

**TOWN OF CANAAN
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
January 11, 2012
Canaan Fire Station
Final Copy**

Members present: Chair Eleanor Davis; David McAlister; Al Posnanski; John Bergeron; Karen Wolk; Martha Pusey; Denis Salvail; and Scott Borthwick. Also present was Town Administrator Mike Samson.

Eleanor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and took attendance.

Eleanor Davis reminded committee members that the meetings are being recorded for the minute taker and that background noise should be minimized.

Mike Samson distributed copies of the 2012 Warrant, a draft of the MS-7, the default budget, a Budget Committee Supplemental schedule handout, and a spreadsheet of the proposed operating budget.

Eleanor Davis noted that this committee still needs to vote on the estimated 2012 revenues.

John Bergeron asked why the warrant article regarding the proposed drinking water protection ordinance has not been included on this draft of the warrant. It was explained that the deadline is January 30th for a final copy of the warrant. It was also noted that the article does not include any appropriation of funds and, therefore, does not require a recommendation from the Budget Committee.

Committee members referenced the December 1st, 2011 minutes to confirm that Article 2 has already been favorably approved for recommendation on the warrant by the Budget Committee with an 8-2 vote.

(After nine minutes and 56 seconds, the recording ended and the next recording resumed at the discussion regarding Article 10. Information provided for the following six motions was taken from the Committee Chair's hand notes.)

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 3 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 4 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 5 on the 2012 Warrant.

Article 6 does not include an appropriation of funds so a recommendation is not required from the Budget Committee.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 7 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 8 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 9 on the 2012 Warrant.

(The recording resumed during the discussion of Article 10.)

Mike Samson explained that the intent is to establish a capital reserve account for police cruisers next year. It was noted that the existing 2006 Crown Victoria will be traded in.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 10 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 10 on the 2012 Warrant.

Mike Samson explained the tax assessment abatement appeal by New Hampshire Electric Cooperative.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 11 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 11 on the 2012 Warrant.

Scott Borthwick summarized that the police officers will be receiving the same increases as the rest of the town's employees and that the previous language regarding "performance based raises" has been removed from the contract.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 12 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a unanimous hand vote in the affirmative that the Budget Committee recommends Article 12 on the 2012 Warrant.

Martha Pusey commented that she thought that there was a legal recommendation at the last Town Meeting that the Budget Committee should not take a vote to recommend or not recommend funds for the petitioned warrant articles. Mike Samson commented that there was a request to list the committee members who recommend and do not

recommend the articles. Mike Samson added that the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee are required to provide a recommendation for all articles that include any appropriation of funds.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 13 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a hand vote of 3 YES votes (J. Bergeron, K. Wolk, and M. Pusey) and 5 NO votes whether the Budget Committee should recommend Article 13 on the 2012 Warrant.

Scott Borthwick commented that Canaan taxpayers already provide half of one million dollars to Grafton County, who already appropriates funds for the organization. Scott Borthwick added that the Town will be spending \$30,000 to replace the elevator at the senior center in order to satisfy code compliance. It was also noted that the town's budget includes funds to cover the water and sewer costs at the senior center.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 14 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a hand vote of 3 YES votes (J. Bergeron, K. Wolk, and M. Pusey) and 5 NO votes whether the Budget Committee should recommend Article 14 on the 2012 Warrant.

Mike Samson summarized that this petitioned warrant article does not include the appropriate legal language required for an appropriation of funds but could be corrected with a motion and approved vote at the Deliberative Session.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 15 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a hand vote of 3 YES votes (J. Bergeron, K. Wolk, and M. Pusey) and 5 NO votes whether the Budget Committee should recommend Article 15 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was no discussion regarding Article 16.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 16 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a hand vote of 3 YES votes (J. Bergeron, K. Wolk, and M. Pusey) and 5 NO votes whether the Budget Committee should recommend Article 16 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was general note that the town administration may need to remove some of the sentences included in the petitioned warrant articles in order to comply with legal restrictions.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 17 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a hand vote of 2 YES votes (J. Bergeron, K. Wolk) and 5 NO votes and 1 ABSTENTION (M. Pusey) whether the Budget Committee should recommend Article 17 on the 2012 Warrant.

Scott Borthwick commented that he does not believe that it is the town's responsibility to provide services, as described in Article 18.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 18 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a hand vote of 2 YES votes (J. Bergeron, K. Wolk) and 5 NO votes and 1 ABSTENTION (M. Pusey) whether the Budget Committee should recommend Article 18 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was no discussion regarding Article 19.

The Board Chair requested a show of hands of how many committee members support a recommendation of Article 19 on the 2012 Warrant.

There was a hand vote of 3 YES votes (J. Bergeron, K. Wolk, and M. Pusey) and 5 NO votes whether the Budget Committee should recommend Article 19 on the 2012 Warrant.

Mike Samson then summarized the 2012 estimated revenues listed on the MS-7.

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by John Bergeron to accept revenues of \$1,604,934 for 2012.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative.

Other Business

Committee members reviewed draft minutes dated September 29th, October 20th, and December 1st, 2011.

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Martha Pusey to accept the September 29th, 2011, as written.

No corrections were suggested at this time.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Denis Salvail to accept the October 20th, 2011, as written.

No corrections were suggested at this time.

VOTE: 6 YES 0 NO 2 ABSTENTION (M. Pusey, K. Wolk)

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Denis Salvail to accept the December 1st, 2011, as amended.

The meeting date was corrected from December 7th to December 1st.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by David McAlister to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative