

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
MARCH 27, 2023**

The Deputy Town Clerk, Twila Lycette, opened the meeting at 8:45 AM and read the following:

**TO:** S. Clyde Ross, a Resident of the Town of Farmington in the County of Franklin and State of Maine.

**GREETING:** In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Farmington, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF MARCH, 2023, at 8:45 o'clock in the morning to act upon Articles 1 and 2. The polls will open at 9:00 o'clock in the morning and close at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon Article 2:

And also, notify and warn the said Inhabitants to meet at the Mt. Blue High School Auditorium at 129 Seamon Road in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF MARCH, 2023, at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to hear the results of the secret ballot on Articles 1 and 2 and to act on Articles 3 through 41, all the Articles being set out below, to wit:

**Article 1:** To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

The Town Clerk open the floor for nominations Ballots were cast. Shane Cote nominated Paul Mills. Seeing no other nominations, nominations ceased. Seven ballots were cast.

Paul Mills was duly elected and sworn into office. The moderator moved to Article 2 as follows:

**Article 2:** To choose by ballot, according to the provisions of Title 30-A, M.R.S. Section 2528 as amended, two Selectmen, each for a term of three years, two School Directors, each for a term of three years.

The Moderator, Paul Mills appointed Shane Cote as Deputy Moderator. The Deputy Moderator, Shane Cote was duly sworn into office. The Moderator declared the Polls open at 9:00 AM. The Deputy Moderator declared the polls closed at 5:00 PM and the meeting recessed. The Moderator called the meeting back to order at 7PM at Mt. Blue High School. The moderator led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and announced the following annual election results:

**RESULTS OF BALLOTING**

For Selectman, Two Positions for 3 Year Terms

356 Stephan M. Bunker  
262 Amy N. De Pauw  
348 Dennis E. O'Neil  
6 Write-Ins: Marcus Baker, John Moore, Michael Pratt, Nicholas  
Georgen, and 2 for Dennis Haszko  
278 Blanks (overvotes/undervotes)  
1250 Total Cast (divided by two positions or 625 Ballots Cast)

For RSU #9 School Board of Directors, Two Positions for 3 Year Terms

222 Joseph W. Clark  
346 Scott D. Erb  
335 Todd Willard Jones  
229 Sarah S. Stebbins  
2 Write-Ins: Joseph Clark, Nicholas Georgen  
116 Blanks (overvotes/undervotes)  
1250 Total Cast (divided by two positions or 625 Ballots Cast)

The Moderator announced he had appointed Richard Morton a Deputy Moderator prior to the meeting and that Mr. Morton had been duly sworn.

The Chairman of the Board of Selectman called Scott Landry to the lectern and presented him with a Years of Service award for his 6 years of dedicated service to the Town of Farmington as a Select Board Member.

Selectman Smith called Jane Woodman to the lectern. Senator Russell Black presented Jane with a Legislative Sentiment from the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature and the people of the State of Maine commending her for the many contributions she has made to her community. The community responded with a standing ovation.

Matthew Smith, Seconded by Joshua Bell moved to allow the following non-residents permission to speak:

- Matthew Foster, Parks & Recreation
- Allison Brochu, Assessing
- Phil Hutchins, Public Works Director
- Stephen Millett, Sewer Superintendent
- Stephen Kaiser, Code Enforcement Officer
- Tammy Bureau, Treasurer
- Cornell Knight, Interim Town Manager

VOTE: 2/3rds having voted in favor, the motion passed.

The moderator proceeded with the next article.

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 30-A M.R.S. section 5721-7, to **INCREASE THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT** of \$4,605,887 established for Farmington by state law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The budget recommended by the Selectmen meets the 2023 property tax levy limit. Because however, the Town Meeting process is active, interactive, and unpredictable; the Selectmen cannot know with certainty whether the municipal budget being proposed will be increased or decreased by the Town Meeting. Therefore, it is advisable to include this Article if there is any chance that the Town Meeting will raise and appropriate sums in excess of the property tax levy limit. It is also possible that unanticipated reductions in non-property tax revenues will result in a tax commitment that exceeds the limit. In such cases, state law requires voter action to authorize an increase in the limit. A vote on this Article requires a written ballot.*

**Matthew Smith and seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to increase the property tax levy limit of \$4,605,887 established for Farmington by state law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.**

VOTE: YES 103 NO 22

**Article 4:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$992,898	\$1,278,423
Selectmen Recommended	992,898	1,025,426
Budget Committee Recommended	992,898	1,025,426
Town Meeting Approved	860,275	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	Appropriated <u>2022</u>	Requested <u>2023</u>	Selectmen and Budget Committee <u>Recommended</u>
1. Administration	\$266,479	\$291,953	\$290,544
2. Assessor	115,848	144,451	144,451
3. Treasurer / Clerk	331,957	493,119	457,919
4. Committees & Events	4,700	7,450	3,950
5. Municipal Building	82,591	102,066	103,562
6. Tax Anticipation Note			0
7. General Assistance	25,000	30,000	25,000
8. Revaluation	27,900	30,000	0
9. Conservation Comm.	800	30,000	0
7. MB Reserve	<u>5,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$860,275</u>	<u>\$1,308,423</u>	<u>\$1,025,426</u>

The Administration Budget includes personnel costs for the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Executive Assistant, and one-half of the Planning Assistant, related office supply and equipment costs, and expenses for professional services such as the Town Report printing, annual audit, public notice advertising, routine legal services, and pay adjustments for 2023. The Town pays 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for full-time employees in this Department.

The Assessor's Department includes personnel costs for a full-time Assessor, minor continued services from John E. O'Donnell & Associates, Inc., office supplies, software licenses, and association dues. Also included is a new lease agreement of \$189 per month for 63 months for a large new format plotter/printer, \$27,500 for tax mapping updates and conversion, and \$30,000 for the Revaluation Reserve Account, the balance of which is currently \$265,497.

The Town Clerk/HR & Treasurer Budget includes salaries for Town Clerk/HR Director & Treasurer, and wages for AP Counter Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk/Counter Clerk along with Treasurer pay adjustment at six months. This budget includes funds for election costs.

Committees and Events includes Memorial Day Flags (\$1,000), Planning Board (\$200), Contingency (\$200), and Special Projects (\$2,500) which is a discretionary account for the Selectmen through which they may authorize expenditures for special projects, promotions, or events deemed appropriate.

The Municipal Buildings budget includes funds to maintain and operate the Town Office and various outbuildings and structures not covered by other departments.

The Tax Anticipation Note is no longer used to provide funds for the Town to operate until taxes are due. The Town borrows funds from the Sewer Department and repays them.

The General Assistance program provides for the basic needs of persons who apply and meet the qualifying requirements for assistance. The 2022 appropriation was \$25,000. Expenditures totaled \$16,066 in 2022. The state reimburses seventy percent of this expenditure and accrues to the General Fund.

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Joshua Bell moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 4 as follows:**

**\$ 1,025,426**

**Sally Speich requested the town add \$800 to fund the Conservation Commission**

again this year.

Stephen Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved Amendment #1 to add \$800 for the Conservation Commission bringing the new total to \$ 1,026,226. Amendment #1 Voted and passed.

Main Motion as Amended #1 is as follows:

1. Administration	\$290,544
2. Assessor	144,451
3. Treasurer / Clerk	457,919
4. Committees & Events	3,950
5. Municipal Building	103,562
6. Tax Anticipation Note	0
7. General Assistance	25,000
8. Revaluation	0
9. Conservation Comm.	800
7. MB Reserve	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,026,226</b>

**VOTED: Main motion as Amended #1 voted and passed.**

Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to allow non-resident Mark Roy permission to speak if needed. VOTE: 2/3rds having voted in favor, the motion passed.

**Article 5:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **CODE ENFORCEMENT** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$236,000	\$194,472
Selectmen Recommended	236,000	\$194,472
Budget Committee Recommended	236,000	\$194,472
Approved	178,316	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget request covers the operational expenses for two and one-half employees who oversee Code Administration, Planning, and Community Development functions. Included are pay adjustments for 2023.*

Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 5:

**\$ 194, 472**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 6:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **POLICE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,695,400	\$1,853,197
Selectmen Recommended	1,695,400	1,853,197
Budget Committee Recommended	1,695,400	1,853,197
Town Meeting Approved	1,695,400	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Police Department budget reflects increases for the anticipated return of a full complement of Police Officers. The budget includes negotiated contractual obligations for union members and 3% Cost of Living Increases for union and non-union members. The 2023 budget allows for public safety protection 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. This includes expanded Animal Control services. Also included are*

*expenses related to building, operations, vehicles, supplies, and maintenance.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 6:**

**\$ 1,853,197**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 7:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$963,799	\$916,331
Selectmen Recommended	963,799	916,331
Budget Committee Recommended	963,799	916,331
Town Meeting Approved	884,247	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The increase in the Fire Department’s request includes benefits for the full year for the two full-time “Utility” firefighters that were hired in 2022 and the added cost to upgrade the retirement plan for the full-time firefighters. The budget includes a 3% pay increase for personnel in 2023. Also Included are some adjustments related to operations to adjust for the rising costs of supplies and equipment.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Judy Murphy moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 7:**

**\$916,331**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 8:** To see if Town will vote to create a **RECREATION PROGRAMS SPECIAL REVENUE** fund.

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The revenue source of this fund shall be from jersey fees and Hippach Field signage fees. Expenditures from this fund will be to support recreation department programming. The unexpended balance of this fund shall not lapse into the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year but, instead, shall be carried forward each year to be used for its intended purpose.*

Selectmen Recommend Approval.

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved the following for Article 8:**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 9:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PARKS AND RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER DEPARTMENTS** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$564,695	\$447,607
Selectmen Recommended	\$564,695	\$453,553
Budget Committee Recommended	\$564,695	\$453,553
Approved	\$380,957	

	<i>Appropriated</i> <u>2022</u>	<i>Requested</i> <u>2023</u>	<i>Recommended</i> <u>2023</u>
<i>Parks and Recreation</i>	\$218,628	\$239,972	\$243,327
<i>Community Center</i>	<u>\$162,329</u>	<u>\$207,635</u>	<u>\$210,226</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$380,957</b>	<b>\$447,607</b>	<b>\$453,553</b>

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Parks and Recreation Budget includes operating expenses for all recreational activities, including personnel costs for the full-time Director, part-time seasonal positions, program directors, and coaches. The Community Center budget includes personnel costs for one full-time Assistant Director and one full-time Maintenance position, as well as several part-time seasonal positions. Both budgets include pay adjustments for personnel and reflect an increase in utilities, maintenance, and program supplies costs, and an increase in the minimum wage for 2023.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 9:**

**Parks & Recreation \$ 243,327**  
**Community Center \$ 210,226**  
**Total \$ 453,553**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 10:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **OTHER PROTECTIONS** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$584,900	\$617,641
Selectmen Recommended	584,900	617,641
Budget Committee Recommended	584,900	617,641
Town Meeting Approved	584,900	

<i>STATEMENT OF FACT:</i>	<i>Appropriated</i> <u>2022</u>	<i>Requested</i> <u>2023</u>
1. <i>Streetlights</i>	\$ 70,000	\$ 100,000
2. <i>Fire Hydrants</i>	350,000	345,475
3. <i>Insurances</i>	106,800	120,000
4. <i>Ambulance</i>	36,500	47,166
5. <i>Traffic Light Maintenance</i>	<u>21,500</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$468,273</b>	<b>\$617,641</b>

*The Street Light budget has increased to allow for a rate increase at CMP. The cost of Fire Hydrants has not increased. The hydrant cost is governed by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and is based on a percentage of the Water Company’s total operating expenses. The Insurance category is based on anticipated premium costs in 2023. Included are employee cash handling bonds, blanket property and automobile coverages, public officials’ liability, and unemployment insurance. The Ambulance subsidy is established by a contractual agreement with NorthStar Ambulance. The Traffic Light Maintenance budget is based on 2022 actual expenditures and 2023 projected costs.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 10:**

**\$617,641**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 11:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,841,582	\$1,498,168
Selectmen Recommended	1,841,582	1,498,168
Budget Committee Recommended	1,841,582	1,596,898
Town Meeting Approved	1,642,399	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Public Works Department budget covers the operational expenses required to maintain the Town's 120 miles of roads. The budget covers the personnel costs for eleven full-time and two part-time employees. One new foreman position is being added to oversee the volume of new roadway construction and to oversee snow removal, and other projects.*

**Judy Murphy, seconded by Clyde Ross moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 11:**

**\$1,596,898**

**Konrad Bailey, seconded by Shane Cote moved the question. VOTE: 2/3<sup>rd</sup> having voted in favor, the moderator called for the vote.**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$450,000 from the General Fund's **UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE** and transfer that money to the Public Works Equipment Reserve and Facilities Reserve.

*STATEMENT OF FACT: \$100,000 to Facilities Reserve, this money will be used to pave the parking lot at the Highway Garage, and for facilities maintenance. \$350,000 to Equipment Reserves, will be used to purchase a plow truck and pickup trucks.*

*Selectmen Recommends Approval*

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved the following for Article 12:**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 13:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **RECYCLING DEPARTMENT** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$178,050	\$195,425
Selectmen Recommended	178,050	195,035
Budget Committee Recommended	178,050	195,035
Town Meeting Approved	178,050	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget covers all operating expenses for the transfer station and two current part-time employees for 2023. A 6% inflation cost for waste disposal costs at the waste management facility is included.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 13:**

**\$ 195,035**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **STATE OF MAINE LOCAL ROAD**

**ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** (LRAP) funds in the amount of \$160,000 for the year 2023, and to authorize the expenditure of said funds for road improvements.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$154,900	\$160,000
Selectmen Recommended	154,900	160,000
Budget Committee Recommended	154,900	160,000
Town Meeting Approved	154,900	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The figure shown in this Article is the amount the Town is projected to receive from the Maine Department of Transportation for 2023 funding. This allocation is used for capital improvements to Town roads.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved the following for Article 14 :**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 15:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be **TRANSFERRED TO THE RESERVE FUNDS.**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
CEO Equipment Reserve	\$ 1,240	\$0
Revaluation Reserve	27,900	30,000
Conservation Commission Reserve	800	0
Municipal Buildings Reserve	5,000	10,000
Fire Department Equipment Reserve	48,000	150,000
Police Department K-9 Reserve	750	0
Police Department Building Reserve	3,500	0
Police Department Equipment Reserve	5,000	10,000
Police Department Vehicle Reserve	20,000	35,000
Public Works Equipment Reserve	137,500	105,000
Public Works Facilities Reserve	20,000	50,000
Public Works Sidewalks Reserve	0	25,000
Municipal Landfill Reserve	4,000	10,000
Public Works Roads Reserve	510,000	656,645
Hippach Field and Parks Reserve	0	5,000
Parks Vehicle and Equipment Reserve	0	2,500
Total	\$783,690	\$1,089,145

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$783,690	\$1,089,145
Selectmen Recommended	\$783,690	\$1,089,145
Budget Committee Recommended	\$783,690	\$1,089,145
Approved	\$783,690	

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 15:**

	<u>2023</u>
<b>CEO Equipment Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Revaluation Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<b>Conservation Commission Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Municipal Buildings Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
<b>Fire Department Equipment Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>
<b>Police Department K-9 Reserve</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Police Department Building Reserve</b>	<b>0</b>



<b>Police Department Equipment Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
<b>Police Department Vehicle Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>
<b>Public Works Equipment Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 105,000</b>
<b>Public Works Facilities Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
<b>Public Works Sidewalks Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b>Municipal Landfill Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
<b>Public Works Roads Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 656,645</b>
<b>Hippach Field and Parks Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>Parks Vehicle and Equipment Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,089,145</b>

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 16:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **DEBT SERVICE** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$260,400	\$95,000
Selectmen Recommended	260,400	95,000
Budget Committee Recommended	260,400	95,000
Town Meeting Approved	370,900	

<i>STATEMENT OF FACT:</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
<i>Engine 1</i>	\$118,051	\$56,650	\$56,650
<i>Police Building Debt</i>	42,000	37,763	37,763
<i>Engine 2</i>	42,800		
<i>Police Building Debt</i>	57,500		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$260,400</u>	<u>\$94,413</u>	<u>\$94,413</u>

*The amount indicated in this Article represents the debt service (principal and interest) for bonds for the police station renovations and Engine 1 debt. The police building debt will be paid off in 2026, and Engine 1 in 2029.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 16:**

**\$ 95,000**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 17:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **LEGAL RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the purpose of funding costs associated with actual or potential litigation for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$5,000	\$5,000
Selectmen Recommended	5,000	5,000
Budget Committee Recommended	5,000	5,000
Town Meeting Approved	5,000	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The various administrative accounts contain funding to cover routine legal costs related to tax liens, personnel issues, contracts, general liability, zoning, etc. Those amounts are not adequate to cover ongoing litigation and unforeseen legal expenses. The Legal Reserve Account provides for such expenditures. The amount shown is requested to replenish the account and achieve a target balance of \$30,000 for legal expenses this year.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephen Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 17:**

**\$ 5,000**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 18:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$2,500	\$1,500
Selectmen Recommended	2,500	1,500
Budget Committee Recommended	2,500	1,500
Town Meeting Approved	2,500	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The ADA Reserve Account is used to improve accessibility to public facilities for people with disabilities. It currently has a balance of \$13,942.*

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Joshua Bell moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 18:**

**\$ 1,500**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 19:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FARMINGTON LIBRARY** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$228,000	\$248,870
Selectmen Recommended	228,000	248,870
Budget Committee Recommended	228,000	248,870
Town Meeting Approved	228,000	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The amount requested represents approximately 75% of the Library's total projected budget for 2023 and is an 11.15% increase over the 2022 Town appropriation.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Judy Murphy moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 19:**

**\$ 248,870**

**Barbara Marshall, seconded by Matthew Smith moved Amendment #1 for \$ 240,590. Amendment #1 voted and passed.**

**Main Motion as Amended #1 is as follows:**

**\$ 240,590**

**VOTE: Main Motion as Amended #1 voted and passed.**

**Article 20:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **GAY CEMETERY** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,000	\$1,000
Selectmen Recommended	1,000	1,000

Budget Committee Recommended	1,000	1,000
Town Meeting Approved	1,000	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Gay Cemetery, named after the Gay family, is located on South Strong Road. It is a 100-plot cemetery (including 16 veteran graves) maintained by the Gay Cemetery Association.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 20:**

**\$ 1,000**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 21:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER** for the year 2023.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$16,900	\$18,221
Selectmen Recommended	16,900	18,221
Budget Committee Recommended	16,900	18,221
Town Meeting Approved	16,900	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The State of Maine mandates that all municipalities designate a shelter that will accept stray animals. Farmington contracts with the Franklin County Animal Shelter for this service. The shelter currently assesses all participating communities at \$2.40 per capita based on the most recent US Census.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 21:**

**\$ 18,221**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 100% of the refund of snowmobile registrations received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the **SHIRETOWN RIDERS, NORTHERN LITES, AND NEW SHARON SNOW RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUBS**, to be distributed to the clubs on the basis of mileage of trails each maintains in Farmington.

*STATEMENT OF FACT: Based on the trail mileages, funds are distributed as follows: Shiretown Riders - 58%, Northern Lites - 21%, and New Sharon Snow Riders - 21%.*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved the following for Article 22:**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 23:** To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **NONPROFIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES THAT** are impacted by the cuts the Franklin County Commissioner made beginning in 2017.

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Town of Farmington, for 35 years, has funded*

*social services and economic development through the Franklin County Government. Franklin County Commissioners in 2017 reduced funding to social services and economic development by 70% or \$143,000, and an additional \$31,000 in 2022. This reduction eliminated funding to 6 nonprofits and reduced support to 3 others. The Town of Farmington's taxation by the County was reduced by \$17,998 as a result of these cuts. This Article asks if the Town wishes to continue supporting these organizations for service rendered in Farmington in the same amount saved in 2017, \$17,998. The organizations agree to use this funding to support Farmington residents. The organizations recommend that this funding be distributed proportionally to the amount lost by each nonprofit.*

Proposed Disbursement of Town Funding						
Breakdown	Total Avail FY17	Dept Req. FY18	Comm. Req. FY18	Amount Lost	% of Loss	Farmington Share
Franklin County Children's Task Force (FCCTF)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	5%	\$ 857.00
Franklin County Adult Basic Education	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Western Maine Transportation Services (WMTS)	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	3%	\$ 514.00
Western Maine Community Action Inc. (WMCA)	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Greater Franklin Development Council	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ 42,000.00	40%	\$ 7,200.00
Seniors Plus	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services (SAPARS)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Androscoggin Home Healthcare & Hospice (AHHCH)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,130.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	5%	\$ 857.00
	\$ 171,200.00	\$ 209,330.00	\$ 66,200.00	\$ 105,000.00	100%	\$ 17,998.00

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	\$17,998	\$17,998
Selectmen Recommended	17,998	17,998
Budget Committee Recommended	17,998	17,998
Town Meeting Approved	17,998	

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved to raise and appropriate the following for Article 23:**

**\$17,998**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 24:** Shall the Town vote to adopt the following Resolution?

**Statement from the Voters of Farmington on April 25, 2022:**

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Commissioners have funded economic development and social services programs that have served the entire region for over 35 years, and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Commissioners have cut all funding to social services agencies and economic development programs, and

**WHEREAS**, these organizations and their important services benefit the entire region and improve the quality of life for our residents,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Town of Farmington requests that Franklin County reverse its policy of not funding these programs, restore funding to these organizations and continue the regional approach for these services.

Dated: March 27, 2023

**Shane Cote, seconded by Aileen Kennedy moved to adopt the above Resolution as presented:**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amounts authorized to be raised in taxes in Articles 2 through 20 by **\$3,822,000**, based on estimates for non-tax municipal revenues.

	<u>FY22 Estimates</u>	<u>FY23 Estimates</u>
Excise Taxes	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 1,105,000
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	101,000	97,000
Intergovernmental	2,150,091	2,440,000
Charges for Services	110,000	110,000
Other Revenues	106,340	70,000
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	3,572,431	\$3,822,000
Selectmen Recommended	\$3,572,431	\$3,822,000
Budget Committee Recommended	\$3,572,431	\$3,822,000
Approved	\$3,572,431	

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Joshua Bell moved the following for Article 25:**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved to combine Articles 26, 27, and 28 for voting.**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to reallocate budgeted amounts from budget lines that have unexpended appropriations to other

budget lines, as they deem necessary, to avoid individual budget lines being over-expended. Approval of this warrant article does not increase the overall appropriations approved for the Town.

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the **UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE** those funds deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen to reduce the amount of property taxes to be collected to fund the Year 2023 budget in an effort to stabilize the tax rate in a manner consistent with prudent fiscal management.

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB), as reported by the auditors at the end of the 2022 budget year, is approximately \$4,000,000. The auditors recommend carrying a minimum UFB level that is adequate to cover three months' expenditures, which is approximately \$3,500,000. Approval of this Article would allow the Selectmen to utilize whatever amount of UFB, if any, that they deem to be advisable to reduce the property tax commitment while maintaining adequate reserves.*

**Article 28:** To see what amount, if any, of the Year 2023 Bee Line Cable (Spectrum) Contract Franchise Fee and equipment and facilities fund the Town will vote to appropriate for the **CABLE FRANCHISE FEE RESERVE FUND** for the benefit of Bee Line Cable subscribers, to be expended or allocated at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amount Requested	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Selectmen Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Budget Committee Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Town Meeting Approved	Full Franchise Fee	

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Cable Television Franchise granted to Bee Line, Inc. by the Town of Farmington requires Bee Line to pay the Town 5% of its gross annual revenues as compensation for the rights and privileges granted by the Agreement. In 2022, that amount was \$45,585. This payment is used to support the operations of the Public, Educational, and Governmental channel, Mount Blue TV (Channel 11). The Franchise Agreement also allows for a \$7,500 annual payment for Mount Blue TV's equipment and facilities. The full franchise fee for 2023 is expected to be an amount similar to or slightly less than that received in 2022.*

**Stephen Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved the following for Articles 26, 27, and 28:**

**YES, on Articles 26, 27, and 28**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved to combine Article 29, 30, and 31 for voting and moved YES on Articles 29, 30, and 31 at the same time as follows:**

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to make **PROPERTY TAXES** due and payable on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later and, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4), charge interest on overdue taxes at the rate of 8.00% per annum after November 1, 2023.

**Article 30:** To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 506-A, to pay **INTEREST ON REFUNDS OF OVERPAID OR ABATED TAXES** at the rate of 4.00% per annum after Wednesday, November 1, 2023, or 45 days

from the tax commitment, whichever is later.

**Article 31:** To see if the Town will vote to accept **PREPAYMENT OF TAXES** to the Tax Collector prior to the date of commitment and to pay no interest thereon.

**Motion to combine Articles 29, 30, 31 and vote YES on Articles 29, 30, 31 at the same time.**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved to combine Article 32, 33, and 34 for voting and moved YES on Articles 32, 33, and 34 as follows:**

**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish a **FORECLOSED PROPERTY POLICY** and further authorize the Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes and/or sewer charges thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable [except that the Selectmen shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. Section 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s)], and to execute the appropriate deed for such property, or to waive or delay disposition of foreclosed property as may be deemed appropriate on a case by case basis.

**Article 33:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to **SELL BY BID OR AUCTION** or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations.

**Article 34:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to replace and/or purchase additional services or equipment for the Town at such times as the Board of Selectmen deems necessary or in the best interest of the Town, but only at such times as sufficient funds are available in reserve accounts to pay for such equipment or services.

**Motion to combine Articles 32, 33, 34 and vote YES on Articles 32, 33, 34 at the same time.**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Judy Murphy moved to combine Article 35, 36, and 37 for voting and moved YES on Articles 35, 36, and 37 as follows:**

**Article 35:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the **STATE, FEDERAL OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS OR PRIVATE SOURCES** that become available during the year, and to authorize the Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, any and all unconditional gifts of any type of property.

State funds include the following categories: Maine Emergency Management Agency funds, General Assistance Reimbursements, Municipal Revenue Sharing, Urban/Rural Initiative Program funds for road improvements, State Aid to Education, Snowmobile Registration Reimbursements, Tree Growth Program Reimbursements, Education Tax Relief Block Grant, Veterans' Exemption Reimbursement, Maine State Housing Authority, Public Library State Aid per Capita and Library Stipend, Property Tax Relief Funds, Homestead Act Funds, State grants, and other State funds.

Federal funds include the following categories: Community Development Block Grant funds, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, Housing and Urban Development funds, Economic Development Administration funds, USDA Rural Development funds, federal grants, and other federal funds.

**Article 36:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend an amount **NOT TO EXCEED 3/12 OF THE BUDGET AMOUNT** in each category of the 2023 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2024, until the Town Meeting in March 2024.

**Article 37:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to **NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS**, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, tax assessing, solid waste disposal, equipment purchasing, leasing, and maintenance and collective bargaining agreements.

**Motion to combine Articles 35, 36, 37 and vote YES on Articles 35, 36, 37 at the same time.**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 38:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the **DOWNTOWN TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) RESERVE ACCOUNT** for purposes consistent with the Downtown Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Downtown Omnibus Development Program established in October 2013 and subsequently amended.

**Byron Staples, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved the following for Article 38:**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**The Moderator, Paul Mills stepped down to address an upcoming issue he wished to speak about and requested the Deputy Moderator, Richard Morton, preside over the meeting. The Deputy Moderator began with reading Article 39.**

**Article 39:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the **FRANKLIN PRINTING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) RESERVE ACCOUNT** for purposes consistent with the Franklin Printing Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program established in June 1998 and subsequently amended.

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved the following for Article 39 :**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 40:** Shall Chapter 11 – Land Use, Article 8 – Town of Farmington **ZONING ORDINANCE**, the current version adopted on May 25, 2021, be amended as follows:

**The addition of the definition, Table of Uses list, and performance standard for “Homeless Shelter” as Section 11-8.11.M to the Town of Farmington Zoning Ordinance.**



*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Zoning Board has recommended the proposed addition of the definition, Table of Uses list, and performance standard for "Homeless Shelter" be included in the Town of Farmington Zoning Ordinance to provide standards for review and to protect public health, safety, and welfare.*

*NOTE: Copies of the draft definition, Table of uses list, and performance standard for "Homeless Shelter" are available in advance at the Municipal Building and at the Community Center during the Town Meeting.*

**Stephan Bunker, seconded by Matthew Smith moved the following for Article 40:**

**YES - To Adopt**

**VOTE: Passed.**

**Article 41:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$150,000 from the General Fund's unassigned fund balance and transfer that money into **HIPPACH FIELD AND OTHER PARKS RESERVE ACCOUNT (SX-7954)**.

*STATEMENT OF FACT: This money will be used to repair/replace the white fence sections on Main Street at Hippach Field with brick and possibly move and rebuild 2-3 brick pillars farther from the road.*

*Selectmen Recommends Approval*

**Matthew Smith, seconded by Stephan Bunker moved the following for Article 41:**

**YES**

**VOTE: Passed.**

The Moderator announced at 8:40 PM, seeing no further business before the town, meeting adjourned.

Attendance: 125

Dated: March 28, 2023

Respectfully Submitted:

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Twila Lycette, Deputy Town Clerk  
Lifetime Certified Clerk of Maine  
International Certified Municipal Clerk