

Minutes
CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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 November 13, 2007

Having reviewed the minutes the Board voted the following: Selectman Burnett moved, Selectman Waldner seconded, and the Board voted 3-0 to accept the Minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting as amended.

Selectman Candidates

The four residents that had submitted letters of interest in serving on the Board of Selectmen until the March election introduced themselves to the Board and the audience. Selectman Waldner, who had formally submitted his letter of resignation from the Board effective November 26, 2007, stepped down from the Board as the candidates responded to questions from the other two Board members. The candidates are: Mr. Tom Hudgens, Mr. Clifford Rudder, Mr. Ed Labrie, and Mr. Bill MacDonald.

Selectman Burnett asked if any of the candidates planned to run for Selectman in March. Mr. Hudgens was the only candidate that stated he would run. Mr. MacDonald stated that since the Board had other qualified candidates interested in the position he was withdrawing his name from consideration. Mr. Labrie indicated that he also would not be running for the position in March and if that were a requirement for appointment he would withdraw his name. Mr. Rudder stated that he was planning to run for the position of Road Agent.

The Board thanked the candidates for their interest and would plan to make the appointment at their meeting on November 27th.

DES Meeting

Mr. Bucklin informed the Board that the dates of November 30th and December 5th were available for meeting to discuss the options available to remove the moratorium on new hook ups to the sewer system. The Board decided that November 30th would be the most convenient time for them to meet. Mr. Bucklin was directed to notify other interested parties of the meeting.

UVHS Animal Shelter Services Contract

The Board reviewed the contract from the Upper Valley Humane Society to provide Animal Shelter Services for 2008. This is basically the same service contract the Town and UVHS have for 2007. The Board voted 3-0 to authorize the Chairman sign the contract on behalf of the Town.

The Board reviewed the notification that the Town Water System had experienced MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids in the last testing period. As required by law, customers of the system must be notified of this violation and informed what steps the Town is taking to eliminate these violations. This has been an ongoing problem and the Town has engaged the engineering firm of Wright Pierce to review the system and suggest solutions to rectify the problem. Several suggestions have already been implemented which seem to be reducing these contaminants. Customers will be notified by direct mail and a newspaper publication.

2008 Water/Sewer Budget

Mr. Bucklin informed the Board that the Budget Committee had cut the proposed W/S budget for 2008 from \$161,109 to \$135,000. After checking with the Department of Revenue Administration, Bucklin reported this could be problematic. If additional strategies are developed to address the contamination problem, the Town might not be able to implement them, if the cost exceeded the appropriated amount, even if sufficient funds were available. It was reiterated that W/S expenses were covered by water-sewer fees and not from the general fund. (Exception being the bond payments) The concern that unused Water/Sewer budget appropriations could be transferred to other uses is unfounded. It appears that an under funded Water/Sewer budget could be of concern. Mr. Bucklin would ask the Budget Committee to reconsider the W/S budget.

2007 Budget Status 11/20

The Board was presented with a breakdown of the current status of appropriations and expenditures. The Selectmen's 2007 operating budget, including warrant articles, of \$3,387,415 less expenditures to date and transfers to capital reserve funds of \$2,897,220 leaves a balance of \$490,305 to cover the cost of Town services for the remainder of the year.

Flexible Benefits Plan

Previously the Board had endorsed the concept of offering a pretax benefits plan to Town employees. The Board reviewed the Adoption Agreement prepared by the Local Government Center which would become effective January 1, 2008. In order to become more familiar with the points of the plan, the Board postponed action on the Agreement until next meeting.

Other Business

Al asked the status of the timber/gravel survey inventory that was being done at the transfer station. Kris stated that the timber cruise had been completed and a meeting would be set to review the findings and discuss options. Mr. Bucklin would contact interested parties to participate in the review.

To Selectman's Waldner's knowledge, the Town has never gotten any expert advice about the potential gravel resource, - a critical part of this decision making process.

Chairman Reagan mentioned that the Library received a \$25,000 grant from the Bryne Foundation of Etna that matched \$25,000 in donations to the Canaan Library. This was in addition to an earlier \$10,000 grant from the Foundation.

Kris mentioned that the Meeting House Committee had received a \$26,000 Grant to continue renovations of the Meeting House. Mrs. Barney had been very instrumental in obtaining this grant.

At 8:05 Selectman Burnett moved, Selectman Waldner seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to go into non public session under RSA 91-A.3© to discuss a personnel issue.

The Board came back into public session at 8:55 PM and the Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Robert Reagan

Kristina Burnett

Jay Waldner
Canaan Board of Selectmen

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