

**TOWN OF CANAAN
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
December 3, 2009
Canaan Fire Station
Approved Copy**

Members present: Chair David McAlister; Eleanor Davis; Denis Salvail; Dave Barney; Russell Lester; John Bergeron; Nathan Deleault; Al Posnanski; and Selectman Scott Borthwick. Also present were Michael Capone, Larry Brabant, Bob Scott, Chief Bill Bellion, Chief Sam Frank, and Karen Wolk.

David McAlister called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and took attendance. The Budget Committee voted to approve the following proposed department budgets for 2010 after discussion and clarifying questions were answered.

Mechanic: 01-4299.10

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a total 2010 budget of \$119,725 for the mechanic budget, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

There was no vote taken on this motion.

Dave Barney initiated a discussion whether the budget cuts proposed by the Board of Selectmen are too excessive. Scott Borthwick commented that the Board of Selectmen is confident that emergency funds would be available from the undesignated fund, if needed. There was general discussion that the costs for parts have increased but that Larry Brabant's absence this year during his surgery has created some budget savings to cover the over expenditure in the repair parts line item.

AMENDED MOTION by Dave Barney and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a total 2010 budget of \$125,725 for the mechanic budget by adding \$6,000 to the repair parts line item.

VOTE: 5 YES **4 NO** [E. Davis, D. Salvail, N. Deleault, S. Borthwick]

MOTION by Dave Barney and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a revised total 2010 budget of \$125,725 for the mechanic budget.

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

Highway: 01-4311 and 01-4312

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a total 2010 budget of \$51,065 for the highway road agent salary, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a total 2010 budget of \$431,234 for the highway budget [line items 01-4312.10 and 01-4312.20], as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

There was no vote taken on this motion at this time.

There was general clarification that approximately \$64,000 of the \$100,888.17 listed in the 2009 fuel expenses line item was used for the purchase of a truck and that budget adjustments will be made later in December by the Board of Selectmen.

AMENDED MOTION by Eleanor Davis and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a revised total 2010 budget of \$367,234 for the highway budget [line items 01-4312.10 and 01-4312.20].

Eleanor Davis explained that \$64,000 should be reduced from this budget if extra funds were available to purchase a truck. Michael Capone responded that the savings resulted from reduced diesel and fuel pricing.

VOTE: 1 YES [E. Davis] 8 NO

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a total 2010 budget of \$431,234 for the highway budget [line items 01-4312.10 and 01-4312.20], as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

VOTE: 7 YES 1 NO [E. Davis] 1 ABSTAIN [D. Salvail]

MOTION by Russell Lester and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a total 2010 budget of \$338,713 for the highway budget [line items 01-4312.30 and 01-4312.4], as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

Bob Scott commented that the backhoe and loader need replacement so he does not support the proposed budget cuts from his sand and gravel line items. There was general discussion that intended equipment purchases should be include in the capital outlay budget and should not be “buried” in the operating budget. Russell Lester suggested that the funds for equipment should be requested in a warrant article from capital reserve funds.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

Fire Department: 01-4220

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a total 2010 budget of \$71,852 for the Fire Department budget, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

There was no vote taken on the motion.

Bill Bellion reviewed the over expenditures and the actual operating costs for this year.

AMENDED MOTION by Eleanor Davis and seconded by John Bergeron to approve a part time salaries line item of \$30,000, to approve a FICA/Medicare line item of \$2,350, to approve a water & sewer line item of \$5,600, and to approve a dues and subscriptions line item of \$1,800 for the 2010 Fire Department budget.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

MOTION by Eleanor Davis and seconded by John Bergeron to approve a revised total 2010 budget of \$81,602 for the Fire Department budget.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

Emergency Management: 01-4290

MOTION by Dave Barney and seconded by Russell Lester to approve a total 2010 budget of \$48,502 for the emergency management budget, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

There was no vote taken on this motion.

There was general discussion of how the surrounding towns budget for Director and Assistant Director salaries. Bell Bellion explained the time commitment and the responsibilities involved regarding planning for emergency management.

AMENDED MOTION by Eleanor Davis and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a salary line item of \$3,300 and a FICA/Retirement line item of \$310 for the 2010 Budget Committee budget, as recommended by the 2010 Department Budget.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

MOTION by Eleanor Davis and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a revised total 2010 budget of \$52,110 for the emergency management budget.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

Police Department: 01-4551.20

MOTION by Dave Barney and seconded by John Bergeron to approve a total 2010 budget of \$485,098 for the Police Department budget, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen on the 2010 budget worksheet.

There was no vote taken on this motion at this time.

Sam Frank explained that the cost for a new police cruiser has been included in the equipment line item, which was recommended by the Board of Selectmen. There was general discussion that the police cruiser should be listed in the capital outlay budget and should not be “buried” in the operating budget. Eleanor Davis suggested that equipment should only be requested in a warrant article since the Board of Selectmen could choose to spend those designated funds in other ways.

AMENDED MOTION by Dave Barney and seconded by Nathan Deleault to remove \$30,000 from the equipment line item of the Police Department budget and to add \$30,000 to the capital outlay budget of the 2010 budget.

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO [E. Davis]

Sam Frank explained his rationale for an increase to \$64,000 for the Police Chief salary. Sam Frank also explained that the \$10,000 budgeted by the Board of Selectmen for the overtime line item is not enough to cover the holiday pay that the town is obligated to pay according to the union contract. Scott Borthwick responded that the line item was reduced due to the two part time officers that will be hired next year. Sam Frank clarified that the two officers will not be available until March and August if they accept the positions.

MOTION by John Bergeron and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a part **time** salary line item of \$77,000 and an overtime line item of \$34,000 for the 2010 Budget Committee budget, as recommended by the 2010 Department Budget.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

MOTION by John Bergeron and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a revised total 2010 budget of 459,840 for the Police Department budget.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

Sam Frank commented that the \$4,000 budgeted by the Board of Selectmen for the uniform line item is not enough to purchase any needed clothing replacements for eleven people when the town is obligated to spend \$3,000 for replacement ballistic vests according to the union contract.

MOTION by Dave Barney and seconded by John Bergeron to approve a uniform line item of \$6,500, as recommended by the 2010 Department Budget.

VOTE: 8 YES

0 NO

1 ABSTAIN [R. Lester]

MOTION by John Bergeron and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a revised total 2010 budget of 462,340 for the Police Department budget.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

Government Buildings:

There was general consensus to postpone the review of the Government Buildings budget until the December 17th meeting. The December 17th agenda will include review of anticipated revenues, Government Buildings, the Selectmen's equipment inventory list, a draft copy of possible warrant articles, and the default budget.

Michael Capone distributed copies of an updated report dated November 30, 2009, regarding revenues.

Approval of Minutes: Committee members reviewed draft copies of the November 19th minutes.

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Russell Lester to accept the November 19th, 2009 minutes, as presented.

There were no corrections suggested at this time.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

Chairmen's Report and Selectmen's Report: No reports were provided at this time.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled on December 17th at 7 P.M. at the Senior Center.

Michael Capone suggested that the name of the new line item in the recreation budget for the appropriated lake association funds could be "Inspection and Treatment." It was suggested that the name should be more specific.

There was general discussion and consensus to schedule the Budget Committee's review of the warrant articles on January 13th before the Public Hearing on January 14th.

Public Comment:

John Bergeron noted that Plymouth State officials will be attending the December 10th Planning Board meeting to discuss land use and watershed protection in regards to the town's drinking water.

MOTION by Nathan Deleault and seconded by Dave Barney to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 P.M.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative