

**TOWN OF CANAAN  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 18, 2007  
DRAFT COPY  
Canaan Fire Station**

Members present: Eleanor Davis - Chair, Denis Salvail, Shirley Packard, Russell Lester, Dave Barney, Marty Pusey, Steve Purcell, and Selectman Jay Waldner. Also present were **Philip Salvail**, Joe Cote of *Spectator*, and the minute taker, Christi Berube. Committee members not present were Jeff Majewski and Mark Simon.

Eleanor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes**

Committee members reviewed a draft copy of the January 4, 2007, minutes.

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Dave Barney to accept the minutes dated January 4, 2007, as corrected.

Dave Barney asked what the status is on scheduling a meeting with Bob Anderson from the Department of Revenue. Eleanor Davis responded that Dana Hadley is working to schedule a meeting.

There was general consensus to delete the following sentence from page two; "It was also suggested that any gathering with Bob Anderson should be recorded as a public meeting."

The misspellings of Joe Cote's and Russell Lester's names were corrected.

Eleanor Davis suggested adding the word "ago" in the last paragraph of page three.

**VOTE: 7 YES 1 ABSTAIN** (Jay Waldner)

Committee members reviewed a draft copy of the January 11, 2007, minutes.

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Dave Barney to accept the minutes dated January 11, 2007, as corrected.

There was general consensus to add Mark Simon as absent in the heading of the January 11<sup>th</sup> minutes.

Dave Barney suggested changing the word "equal" to "divided" on page three.

Eleanor Davis requested that "Eli" be changed to "Eleanor" throughout the minutes.

**VOTE: 7 YES 1 ABSTAIN** (Jay Waldner)

Eleanor Davis distributed a revised copy of the 2007 budget worksheet.

### **Review of the Warrant Articles**

Committee members reviewed a draft copy of the proposed 2007 warrant.

#### Article 2:

Eleanor Davis reminded committee members that the Budget Committee has already taken a 6-3 vote to recommend this article on the 2007 warrant (Denis **Salvail**, Russell Lester, and Eleanor Davis opposed the recommendation for this article).

#### Article 3:

There was an 8-0 vote taken for the Budget Committee to recommend this article on the 2007 warrant.

Jay Waldner informed committee members that the Board of Selectmen is considering an additional warrant article of \$50,000 for the purchase of gravel. Jay Waldner explained that either a warrant article could be drafted or the proposed budget could be amended at the Deliberative Session. Discussion on this issue will resume at the next Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday. There was general consensus from the Budget Committee that taxpayers would have greater confidence that the funds would be spent on roads if the funds were placed in a warrant article.

#### Article 4:

Dave Barney noted that this article was drafted from a recommendation from the Capital Improvement Committee. There was an 8-0 vote taken for the Budget Committee to recommend this article on the 2007 warrant.

#### Article 5:

There was an 8-0 vote taken for the Budget Committee to recommend this article on the 2007 warrant.

#### Article 6:

There was general discussion and consensus that the article has been mistakenly written with figures that would disqualify residents, who have been exempted in the past. Jay Waldner agreed to address these concerns at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday. There was an 1-5 vote taken for the Budget Committee to recommend this article on the 2007 warrant (Shirley Packard – yes; Denis **Salvail**, Russell Lester, Steve Purcell, Dave Barney, and Marty Pusey – no; Eleanor Davis and Jay Waldner - abstain)

#### Article 7:

Eleanor Davis summarized that a recommendation is not needed from the Budget Committee since this article has no appropriations.

#### Article 8:

There was a 7-1 vote taken for the Budget Committee to recommend this article on the 2007 warrant (Denis **Salvail** opposed the recommendation).

Article 9:

Jay Waldner summarized that a job description has not been completed yet but that a candidate with professional training and a broad view regarding facilities will be sought. There was general concern expressed whether a Public Works Director could oversee the water and sewer department or the cemetery custodian. There was a 0-8 vote taken for the Budget Committee to not recommend this article on the 2007 warrant.

Article 10:

There was general discussion as to the appropriate wording and sequence of articles 9 and 10. Jay Waldner explained that Dana Hadley consulted with Local Government Center regarding the wording and sequence of these two articles but that the local attorney may not have been contacted. There was a 2-5 vote taken for the Budget Committee to not recommend this article on the 2007 warrant (Dave Barney, Jay Waldner – yes; Steve Purcell, Denis **Salvail**, Russell Lester, Shirley Packard, and Eleanor Davis – no; Marty Pusey – abstain)

Article 11:

Eleanor Davis asked whether the salary would change if the Police Chief was an appointed position instead of elected position. The general committee consensus was no. There was a 3-5 vote taken for the Budget Committee to not recommend this article on the 2007 warrant (Steve Purcell, Dave Barney, Jay Waldner – yes; Eleanor Davis, Denis **Salvail**, Russell Lester, Shirley Packard, and Marty Pusey – no).

Article 12:

There was clarification that the two dollars would be a fee in addition to the vehicle registration fee. There was a 3-5 vote taken for the Budget Committee to not recommend this article on the warrant (Marty Pusey, Steve Purcell, and Jay Waldner – yes; Dave Barney, Eleanor Davis, Russell Lester, Denis **Salvail**, and Shirley Packard – no).

Article 13:

Russell Lester noted that the estimated wholesale and retail prices for the 2003 Ford Expedition SUV are \$12,000 and \$16,000 to \$18,000 respectively, according to NADA. Dave Barney expressed concern that the Fire Chief is currently using his own personal truck to carry town supplies and that a used vehicle from the town would be a practical way to assess the need before any consideration is given on the purchase of a new vehicle. There was a 4-4 vote taken whether the Budget Committee should recommend this article on the warrant (Steve Purcell, Dave Barney, Denis **Salvail**, and Jay Waldner – yes; Marty Pusey, Eleanor Davis, Russell Lester, and Shirley Packard – **no**).

Article 14:

Marty Pusey expressed concern that the Police Chief did not include this information as part of his operating budget. Denis **Salvail** cautioned that the annual cost of the position will be \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year. Eleanor Davis commented that she understands that the part time positions are not providing the coverage needed but that she can not support any new positions until the increasing costs for employee benefits are addressed. Denis

**Salvail** commented that every neighboring police department is operating with less staff than what is recommended by the FBI and that the Town of Canaan will already have one additional police officer compared to last year. Dave Barney commented that Chief Frank could have mentioned the request for a new position when he presented his operating budget but that he probably knew that new positions need to be presented to taxpayers as warrant articles. There was a 2-6 vote taken to not recommend this article on the warrant (Dave Barney, Jay Waldner – yes; Shirley Packard, Denis **Salvail**, Russell Lester, Eleanor Davis, Steve Purcell, and Marty Pusey – no).

Article 15:

There was general discussion and consensus that the Budget Committee should state a position on this article since there will be costs incurred. Jay Waldner explained that he met with the Planning Board to better understand why a set number of funds were not included in the warrant article when a set number of funds had been included in the operating budget. Jay Waldner explained that the funds included in the operating budget were only a good faith estimate that could not be substantiated as a warrant article since the actual costs are not known. Marty Pusey expressed concern that a recommendation from the Budget Committee could be misunderstood if the article does not include appropriations. There was a 4-4 vote taken as to whether the Budget Committee should recommend this article on the warrant (Steve Purcell, Dave Barney, Marty Pusey, and Jay Waldner – yes; Eleanor Davis, Russell Lester, Shirley Packard, and Denis **Salvail** – no).

Article 16 and 17:

There was general consensus that a recommendation from the Budget Committee is not needed for Article 16 or 17 since no funds are appropriated.

Article 18:

There was a general note that the Capital Improvement Committee recommends this article. There was a 4-4 vote taken as to whether the Budget Committee should recommend this article on the warrant (Jay Waldner, Marty Pusey, Steve Purcell, and Dave Barney – yes; Denis **Salvail**, Russell Lester, Shirley Packard, and Eleanor Davis – no).

Article 19:

There was general consensus that a recommendation from the Budget Committee is not needed for Article 19 since no funds are appropriated.

Eleanor Davis summarized that only Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 will be recommended on the warrant by the Budget Committee.

**Other Business**

Eleanor Davis informed committee members that she received positive feedback regarding the Public Hearing. Eleanor Davis thanked committee members for attending and for behaving.

The Deliberative Session is scheduled February 3, 2007, at 1 PM. There was general discussion and consensus that committee members will meet after the Deliberative Session if any warrant articles are amended at the session.

The next Budget Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 25.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Denis **Salvail** to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 P.M.

**VOTE: Unanimous**