

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Patty Duszynski, Al Posnanski, Martha Pusey, Denis Salvail, Philip Smith, Sadie Wells; Committee members not in attendance: Bill Crowther. Town administrator Michael Samson; recorded by Roger Lohr.

Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Ellie Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Budget documents for the Warrant Articles and revenues were distributed to the committee members.

Town Administrator Mike Samson stated that the budget had remained the same as presented at \$3,569,830 and he reviewed the water and sewer budgets. The sewer budget was up \$5,000 to \$95,255 and the water budget was \$87,846 with increases due to billing expenses, postage, and inspection costs. The water and sewer budget had revenue of \$133,220. There is a need to raise the water and sewer rates to generate enough revenue for capital reserves related to water and sewer.

Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by Martha Pusey to accept \$183,101 for the water and sewer budget in the town of Canaan for 2017. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to accept \$1,484,676 as anticipated non-property tax revenue in the town of Canaan for 2017. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

2. Warrant Articles

Town Administrator Mike Samson explained the Warrant Articles. He explained the current issues with the Department of Revenue Administration regarding handling the \$95,000 funding for the Capital Improvement Reserve. He explained two options for accounting for the issue and was hopeful that the issue would be finalized by the Budget Committee's Public Hearing scheduled for January 12 at 7:30 PM. The Budget Committee decided to not vote on Warrant Articles 5, 8, 9 and 10 as they were related to the CIP dispute with the DRA.

The Budget Committee reviewed the Warrant Articles:

Article 2, which raises and appropriates the operating budget at \$3,569,830 was recommended by the Budget Committee 7 Yes and 1 no.

Article 3, which is the Canaan water and sewer appropriation was recommended by the Budget Committee: 8 Yes and 0 no.

Article 4, which is for the purchase of a truck from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was recommended by the Budget Committee; 7 Yes and 1 No.

Article 6, which is for adding \$50,000 to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund was recommended by the Budget Committee: 8 Yes and 0 No.

Article 7, which is for adding \$120,000 to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to be taken from funds that are available from the Unreserved Fund Balance was recommended by the Budget Committee: 8 Yes and 0 No.

Article 11, which is for establishing a Library Building Renovation Capital Reserve Fund was recommended by the Budget Committee: 8 Yes and 0 No.

Article 12 was to use funds from the Transfer Station Special Revenue Account to purchase a trailer and it was recommended by the Budget Committee: 8 Yes and 0 No.

Petitioned Warrant Articles

Articles 13 -- Public Health Council formerly the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative services: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend: 4 Yes and 4 No.

Article 14 -- Grafton County Senior Citizens Council: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend: 4 Yes and 4 No.

Article 15 -- Advance Transit: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend: 3 Yes and 5 No.

Article 16 -- Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend: 3 Yes and 5 No.

Article 17 -- West Central Behavioral Health: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend: 2 Yes and 5 No and 1 abstention.

Article 18 -- WISE: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend: 3 Yes and 5 No.

Article 19 -- Tri-County Cap: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend: 3 Yes and 5 No.

3. Other Business

The Canaan Budget Committee public hearing meeting is 7:30 PM on Thursday, January 12 at the Fire Station. Committee assignments for the public hearing were distributed previously. Town Administrator Mike Samson invited Budget Committee members to contact him if they have any questions about their assignments for the Public Hearing.

Town Administrator Mike Samson commented about the school funding formula and associated activities in Canaan and the participating towns regarding that issue.

4. Minutes Approval

A motion was made by Phil Smith and seconded by Sadie Wells to approve the Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes of December 15, 2016 as submitted. The motion passed with 7 in favor and one abstention (Duszynski).

The Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 11 at 9:00 AM at the Canaan Hall and voting will take place on Tuesday, March 14 from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM at Canaan Hall.

There are three (3) openings on the Budget Committee for 2017 (positions currently held by Crowther, Posnanski, and Pusey).

4. Adjournment

Sadie Wells made a motion which was seconded by Phil Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.