

TOWN OF CANAAN
CANAAN SELECTMEN MEETING
January 30, 2007
Canaan Fire Station

Selectmen present: Robert Reagan, Kristina Burnett, and Jay Waldner. Also present were Dana Hadley, Al Posnanski, Eleanor Davis, Dave Barney, Phillip Salvail, Chief Sam Frank, Charlie Sova, Joe Cote, and the minute taker Christi Berube.

Robert Reagan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing:

Robert Reagan read the Public Hearing agenda as follows: "There will be a Public Hearing regarding two requests for barn easements to be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, beginning at 7 P.M. at the Canaan Fire Station at 62 NH Route 118 in Canaan. Requests were received from Donald and Viola Daniels for a barn located on Tax Map 5 Lot 24 at 137 May Street and Dr. Hutchinson (Mechanic Street Clinic, LLC) for a barn located on Tax Map 15A Lot 96 at 15 NH Route 118. The hearing will be to hear the merits and gather input regarding the public benefits gained by granting a Barn Preservation Easement for these barns."

Dana Hadley explained that both requests for barn easement were received in a timely manner last year but that he chose to present them to the Board of Selectmen after the revaluation process had been completed. Dana Hadley distributed copies of the applications and information from the NH Division of Historical Preservation. Dana Hadley explained that barn easements are normally a ten year easement if approved. The easement applies to the barn building and the curtilage. The application calls for pictures and maps to be included with the application. The easement is filed with the registry of deeds after approval by the Selectmen. Barn Preservation Easements is to encourage residents and owners to maintain agricultural artifacts that preserve the heritage of the State of NH. barns need to be a minimum of 75 years old to qualify for the easement.

The applicants, Donald and Viola Daniels and Dr. Hutchinson of the Mechanic Street Clinic presented to the Board their reasons for applying for the easement. They also answered a series of questions that were provided by the state historical preservation association to assist the Board to make an informed decision. The applicants explained that they have invested time and resources to preserve the barns and they will maintain these barns. Dr. Hutchinson said that he plans to restore the original features of his barn.

Al Posnanski asked who decides whether the plans to restore or preserve each barn are "keeping with the character of the barn". Dana Hadley responded that the legislation simply states that the barn must look like a barn and must be used as a barn but that the specific materials and methods used for the barn are not defined in the statutes.

Eleanor Davis summarized abatements that were granted to the owner of 15 NH Route 118 and that the former owner was granted a 75% easement in 2001, a 50% easement in 2002, and a 25% easement in 2003. The former owner paid \$102,000 for the property when the property was assessed at \$60,000. The assessment of the property was \$130,000 before the recent reassessment and \$223,000 after the recent reassessment, which is a forty percent increase but was less of an increase than many other properties in the Town of Canaan. Kristina Burnett responded that the approval of easements should be based on the merits and not on past history.

There was general board consensus that additional time is needed for the Board of Selectmen to review the state law. No decisions were made at this time. Mr. and Mrs. Daniels and Mr. Hutchinson were thanked for their patience.

There were no other comments from the public regarding the requests for barn easements and the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Appointments:

Selectmen Charlie Sova from the Town of Orange asked whether the Canaan Board of Selectmen would consider a contract with the Town of Orange regarding police protection. Charlie Sova explained that the current setup in the Town

of Orange is one police officer and that some desire exists to increase coverage since the town has grown in population. Charlie Sova clarified that the proposal is not the result of poor performance by the current officer. Charlie Sova noted that preliminary discussions of the proposal have occurred with Chief Frank and with the former Chief, Tim Cohen. Charlie Sova added that the Towns of Canaan and Orange already share services regarding fire protection and the Transfer Station.

Jay Waldner asked what would happen with the current police officer position in the Town of Orange if police coverage from the Town of Canaan was extended. Charlie Sova responded that the current police officer has a one year contract and that the Town of Orange might choose to eliminate the police officer position if the Town of Canaan were to offer police coverage to Orange. Charlie Sova suggested that perhaps the Town of Canaan would want to hire the current police officer in Orange for a part time position.

Robert Reagan asked whether the proposal will be included on this year's warrant in the Town of Orange. Charlie Sova responded that including the proposal on this year's warrant might be premature since the residents would need to know the cost for the service. Jay Waldner suggested that an article could be included on this year's warrant in the Town of Orange in order to gauge interest. Charlie Sova noted that the residents did not support a similar proposal made approximately twenty years ago.

Kristina Burnett asked how many hours of road coverage are provided currently. Charlie Sova responded four or five hours per week since the current officer is only available at an on-call basis and since the police officer is only on the road during investigations. Chief Frank clarified that his department does not patrol the Town of Orange.

Kristina Burnett asked whether the Town of Canaan would be responsible for an additional fee from Hanover dispatch if police coverage was extended to the Town of Orange. Chief Frank responded that the Town of Canaan is already being billed since there is only one fee for fire, ambulance, and police service and an agreement already exists regarding fire protection with the Town of Orange. Chief Frank further explained that the fee is based on the number of calls, which is a minimal cost for the Town of Orange since they only utilize the dispatch service for a few hundred calls each year. Chief Frank confirmed that adding the current rate of calls from the Town of Orange to the current rate of calls from Canaan would not increase the fee for Hanover dispatch. Chief Frank added that State Police currently provide service to the Town of Orange whenever their police officer is not available. The State Police does often contact the Canaan Police Department for mutual aid regarding emergency calls (i.e. domestic disputes or robberies) whenever their response time to the Town of Orange is delayed.

Robert Reagan asked whether police coverage for the Town of Orange would be budgeted through the outside duty line item of the operating budget. Chief Frank that his recommendation would to calculate a cost such as is the current practice of the Fire Department.

Kristina Burnett said Representative Solomon has expressed concerns regarding insurance coverage. Chief Frank responded insurance costs would be taken into consideration when calculating the fee.

Eleanor Davis commented that the dispatch cost is part of the emergency management budget.

Jay Waldner asked how many miles of road are in the Town of Orange. Charlie Sova responded sixteen.

Al Posnanski asked whether extending police coverage to the Town of Orange would require an additional police officer. Chief Frank responded no and explained that his request for a seventh position does not relate to this request from the Town of Orange. No additional equipment would be needed to extend services either.

There was general note that the expenses associated with the outside duty line item would need to be factored out of the calculation for the Town of Orange.

Charlie Sova said the Orange Board of Selectmen is unanimously in favor of this proposal.

Chief Frank suggested a rough estimated cost of \$50,000 based on the 2007 budget and a per capita calculation.

Kristina Burnett suggested that a committee should be formed to provide a recommendation to the Canaan Board of Selectmen. The committee could consist of police officers, residents of each town, and Selectmen from each town. Charlie Sova acknowledged that board members and residents could be provided for a committee.

Robert Reagan commented that the proposal would need to be presented to the Canaan taxpayers. It was suggested that the proposal should be presented to the residents of Orange on this year's warrant so that the Canaan Board of Selectmen know whether to pursue the proposal with their constituency.

Charlie Sova explained that the Town of Orange currently budgets \$16,000 for police coverage and that the cost of this proposal will present a significant increase to their operating budget.

Chief Frank suggested that the proposal would be beneficial to both towns. Jay Waldner responded that the proposal does not financially benefit the Town of Canaan since the same level of services would be expanded to cover a greater area. There was general consensus that the details should be considered in a committee.

Old Business:

Dana Hadley distributed copies of correspondence to Mr. Smith and Ms. Escano regarding Grafton Turnpike.

Dana requested signatures from the Board of Selectmen on the default budget and the cyclical revaluation contract.

There was general discussion and consensus to invite the Town Treasurer to the next meeting to discuss the Deputy Treasurer position and the applicants.

New Business:

Board members reviewed a thank you letter from Listen Community Services regarding the \$1,000 donation and a letter from the Department of Environmental Services regarding permit approval to connect the property of Robert and Vanessa Stone on High Street to the municipal sewer system.

There was general discussion regarding the restricted low salt area of Goose Pond Road. There was general consensus from the Board of Selectmen that the Road Agent will discontinue the use of salt in the portion of Goose Pond Road that extends into the Town of Hanover until a letter is received from the Town of Hanover stating otherwise. Dana Hadley offered to draft a letter to the Road Agent on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

Dana Hadley summarized that a compactor has been ordered for the Transfer Station and that it should be delivered within two weeks.

Dana Hadley reviewed his memo dated January 30, 2007, to the Board of Selectmen regarding the 2006 budget surplus. Dana Hadley later added that the net 2006 surplus figure presented could change due to the \$8,000 expenditure for gravel.

Kristina Burnett expressed concern that some serious accusations have been made by members of the Budget Committee and that the behavior is irresponsible. Kristina Burnett suggested that concerns should be brought directly before the Board of Selectmen and that the audit results and adjustments will be available in the near future for the Budget Committee's review.

Dana Hadley said that the Town will need to raise and appropriate the amount of the highway block grant if it is the intent that these funds be spent for highway use over and above the road agent's budget. Dana Hadley added that the over-expenditures in painting and the unexpected repairs to the library presented challenges to the operating budget.

Dana Hadley informed the Board of Selectmen that Bill MacDonald has scheduled an appointment for next meeting to discuss police department policies regarding bomb threats. Board members requested a copy of the policy to review before next week's meeting. Chief Frank commented that a policy is in place that has been approved by the police association. There was general discussion regarding standard bomb threat procedures and the State Bomb Squad.

Al Posnanski asked whether the deed for the Transfer Station is resolved. Dana Hadley responded that the attorney has suggested that a quiet title be completed. The attorney did say that the plan to harvest timber can proceed. Robert Reagan noted that he was told that only one or two acres of clear-cut would provide a large enough area for several year's worth of gravel. Dana Hadley commented that hopefully the sale of the wood will cover the legal expenses. There was general consensus to have the Road Agent meet with a forester to determine to review the area that he wants to excavate.

Other Business:

The Board of Selectmen discussed the standard procedure used at previous Deliberative Sessions. Each article was assigned to a board member, the Planning Board, or Chief Frank to have a designated person prepared to explain each article. It was suggested that the Board of Selectmen and Moderator should discuss the procedures of the Deliberative Session beforehand.

Jay Waldner asked for additional information regarding how much sidewalk could be built between School Street and Follensbee Street with the revenue that would be generated from Article 12.

Dana Hadley noted that a college student may be present at the Deliberative Session to film and witness the SB2 process for a student project.

Dana Hadley reminded board members that a non-public meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss evaluations. A meeting with the Mascoma School Board is also scheduled for tomorrow night at 6 P.M.

MOTION by Jay Waldner and seconded by Kristina Burnett to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 P.M.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,
Christi Berube, Minute Taker
Minutes Accepted by the Board of Selectmen on February 6, 2007