget and used the reduction in Reading Recovery as an example.

Item 3

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Item 3 contained in the Warning of the meeting and to waive the reading of the full resolution, which was available at the entry tables.

Mr. Gary Palumbo moved and Mr. Peter Mastrobattista seconded the resolution contained in Item 3 of the Warning and to waive the reading of the full resolution.

The Moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

The Moderator called on Kathy Eagen, Town Manager to review the proposal, which was done using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item 3-1.

There were no questions or comments.

Item 4

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Item 4 contained in the Warning of the meeting and to waive the reading of the full resolution, which was available at the entry tables.

Mr. Chris Forster moved and Mr. Michael Clark seconded the resolution contained in the Warning for Item 4 and to waive the reading of the full resolution.

The Moderator called on Kathy Eagen, Town Manager to review the proposal, which was done using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item 4-1.

The Moderator opened the meeting for public comment.

Mr. Ned Statchen of 6 Bella Lane asked how old the fire truck that was being replaced was.

Item 5

The Moderator asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. Hearing none the Moderator moved to Item 6.

Item 6

The resolutions presented under items 2 through 4 will be placed upon the voting tabulators under the following headings, respectively:

1. "SHALL THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON PRESENTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BE APPROVED?

YES

NO"

2. SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$4,000,000 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"

3. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$600,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF A PUMPER FIRE ENGINE TO BE STATIONED AT THE SOUTHWEST FIRE STATION 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 said resolution shall vote "No".

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn to referendum on the items contained in 2 - 4 of the Warning to the Annual Town Meeting.

Mrs. Nancy Nickerson moved and Mr. Peter Mastrobattista seconded to adjourn, for a vote upon voting tabulators on May 5, 2016 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm on the resolutions contained under Items 2-4 of the Warning, at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula B. Ray, Clerk