

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 3, 2013
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: Dave Barney, John Bergeron; Scott Borthwick, William Crowther, Ellie Davis, Patty Duszynski, Al Posnanski, Martha Pusey, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells; Town Administrator Michael Samson; 9 Public attendees: Dave McAllister, Bob Reagan, Steve Ward, Sam Frank, Amy Thurber, Cindy Neily, Denise Reitsma, Valerie Fleisher, Bob Scott; recorded by Roger Lohr.

Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Ellie Davis called the meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Proposed 2014 Budget for the Capital Improvements Program

Steve Ward led a discussion about the Capital Improvements Program and reviewed documents outlining six years of upcoming budgets for large ticket items in the categories of mobile and non-mobile equipment, bridges, roads, and buildings. An inventory of town equipment and assets has been established for the police, fire, highway, and other departments. Purchases are prioritized within the longer term and also to address urgent needs, when necessary. The committee discussed the truck lift and the thermal imaging cameras.

The transfer station is self-funded for equipment only. The committee discussed whether accessory buildings such as sheds should be added to the town inventory and on the buildings list. Town Administrator Michael Samson said he would add the 10-15 sheds to the Capital Improvement Program budget document next year but there would not be any budget allocated to them. Mr. Ward commented about the use of reserves helping to limit and smooth the town's out-of-pocket cash payments for the big ticket items.

3. Proposed 2014 Budget for Police Department

Sam Frank and the Budget Committee discussed issues related to the police department proposed 2014 budget. They discussed equipment in the vehicles and the level of manpower to investigate crimes, complete paperwork, and attend to police business. The number of arrests has increased 100% in two years and many crimes are drug and alcohol-related. There are expected budget increases in legal work and dispatch. The town has discussed increasing the number of part time officers and there was a discussion about an analysis of police department arrests and activities to justify the expected increase in taxes related to expansion of the police department.

4. Proposed 2014 Budget for the Library

Two documents regarding the town library were distributed to the committee and reviewed. Valerie Fleisher was introduced as the new treasurer of the Library Board. The largest revenue source anticipated is from the Brundage Foundation. Recognition was also given to a small active Friends group for its support. There has been substantial

growth in library patronage and the number of registered library borrowers. It is believed that the library website and Facebook has spurred the increase in library patronage.

5. Proposed 2014 Budget for the Highway Department

Bob Scott discussed highway department issues with the Budget Committee. It is expected that the highway budget will increase in 2015. The gravel line item was double counted last year so it shows a \$12,000 decrease for 2014. The Committee discussed where to list the truck lift and excavator in the budget document.

Dave Barney made a motion which was seconded by Dennis Salvail to approve moving the \$48,000 truck lift from the Highway Department budget to the Capital Outlay Budget. The motion passed with 6 in favor, one opposed (Crowther), and two abstentions (Wells, Pusey).

6. Proposed 2014 Select Board Budget

The Committee discussed expected increases for insurance and payroll related to the Select Board's budget. More definitive information about insurance premiums is expected later in November.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dave Barney made a motion which was seconded by Martha Pusey to approve the Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes of September 19, 2013 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder Roger Lohr was asked to send the approved meeting minutes to Budget Committee Secretary Bill Crowther. The Budget Committee meetings for October 17 and November 7 were cancelled. Lohr informed the Committee that he would be relying on the recordings to take the minutes of the upcoming Committee meetings.

A revised revenue budget document was distributed and cited.

It was announced that a meeting about local health care is scheduled for October 10 at 7:00 PM in Enfield. It was also announced that the 4H chicken supper is set for November 9.

8. Adjournment

Dennis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by Scott Borthwick to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

The next meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Canaan Fire Station.