

Minutes
CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by Chairman Reagan at the Canaan Fire Station. Selectmen Burnett and Waldner were present. Acting Interim Administrator Dexter Bucklin was also in attendance.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF October 30, 2007

Having reviewed the minutes the Board voted the following: Selectman Waldner moved, Selectman Burnett seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 to accept the Minutes of the October 30, 2007 meeting as amended.

Floodplain Ordinance

The Board was presented a letter from the State of New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning outlining the steps Canaan must take to remain in compliance with the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP). Included was a sample Warrant Article to update the Ordinance that Canaan adopted in 1988. A sample resolution for the Selectmen to vote on that would include FEMA's new Flood Insurance Rate Maps as part of the Canaan Floodplain Ordinance. After discussion, the Board suggested that Bill Bellion or Chief Frank, of Emergency Management, review the Maps prior to adoption by the Board.

2008 Grant Application

The Board reviewed the October 31, 2007 letter from Stephen Snell, Grant Program Director, Department of Environmental Services for the State of New Hampshire. Included were two application forms requesting the 2008 installments for Projects No. C-370 C -386. Selectman Waldner moved, Selectman Burnett seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 to authorize Chairman Reagan to sign the payment request forms for the 2008 Grant payment.

Question from the Audience

A number of citizens had arrived at the meeting and Chairman Reagan opened the meeting for questions. Several members expressed concern over the large increase in the tax rate from 2006 to 2007. Mr. Bucklin distributed a sheet that reviewed the appropriations for 2006 and 2007 comparing Town, School District, County, and State Educations appropriations. He explained that as a result of an over estimation of other sources of revenue in 2006 (the Transportation Enhancement Grant was included in error)

the 2006 tax rate had been under stated. Instead of \$5.47, the Town portion should have been closer to \$6.25. At the 2007 Town Meeting the voters opted for the Default Budget in the amount of \$3,416,804. The Town voted an additional \$289,389 in separate Warrant Articles. The total appropriations for 2007 were \$3,706,193. After subtracting revenues from other sources (projected to be \$250,000 less than 2006 due to the overstatement in 2006), the amount to be raised by taxes totaled \$2,439,027, or \$676,176 greater than 2006. Mr. Bucklin explained that in reviewing the calculations for the default budget amount, it appeared that Article 3 of the 2006 Town Meeting, the Water/Sewer budget of \$154,989, had been left in the 2006 Appropriation Budget, and \$129,000 Highway Block Grant had been added in error. It was noted that the operating budget for 2007 that the Selectmen had approved, after the default vote, was \$3,387,415 including the \$130,000 in special warrant articles. If actual expenditures remain within that number, the Town's fund balance as of January 1, 2008 should increase by at least \$155,000.

In response to who was ultimately responsible for these over sites, Mr. Waldner responded that the Board of Selectmen is ultimately responsible. The Board agreed that although they rely on input from the staff, they are ultimately responsible for the overseeing the affairs of the Town. Mr. Bucklin stated that the Board has taken steps to improve their ability to govern the affairs of the Town.

Sewer Moratorium Meeting

Mr. Bucklin informed the Board that he is in the process of setting up a meeting with Joe Damour of Water System Operators, Mr. Lock from DES, and the Board to review the options available to remove the moratorium on new sewer hook ups to the Town Sewer System. .

Other Business

Mr. Bucklin presented a cost estimate to repair damage to the side of a truck allegedly caused when Transfer personnel helped remove material from the truck at the Recycling Station. The Board directed Mr. Bucklin to get the parties together with the Police Department to review the claim.

Al Posnanski, a member of the Transfer Station and Recycling Committee, informed the Board that the sign at the Transfer Station informing residents to ask attendants for help was still being displayed. He believed that the Selectmen had requested the sign to be removed. The Board confirmed that the sign should be removed.

Al informed the Board that the Committee at its meeting earlier in the day had, at the recommendation of Glenn Carey, voted to inform the Selectmen that it was the Committee's position that the Town of Orange should be billed \$3,000 to allow Orange

residents to have unlimited recycling in 2008. This is based on the fact that it costs Canaan money to recycle glass. The Board directed Mr. Bucklin to draft a letter informing Orange of the new billing arrangement.

The Board confirmed its position to prepare \$5.00 tickets to be available to purchase for the disposal of certain items at the Transfer Station. The new costs structure will go into effect on January 1, 2008. Notice of the pending changes will be prepared for distribution to residents.

Selectman Waldner presented the Board with a letter stating that he would soon be leaving Canaan for an extended period of time and therefore would be resigning from the Board. "In order to allow for a thoughtful appointment process, it is therefore my intention to submit my formal resignation on or before December 4, 2007, at a time chosen in collaboration with you. Otherwise, however, in the interim I believe it is best that I recuse myself from all matters directly related to the selection and appointment of my replacement."

The Board directed that a notice requesting residents interested in serving on the Board until the March election submit letters of interest by November 20, 2007.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Robert Reagan

Kristina Burnett

Jay Waldner
Canaan Board of Selectmen