

The following is a draft warrant, subject to change until such time as it is legally posted.

**2016 WARRANT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

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-EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH, 2016, 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 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon Article Second.

And also notify and warn the said Inhabitants to meet at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH, 2016 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 43, all the Articles being set out below, to wit:

FIRST - To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

SECOND - 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, and three School Directors, two each for a term of three years and one for a term of one year.

THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate such anticipated revenues as vehicle excise taxes, state revenue sharing, supplemental taxes, license fees, and such other miscellaneous revenues to be received in the calendar year 2016, to reduce the taxes committed, in the amount of \$1,756,581.

FOURTH - To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 30-A M.R.S. section 5721-A.7, to increase the property tax levy limit of \$3,664,450 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 that is presented below meets the 2016 property tax 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.

FIFTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$689,081	\$725,621
Selectmen Recommended	689,081	725,621
Budget Committee Recommended	689,081	725,621
Town Meeting Approved	689,081	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	Appropriated <u>2015</u>	Requested <u>2016</u>	Selectmen and Budget Committee <u>Recommended</u>
1. Administration	\$241,946	\$240,052	\$240,052
2. Assessor	79,500	97,784	97,784
3. Treasurer / Clerk	242,884	253,665	253,665
4. Committees & Events	6,800	6,800	6,800
5. Municipal Building	87,951	97,320	97,320
6. Tax Anticipation Note	5,000	5,000	5,000
7. General Assistance	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL	\$689,081	\$725,621	\$725,621

The Administration Budget includes personnel costs for the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Secretary 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, and routine legal services. There are no pay increases included for 2016. The Town pays 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for employees in this Department.

The Assessor's Department consists of a part-time contracted Assessor provided by John E. O'Donnell & Associates and a 20-hour per week in-house assistant position. This budget includes one-time costs to produce digital photos for 1,100 properties and for 875 sketches. Also included is \$10,000 for the Revaluation Reserve Account, the balance of which is currently \$73,596.74.

The Treasurer/Clerk Budget includes an increase in the cost of elections, including the November General Election.

Committees and Events includes Memorial Day Flags (\$2,700), Planning Board (\$800), Conservation Commission (\$800), 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. Included is funding to repave the town office front parking lot and install energy-efficient heat pumps.

The Tax Anticipation Note provides funds for the Town to operate until taxes are due. The expense in this appropriation is offset by interest earned on investments.

The General Assistance program provides for the basic needs of persons who apply and qualify financially. The 2015 appropriation was \$25,000. Expenditures totaled \$22,693.85 for the year, and are likely to increase in 2016 due to increasing demand. Seventy percent of this expenditure is now reimbursed by the state, and accrues to the General Fund.

SIXTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **CODE ENFORCEMENT** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$151,166	\$150,561
Selectmen Recommended	151,166	150,561
Budget Committee Recommended	151,166	150,561
Town Meeting Approved	151,166	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget request covers the operational expenses for two and one half employees who oversee the Code Administration, Community Development (grant writing and implementation), and Planning functions. There are no pay increases included for 2016. The Town pays 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for employees in this Department.

SEVENTH - Shall The Town of Farmington vote to approve a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application under the Housing Assistance (HA) Program for the "82 High Street Phase 3" Project in the amount of \$500,000, and to submit same to the Department of Economic and Community Development and, if said program is approved, to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, to assume such responsibilities, and to exercise such authority as is necessary and reasonable to implement such program.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The above grant will be used in conjunction with funds from other sources totaling \$1,040,000, including bank financing, for the installation of three new buildings, each containing four rental units to replace the existing substandard rental units in three older buildings that will be sequentially demolished as the new units are completed.

EIGHTH - Shall the Town of Farmington Comprehensive Plan, current version adopted March 23, 2015, be amended to incorporate minor modifications, both those required and those recommended by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry (DACF), when it deemed these revisions sufficient for their determination that the Plan was complete and consistent under State requirements for same on 11-18-15.

NOTE: Copies of the Plan and the 11-18-15 DACF letter are available in advance at the Municipal Building and will be available at the Community Center during the Town Meeting.

STATEMENT OF FACT: DACF required that additional Agriculture and Forestry data be added to Section 8, and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IFW) recommended improving the data in Section 9 (Critical Natural Resources). The required Goals, Policies, and Strategies that were inadvertently omitted in Section 3 (Housing) have been added. Section 13 was created to compile within a table format the Policies and Strategies already within individual Sections, with Responsibilities and Timeframes for same added.

NINTH - Shall the Ordinance entitled, Town of Farmington Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, current version adopted January 1, 2013, (Chapter 11, Land Use, Article 1 of the Town's Code of Ordinances), be amended to incorporate recommended revisions in the current State model Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

NOTE: Copies of the Ordinance and Map (Chapter 11, Article 1), with deletions ~~struck through~~ and additions **underlined in bold**, are available in advance at the Municipal Building and will be available at the Community Center during the Town Meeting.

STATEMENT OF FACT: Since inception of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance in 1975, the Town does periodic updates to maintain consistency with State Shoreland Zoning guidelines and recommendations. In this update, the proposed changes primarily provide more specificity in the standards for Non-Conforming Expansion, Hazard Trees, Storm-Damaged Trees, & Dead Tree Removal, Exemptions to Clearing and Vegetation Removal Requirements, and Revegetation Requirements. The only State recommended update not being adopted is the limit of one Recreational Vehicle per private campsite. The current limit of five Recreational Vehicles per private campsite is being retained.

TENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **POLICE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,245,337	\$1,214,550
Selectmen Recommended	1,245,337	1,214,550
Budget Committee Recommended	1,245,337	1,214,550
Town Meeting Approved	1,245,337	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Police Department budget includes 1% pay increases and half of a 6.25% increase in health insurance costs for union members. Management employees receive no pay increases for 2016. The Town pays 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for management employees in this Department. Also included are expenses related to building operation and maintenance.

ELEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$401,513	\$434,492
Selectmen Recommended	401,513	401,513
Budget Committee Recommended	401,513	434,492
Town Meeting Approved	401,513	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Fire Department's request includes no pay increases for 2016. The Town pays 80% of the employee portion of the health insurance premium for the Chief, who is the only full-time member. Also included is a \$27,927 appropriation to the Fire Equipment Reserve Account, the balance of which is currently \$88,124.89. The Department's request includes, for the first time, wages and benefits for four full-time firefighters for the remaining 39 weeks of 2016. The Selectmen's recommendation does not include funding for the four full-time firefighters. They wish to delay the hiring of full-time personnel for a year in order to explore other methods of addressing the Department's manpower shortage. The Budget Committee, on the other hand, does recommend funding the four full-time positions.

TWELFTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **OTHER PROTECTIONS** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$472,833	\$497,152
Selectmen Recommended	472,833	497,152
Budget Committee Recommended	472,833	497,152
Town Meeting Approved	472,833	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	Appropriated <u>2015</u>	Requested <u>2016</u>
1. Street Lights	\$ 72,000	\$ 87,500
2. Fire Hydrants	276,378	276,378
3. Insurances	68,000	72,000
4. Ambulance	50,455	51,274
5. Traffic Light Maintenance	<u>6,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL	\$472,833	\$497,152

The Street Light budget reflects a 5% increase in the delivery portion of the cost, plus a possible additional rate increase. The cost of Fire Hydrants 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 2016. Included are employee cash handling bonds, blanket property and automobile coverages, public officials' liability, and unemployment insurance. The Ambulance subsidy is established by contractual agreement with NorthStar Ambulance. The Traffic Light Maintenance budget is based on 2015 actual expenditures and 2016 projected costs.

THIRTEENTH - 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 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$264,951	\$272,146
Selectmen Recommended	264,951	272,146
Budget Committee Recommended	264,951	272,146
Town Meeting Approved	264,951	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	Appropriated <u>2015</u>	Requested <u>2016</u>	Recommended <u>2016</u>
Parks and Recreation	\$152,740	\$155,640	\$155,640
Community Center	<u>112,211</u>	<u>116,506</u>	<u>116,506</u>
TOTAL	\$264,951	\$272,146	\$272,146

The Parks and Recreation Budget includes operating expenses for all recreational activities, including personnel costs for thirteen part-time seasonal positions and stipends for seven program directors and coaches. Also included is 80% of the employee portion and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for the Director. The Community Center budget includes personnel costs for one full-time Assistant Director and one part-time custodian. There are no pay increases included for 2016.

FOURTEENTH - To see if the Town will vote to establish Bjorn Park as a municipal “safe zone” pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 3253 and so mark the same with adequate signage

STATEMENT OF FACT: This Article seeks to establish Bjorn Park as a “safe zone” pursuant to Title 30-A, Section 3253, which provides that “[a] municipality may designate an area of the municipality that is frequented by minors as a safe zone under Title 17-A, Section 1101, subsection 23. A safe zone designated pursuant to this section must be conspicuously marked by the municipality with an informational sign using wording provided by the Commissioner of Public Safety.” Title 17-A, Section 1101 allows for athletic fields, parks, playgrounds, or recreational facilities to be designated as safe zones. If a person is found trafficking, furnishing, or cultivating drugs within a safe zone, he or she may be found guilty of an aggravated offense and subjected to increased penalties.

FIFTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,238,583	\$1,249,537
Selectmen Recommended	1,238,583	1,249,537
Budget Committee Recommended	1,238,583	1,249,537
Town Meeting Approved	1,238,583	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Public Works Department budget covers the operational expenses required for maintaining and improving the Town’s 120 miles of roads. Additional funding for road capital improvements is received from the State (see Article 20). This budget covers the personnel costs for ten full-time employees. There are no pay increases, but half of a 6.25% increase in health insurance costs is included for union members.

SIXTEENTH - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Unassigned Fund Balance a sum not to exceed \$60,000 in order to complete the replacement of the failing drainage pipe running from Front Street beneath Prescott Field in a southwesterly direction to the Sandy River.

STATEMENT OF FACT: This Article seeks an appropriation from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be used, in addition to \$300,000 that was approved in 2015, to complete the drainage pipe replacement project. The project has been on hold pending federal review and permitting. Preliminary studies, soil testing, and engineering have used approximately \$42,000 of the \$300,000 appropriation. The additional \$60,000 should be adequate to complete the project. The Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) currently stands at approximately \$1,603,169. The auditors recommend carrying a UFB level that is adequate to cover two month’s expenditures, which is approximately \$2,549,889.

Approval of this Article could lower the UFB to \$1,543,169, which is \$1,006,720 below the Auditor's recommended minimum level.

SEVENTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **RECYCLING DEPARTMENT** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$72,138	\$68,838
Selectmen Recommended	72,138	68,838
Budget Committee Recommended	72,138	68,838
Town Meeting Approved	72,138	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget covers all operating expenses for the transfer station, including personnel costs for two part-time employees.

EIGHTEENTH - Shall the Town of Farmington Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance, current version adopted August 1, 1992 and revised on April 9, 2002, be amended to remove Sandy River Recycling Association (SRRA) as the processor and marketer of recyclable materials as stated in §7-5.4b. of the Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Sandy River Recycling Association (SRRA) has been dissolved and its assets have been sold. The Town currently contracts with a licensed commercial hauler for handling recyclable materials.

Note: Copies of the amended Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance are available in advance at the Municipal Building and at the Community Center during the Town Meeting.

NINETEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **CEMETERIES** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$73,478	\$77,511
Selectmen Recommended	73,478	77,511
Budget Committee Recommended	73,478	77,511
Town Meeting Approved	73,478	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The 2016 request represents the amount needed to maintain the cemeteries in the current year. There are no pay raises for cemetery personnel. The amount requested will be offset by cemetery fees estimated at \$16,000 and trust fund earnings estimated at \$15,000.

TWENTIETH - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate State of Maine Local Road Assistance Program (LORAP) funds in the amount of \$158,780 for the year 2016, and to authorize the expenditure of said funds for road improvements.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$158,324	\$158,780
Selectmen Recommended	158,324	158,780
Budget Committee Recommended	158,324	158,780
Town Meeting Approved	158,324	

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 2016 funding. This allocation is used for capital improvements to Town roads.

TWENTY-FIRST - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR ROADS** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$233,000	\$233,000
Selectmen Recommended	233,000	233,000
Budget Committee Recommended	233,000	233,000
Town Meeting Approved	233,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The amount requested represents the amount that is needed, over and above the \$158,780 appropriation in the preceding Article, to fully fund the fourth year of a five-year Capital Improvement Program for road rehabilitation. Roads to be repaired in 2016 are the westerly end of Porter Hill Road, upper Middle Street to Industry Road, and Mohawk, Seminole and Shawnee Drives in the Voter Hill Estates. Also included is final surfacing of the section of Porter Hill Road that was rebuilt in 2015. Planned for repair in 2017 is Titcomb Hill Road. Additional projects will be reviewed and prioritized for 2018 and beyond.

TWENTY-SECOND - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PUBLIC WORKS RESERVE** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</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 Public Works Reserve Account was established several years ago for use in planning and building the Town Garage, which was constructed in 2002. The current balance in the account is \$46,960.90. The amount requested for

2016 will be added to the balance. A portion of the funds from this reserve account will be used to insulate the garage in the summer of 2016.

TWENTY-THIRD - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **DEBT SERVICE** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$155,170	\$151,323
Selectmen Recommended	155,170	151,323
Budget Committee Recommended	155,170	151,323
Town Meeting Approved	155,170	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>
Municipal Garage Debt	\$57,880	\$57,265	\$57,265
Fire Truck Debt	49,335	47,073	47,073
Police Building Debt	<u>47,955</u>	<u>46,985</u>	<u>46,985</u>
TOTAL	\$155,170	\$151,323	\$151,323

The amount indicated in this Article represents the debt service (principal and interest) for bonds for the municipal garage, the 2007 fire truck, and the new police station renovations. The garage debt will be retired in 2022, the fire truck debt in 2016, and the police building debt in 2027.

TWENTY-FOURTH - 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 2015.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$15,000	\$15,000
Selectmen Recommended	15,000	15,000
Budget Committee Recommended	15,000	15,000
Town Meeting Approved	15,000	

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 account balance as of December 31, 2015 was \$12,697.68. The amount shown is requested in order to achieve a target balance of approximately \$28,000 for legal expenses this year.

TWENTY-FIFTH - 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 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,000	\$1,500
Selectmen Recommended	1,000	1,500
Budget Committee Recommended	1,000	500
Town Meeting Approved	1,000	

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 \$9,849.58. While the Selectmen recommend raising and appropriating \$1,500, the Budget Committee recommends \$500. It is that Committee's feeling that the current account balance is adequate for any foreseeable expenses.

TWENTY-SIXTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FARMINGTON LIBRARY** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$146,666	\$149,500
Selectmen Recommended	138,666	149,500
Budget Committee Recommended	143,771	149,500
Town Meeting Approved	146,666	

STATEMENT OF FACT: STATEMENT OF FACT: The amount requested represents a portion of personnel costs for the library staff.

TWENTY-SEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **GAY CEMETERY** for the year 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$900	\$1,000
Selectmen Recommended	900	1,000
Budget Committee Recommended	900	1,000
Town Meeting Approved	900	

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH - 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 2016.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Amount Requested	\$14,744	\$15,520
Selectmen Recommended	14,744	15,520
Budget Committee Recommended	14,744	15,520
Town Meeting Approved	14,744	

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 assesses all participating communities at \$2.00 per capita.

TWENTY-NINTH - 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, the distribution of funds is as follows: Shiretown Riders - 58%, Northern Lites - 21%, and New Sharon Snow Riders - 21%.

THIRTIETH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to take from the Unassigned Fund Balance sufficient funds to cover any account overdrafts resulting from unforeseen or emergency circumstances, provided that no single overdraft shall exceed \$20,000.

THIRTY-FIRST- 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 2016 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 as of the end of the 2015 budget year is approximately \$1,603,169. The auditors recommend carrying a minimum UFB level that is adequate to cover two months' expenditures, which is approximately \$2,549,889. Approval of this Article would allow the Selectmen to utilize whatever amount of UFB, if any, that they deem to be advisable in order to reduce the property tax commitment while maintaining adequate reserves.

THIRTY-SECOND - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept the Pedestrian Easement Use, Improvement, Repair, and Maintenance Deed and

Agreement pertaining to Reny's Way, so-called.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Town has acquired the Murphy Estate property at the northeast corner of Church and Cony Streets for the purpose of establishing a public parking lot. If accepted by the Town, the Deed and Agreement, a copy of which is available for inspection at the Town Office, would establish or confirm the status of the alleyway between Reny's Department Store and the Homestead Restaurant as a pedestrian walkway for the public's use in accessing that new public parking lot.

THIRTY-THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to amend an existing municipal tax increment financing district known as the "Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program" established in 2014 (the "2014 District and Development Program") by adopting the "First Amendment to the Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program" (the "Amended District and Development Program") as on file in the Town Office and made available at the public hearing held by the Town on March 28, 2016 on said Amended District and Development Program, pursuant to the following findings, terms, and provisions:

WHEREAS, the Town of Farmington (the "Town") established the 2014 District and Development Program pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, and has the ability to amend the aforescribed district and development program pursuant to that authority; and

WHEREAS, there is a continued demonstrated need for commercial and business development in the Town of Farmington; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage the expansion and improvement of commercial facilities within the 2014 District in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 206 of Title 30-A by amending the 2014 District and Development Program to include additional property in the 2014 District as part of and as set forth in the Amended District and Development Program to encourage the expansion and improvement of commercial facilities and economic growth and well-being of the Town;

WHEREAS, the Town has held a public hearing on the question of amending the 2014 District as set forth in the Amended District and Development Program in accordance with the requirements of 30-A M.R.S. § 5226, there having been at least ten (10) days prior notice of the public hearing published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that approval will be sought and obtained from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, approving the Amended District and Development Program known as the First Amendment to the Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY VOTED BY THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON:

Section 1. The Town adopts the aforescribed recitals and further finds and determines that the amendment of the boundaries of the 2014 District as set forth in the Amended District and Development Program will generate economic benefits for the Town and its residents, including employment opportunities, broadened and improved tax base and economic stimulus, and therefore constitutes a good and valid public purpose. The Town has considered all evidence, if any, presented to it at the required public hearing with regard to any adverse economic effect on or detriment to any existing business and has found and determined that such adverse economic effect on or detriment to any existing business, if any, is outweighed by the contribution expected to be made through the Amended District and the Development Program.

Section 2. Pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Town hereby amends the boundaries of the 2014 District identified in the "First Amendment to the Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program", which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Section 3. The Board of Selectmen or its duly authorized representative is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to submit the First Amendment to the Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program to the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development for review and approval, without any requirement of further action by the Town, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting, or any other party.

Section 4. The foregoing adoption of the First Amendment to the Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program shall automatically become final and shall take full force and effect upon receipt by the Town of approval of adoption of the First Amendment to the Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program by the Department of Economic and Community Development, without any requirement of further action by the Town, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting, or any other party.

Section 5. The Board of Selectmen or its duly authorized representative is authorized and directed to enter into any credit enhancement agreement(s) in the name of and on behalf of the Town in the Amended District and Development Program, such agreements to be in such form and to contain such terms and provisions, not inconsistent with the Development Program, as the said Board of Selectmen or its duly authorized representative may approve, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by execution of said credit enhancement agreement(s).

Section 6. The Board of Selectmen or its duly authorized representative is hereby authorized and empowered, at its discretion, to make such technical revisions from time to time to the First Amendment to the Farmington Downtown Omnibus Municipal Tax

Increment Financing District and Development Program as reasonably necessary or convenient in order to facilitate the process for review and approval of said document by the Department of Economic and Community Development, so long as such revisions are not inconsistent with this Article or the basic structure and intent of that document and this Article.

Section 7. This Article shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

THIRTY-FOURTH - To see what amount, if any, of the Year 2016 Bee Line Cable 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>2015</u>	<u>2016</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 2015, that amount was \$46,313.83. 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 \$5,000 annual payment for Mount Blue TV's equipment and facilities. The full franchise fee for 2016 is expected to be an amount similar to that received in 2015.

THIRTY-FIFTH - To see if the Town will vote to make property taxes due and payable on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 and, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4), charge interest on overdue taxes at the rate of 7.00% per annum after November 1, 2016.

THIRTY-SIXTH - To see if the Town will vote to pay interest on tax refunds at the rate of 7.00% per annum after Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

THIRTY-SEVENTH - 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.

THIRTY-EIGHTH - 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, 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.

THIRTY-NINTH - 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.

FORTIETH - 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.

FORTY-FIRST - 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 which 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.

FORTY-SECOND - 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 2015 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2017 until the Town Meeting in March, 2017.

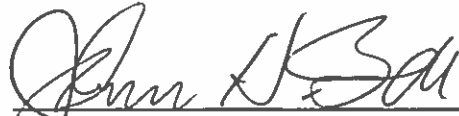
FORTY-THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, tax assessing, solid waste disposal, equipment purchasing, leasing and maintenance, and collective bargaining agreements.

The Registrar of Voters will be in session at the Community Center on March 28, 2016 at the time of the meeting to add new names to the voting list or make changes to the voting list.


Notice is hereby given that the Town Clerk intends to begin the process of casting absentee ballots at 2:00 P.M., 4:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Town Meeting day.

Given under our hands at Farmington, Maine this twenty-third day of February, A.D. 2016.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Joshua H. Bell, Chairman



Michael J. Fogg

Stephan M. Bunker



Matthew W. Smith



Andrew R. Buckland

ORIGINAL:

OFFICER'S RETURN

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Farmington of the time and place of the Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant at the **FARMINGTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING** at _____; at **RON'S MARKET** at _____; and at the **FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** at _____, all being conspicuous public places within the Town of Farmington on March ____, 2016, which is at least 7 days prior to the day of said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine this _____ day of March 2016.

S. Clyde Ross
Resident of Farmington
True copy:

Leanne E. Pinkham
Town Clerk