

**TOWN OF CANAAN**  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**November 1, 2007**  
**APPROVED AND CORRECTED COPY**  
**Canaan Fire Station**

Members present: Eleanor Davis, Denis Salvail, Shirley Packard, Russell Lester, Dave Barney, Jeff Majewski, Steve Purcell, David McAlister – Committee Chair, and Selectman Robert Reagan. Also present were Dexter Bucklin, David Heath, Roberta Berner, Jim Miller, Michael Cryans, Van Chestnut, and the minute taker, Christi Berube.

David McAlister called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and took attendance.

**Budget Review**

**Advertising and Regional Budget:**

Committee members received updated copies of the 2008 budget worksheet dated November 1, 2007. David McAlister suggested reviewing the Advertising and Regional budgets first since several representatives were present to offer comments and to answer questions.

**NHMA Dues**

Dexter Bucklin explained that the dues are based 60% on the population size and 40% on the valuation.

**UVLSRPC**

Dexter Bucklin explained that the \$4,048 appropriation supports the Water Source Protection Study.

**Grafton County Senior Citizens Council**

Committee members reviewed a letter dated October 2, 2007, the 2007 annual report, financial statements, and a page of statistics from Roberta Berner, Executive Director of the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council. Roberta Berner summarized that her request for \$8,000 last year was significantly cut to \$4,000 when the cost to offer services in 2007 was approximately \$150,000. Jeff Majewski responded that it was the Board of Selectmen that chose to cut her budget to \$4,000.

**Advance Transit**

Van Chestnut of Advance Transit summarized that he is proposing a level funded request of \$7,255. Van Chestnut summarized that there exists an extensive database of the number of passengers picked up and dropped off at each stop. Advance Transit provides bus service for six towns.

Denis Salvail asked why a passenger fee does not exist. Van Chestnut responded that Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center contributes extra funds in order to replace the fare box in hopes of encouraging more bus riders and reducing traffic congestion.

Shirley Packard expressed concern that taxpayers should not have to pay for a service that they do not use or may not choose to use due to the bus schedule. Jeff Majewski responded that residents pay for a lot of taxes that he does not necessarily use directly. Dave Barney added that the bus service helps reduce the traffic volume for those who choose to drive themselves.

There was general discussion regarding a 2005 study that revealed a positive benefit of improved air quality and less traffic congestion when bus service is made available.

Van Chestnut later announced that a Canaan resident is needed to fill a vacancy on their Board.

#### Headrest

Michael Cryans summarized that Headrest is the only 24 hour helpline available in the State of NH on 7 days a week and is the suicide helpline for, NH, ME, and VT. Michael Cryans also summarized a new intervention program for substance abuse at the county jail. Less than two percent of Headrest revenue is derived from clients. Michael Cryans clarified that there is no formula as to how the requested contributions from each town are calculated.

Robert Reagan explained that the Board of Selectmen chose to reduce the contribution since similar services are offered by different organizations. Michael Cryans explained that the services may be similar but that the client base is different since Headrest does not submit insurance claims for reimbursement.

#### Goose Pond Lake Association

Committee members reviewed a letter dated November 1, 2007, from Dave Barney regarding a request for \$2,000 for the Goose Pond Lake Association. Dave Barney clarified that the volunteer match rate is approximately \$18 per hour.

Jeff Majewski suggested that taxpayers should have an interest in preventing milfoil evasion and preserving the aesthetics and value of the town's lakes and surrounding properties due partly to the tax revenue potential.

Denis Salvail asked whether the boaters contribute toward the costs for milfoil evasion or whether boaters are fined for spreading milfoil. Dave Barney responded that Lake Host programs are partly supported through boat registration fees and that boaters are fined when caught spreading milfoil.

#### Mascoma Health Initiative

Danielle Thompson briefly explained that the organization promotes access to health care for local residents by facilitating resources and other organizations. A quarterly newsletter is mailed to residents in five towns including Canaan. Danielle Thompson summarized that the recent public health fair attracted approximately four hundred people. Danielle Thompson also noted that the Mascoma Health Initiative was recently

involved with the drafting of an emergency management plan and that the plan is being tested with the upcoming flue shot clinic.

There was general discussion that local organizations, such as the Lions Club, are receiving volunteer training in regards to emergency preparedness. Danielle Thompson clarified that these trainings are supported by the State of NH through supplies.

At this time, all representatives had made their comments and there was general committee consensus to vote on each appropriation separately regarding the Advertising and Regional budgets.

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,400 for line item 01-417.10-560 ARA NHMA Dues.

**VOICE VOTE: Passed**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$4,048 for line item 01-417.11-560 ARA UVLSRPC.

**VOICE VOTE: Passed**

**MOTION** by Jeff Majewski and seconded by Dave Barney to approve 2008 budget appropriations for line items 01-417.12-560 through 01-417.23-560 as presented by the 2008 department budget column on the budget worksheet dated November 1, 2007.

**VOICE VOTE: Fails**

There was general committee consensus that the public record should reflect how each committee members is voting.

**MOTION** by Jeff Majewski and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$8,000 for line item 01-417.12-560 ARA Grafton County Senior Citizen Council.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO [R. Lester, D. Salvail, and E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$7,255 for line item 01-417.13-560 ARA Advance Transit.

**VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO [S. Packard, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]**  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Shirley Packard and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$5,000 for line item 01-417.13-560 ARA Advance Transit.

**VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO** [R. Reagan, E. Davis, S. Purcell, D. Barney, and J. Majewski]

**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$7,000 for line item 01-417.13-560 ARA Advance Transit.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO** [E. Davis, D. Salvail, and R. Lester]

**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Steve Purcell to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$3,500 for line item 01-417.14-560 ARA Headrest.

**VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO** [R. Reagan, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]

**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Steve Purcell to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$3,000 for line item 01-417.14-560 ARA Headrest.

**VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO** [R. Reagan, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]

**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Robert Reagan to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$3,000 for line item 01-417.14-560 ARA Headrest.

**VOTE: 5 YES 4 NO** [J. Majewski, E. Davis, D. Salvail, and R. Lester]

**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Jeff Majewski to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,000 for line item 01-417.15-560 ARA LISTEN.

**VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO** [S. Packard, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]

**MOTION FAILED**

David McAlister commented that the Town of Canaan provides a tax exemption for the LISTEN building and property. David McAlister also noted that residents from other communities often leave or donate items that need to be disposed of, which costs the Town of Canaan.

**MOTION** by Shirley Packard and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1,000 for line item 01-417.15-560 ARA LISTEN.

**VOTE: 5 YES 4 NO** [D. McAlister, J. Majewski, S. Purcell, and D. Barney]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,100 for line item 01-417.16-560 ARA WISE.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO** [E. Davis, D. Salvail, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Jeff Majewski and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$3,300 for line item 01-417.17-560 ARA West Central Services.

**VOTE: 3 YES 6 NO** [S. Packard, R. Reagan, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Jeff Majewski to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$3,000 for line item 01-417.17-560 ARA West Central Services.

**VOTE: 3 YES 6 NO** [S. Packard, R. Reagan, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,500 for line item 01-417.17-560 ARA West Central Services.

**VOTE: 3 YES 6 NO** [S. Packard, R. Reagan, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,000 for line item 01-417.17-560 ARA West Central Services.

**VOTE: 5 YES 4 NO** [E. Davis, D. Salvail, S. Purcell, and D. Barney]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$300 for line item 01-417.18-560 ARA ACORN.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO** [E. Davis, D. Salvail, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by Jeff Majewski to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,000 for line item 01-417.19-560 ARA Goose Pond Lake Association.

**VOTE: 3 YES 6 NO** [S. Packard, R. Reagan, E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1,000 for line item 01-417.19-560 ARA Goose Pond Lake Association.

**VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO** [D. Barney, E. Davis, D. Salvail, J. Majewski, and S. Purcell]  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Jeff Majewski and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1,500 for line item 01-417.19-560 ARA Goose Pond Lake Association.

**VOTE: 4 YES 5 NO** [R. Reagan, E. Davis, D. Barney, D. McAlister, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Jeff Majewski and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1,000 for line item 01-417.19-560 ARA Goose Pond Lake Association.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO** [E. Davis, D. Salvail, D. Barney]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1,000 for line item 01-417.20-560 ARA Canaan Lake Association.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO** [D. Barney, D. Salvail, and S. Packard]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$15,250 for line item 01-417.21-560 ARA Mascoma Visiting Nurses.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO** [D. Salvail, and E. Davis]  
**MOTION PASSED**

David McAlister clarified that no request was received from CASA. The budget allocation was left at zero.

**MOTION** by Jeff Majewski and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,638 for line item 01-417.23-560 ARA Mascoma Health Initiative.

**VOTE: 3 YES 6 NO** [D. McAlister, E. Davis, D. Salvail, R. Lester, R. Reagan, and S. Packard]  
**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,500 for line item 01-417.23-560 ARA Mascoma Health Initiative.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO** [D. Salvail, D. Barney, and S. Packard]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Cemetery Budget:**

There was general discussion whether the labor for burials is being billed to the Town of Canaan. Dave Heath responded that the Town of Canaan should not be billed for burials and that compensation should be received through the appropriate funeral home. Eleanor Davis also expressed concern whether the cemetery custodian position should be approved by the voters.

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Jeff Majewski to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$56,118 for the cemetery budget.

Jim Miller asked where information could be found regarding the responsibilities of the Cemetery Trustees and what is considered as maintenance and upkeep of the cemeteries. Jeff Majewski responded that the questions should be directed to the Board of Selectmen or to the Cemetery Trustees.

David Heath informed committee members that he is recommending a warrant article of \$10,000 to see whether taxpayers want to fund headstone repair.

**VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO** [E. Davis]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Property & Liability Budget:**

There was general consensus to table a vote on line item 01-416.10-520 INS Property & Liability until a quote is received at the town office.

**Advertising & Regional Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a total 2008 budget appropriation of \$49,098 for the Advertising and Regional budget.

**VOTE: 5 YES 4 NO** [D. Barney, E. Davis, D. Salvail, and R. Lester]  
**MOTION PASSED**

**General Government Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$134,285 for the General Government budget.

Dexter Bucklin noted that the Board of Selectmen recently increased the allocation for the gasoline & diesel line item.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO [S. Packard, E. Davis, and D. Salvail]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Building Inspector Budget:**

**MOTION** by Shirley Packard and seconded by David McAlister to reduce the following line items to \$1: 01-4240.10-565 BI Training; 01-4240.10-670 Books & Manuals; 01-4240.10-680 BI Tools; and 01-4240.10-802 Mileage & Tolls.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [D. Barney and E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** by Denis Salvail and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$11,292 for the Building Inspector budget.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO [D. Barney, E. Davis, and D. Salvail]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Bridge Inspection Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1 for the Bridge Inspection budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Street Lighting Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$15,000 for the Street Lighting budget.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [E. Davis and D. Salvail]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Health Budget:**

**MOTION** by Eleanor Davis and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1,040 for the Health budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous**  
**MOTION PASSED**



**Welfare Budget:**

**MOTION** by Jeff Majewski and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$57,421 for the Welfare budget.

Dexter Bucklin suggested that he would prefer to review and consider all increases for stipend positions at one time.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [E. Davis and D. Salvail]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Cultural and Other Recreation Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1,000 for the Cultural and Other Recreation budget.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [E. Davis and D. Salvail]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Patriotic Budget:**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$500 for the Patriotic budget.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [E. Davis and D. Salvail]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Conservation Fund Budget:**

There was general discussion that committee members would like to know how many funds are available in the Conservation Fund before additional appropriations are approved.

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$1 for the Conservation Fund budget.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO [R. Reagan, R. Lester, and D. Barney]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Executive Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Steve Purcell to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$19,200 for the Executive budget.

Dexter Bucklin noted that the search for a town administrator is underway through the state offices.

**VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO [E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Town Administrator Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$66,185 for the Town Administrator budget.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [D. Salvail and E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Meeting Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$3,900 for the Meeting budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$71,536 for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget.

Dexter Bucklin noted that adjustments to the postage line items were made.

**VOTE: 7 YES 1 NO [E. Davis] 1 ABSTAIN [D. McAlister]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Election Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$7,600 for the Election budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**FA Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$68,490 for the FA budget.

**VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO [E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Budget Committee Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,120 for the Budget Committee budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Assessing Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$89,770 for the Assessing budget.

**VOTE: 6 YES 2 NO [E. Davis and D. Salvail] 1 ABSTAIN [S. Purcell]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Treasurer Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$6,440 for the Treasurer budget.

**VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO [E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Trustees of the Trust Fund Budget:**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$594 for the Trustees of the Trust Fund budget.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [S. Packard and D. Salvail]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Software & Support and DP Hardware Upgrade line items:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Jeff Majewski to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$3,045 for the Software & Support and DP Hardware Upgrade line items.

**VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO [E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Legal Budget:**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$50,000 for the Legal budget.

Dexter Bucklin clarified that the expense for the prosecutor has increased based on the activity level.

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO [D. Salvail, S. Packard, and E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**PA Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$370,250 for the PA budget.

**VOTE: 4 YES 3 NO [D. Salvail, E. Davis, and J. Majewski]**  
**2 ABSTAIN [S. Purcell and D. McAlister]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Planning Board Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by Shirley Packard to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$2,551 for the Planning Board budget.

Dexter Bucklin noted that the ten dollars allocated in line item 01-4191.10-110 should be revised to one dollar.

**VOTE: 7 YES 2 NO [D. Salvail and E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Government Buildings Budget:**

**MOTION** by Russell Lester and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2008 budget appropriation of \$149,220 for the Government Buildings budget.

Robert Reagan clarified that funds for a new boiler will be requested in a warrant article

**VOTE: 6 YES 3 NO [S. Packard, D. Salvail and E. Davis]**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Approval of Minutes**

Committee members reviewed a draft copy of the October 18, 2007, minutes.

Dave Barney requested that the minutes be posted on the town's website.

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Steve Purcell to accept the minutes dated October 18, 2007, as corrected.

Eleanor Davis suggested that David's name on page three be changed to Papa Z's.

The misspelling of Remacle was corrected on page five.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Other Business**

Dexter Bucklin districted handouts regarding the 2007 Tax Rate and a 2006-2007 Comparison on Tax Levy Commitment. Dexter Bucklin proceeded to explain how the current default budget was calculated incorrectly and why the 2007 tax rate has increased from \$18.89 to \$21.31.

Jeff Majewski asked whether any budget projections have been calculated regarding the current budget. Dexter Bucklin responded that there is a commitment from the Board of Selectmen to not overspend the current budget. Robert Reagan added that large purchases have been deferred until mid December in order to guarantee that funds are available.

Jeff Majewski asked whether anticipated revenues for water and sewer have been calculated. Discussion ensued regarding the wording of the original water and sewer warrant article and whether the revenue impacts the tax rate.

Dave Barney noted that committee members should have received corrected copies of the Capital Improvement Plan.

David McAlister reminded committee members that the next meeting is scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was no Chairman's Report or Selectmen's Report provided at this time.

**MOTION** by Steve Purcell and seconded by David McAlister to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 P.M.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**