

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Bob Reagan at the Fire Department. Selectman Scott Borthwick, Selectman Tim Lewis and Town Administrator Michael Capone were also in attendance. Others present: Ellie Davis, Al Poznanski, Matt Wilson, Denis Salvail, Robert Crotty, Fire Chief Bill Bellion and Police Chief Sam Frank arrived while the meeting was in progress. Chairman Reagan led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Acceptance of Minutes of the August 27, 2008 Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes and voted the following: Selectman Borthwick moved, Selectman Lewis seconded and the Board voted 3-0 to accept the Minutes of the meeting of August 27, 2008 as written.

Acceptance of Minutes of the September 2, 2008 Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes and voted the following: Selectman Borthwick moved, Selectman Lewis seconded and the Board voted 3-0 to accept the Minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2008 as written.

Discussion of Request for Stumpage Bids Draft Document

The Board reviewed and discussed the bid process for the timber cut at the Transfer Station. Forester Jim Burnett had supplied the Board with a map of the cut area and a description of the process. An informational meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 3PM in the Fire Station for loggers interested in bidding on the project. Public notices of the project will be posted and notices sent to area loggers informing them of the meeting. The Board asked Michael to check with Jim regarding the cut areas outlined on the map that appear to be across the Town line into Orange.

Review and Discussion of Preliminary Budget

The Board reviewed the General Government, Fire, Emergency Management, Police, Mechanic, Highway and Planning Board Budgets. Chairman Reagan noted that overall expenses for next year should be at or near the 2008 default budget levels. Selectman Borthwick and Selectman Lewis agreed that the operating budget should be level funded at best and perhaps reduced where possible. Additional sections of the Budget will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Chief Frank arrived at the meeting to express his concern that the Board was reviewing and making decisions on budgets without consulting department heads. Chairman Reagan noted that this was a preliminary review in advance of the Budget Committee meeting and not a final decision on the part of the Board. He also explained to the Chief that, in the opinion of the Board, next years total budget number would have to be at or below this years default budget number in order for the budget to be acceptable to the voters.

Budget vs. Actual Review

Michael noted that at 38 weeks into the budget year 66.7% of the budget had been spent. There are still many areas of concern given the lack of contingency funds. The bill for the financial audit was over one thousand dollars above the budgeted amount. With potential shortages in town attorney fees, fire department vehicle maintenance, mechanics repairs and supplies and highway department overtime the Board may have to reallocate additional funds within the budget to meet expenses.

Other Business

Al Posnanski asked if the Board would vote to add a disposal fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for microwaves to the list of Transfer Station disposal fees. The fee was necessary because the amount of non-metallic material had increased in the units making them unsuitable for disposal as metal. Selectman Lewis made a motion to add the fee to the list. Selectman Borthwick seconded and the Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Michael mentioned that the cards had arrived from the State Dept of Transportation to allow the Town vehicles access to State facilities for fuel. He noted that the primary purpose will be for Town Highway and Fire vehicles to use the diesel pumps at the State Highway shed on Rte 118. Typically, the prices the State charges for fuel are lower than other area suppliers, so we anticipate a cost savings to the Town.

Michael informed the Board that notices had been posted in the Valley News and around Town with regard to the items the Town has for sale. Bids will be accepted at the Town office until September 26.

Michael mentioned that engine three had failed a pump test and would need some repair work. Chief Bellion was not certain at this time what the cost would be. Selectman Lewis noted that he had spoken with the Town Mechanic, Larry Brabant, to ask him to take a look at the vehicle to see if it might be a problem that he could fix. Chief Bellion said he would coordinate with Larry.

Michael mentioned that he was continuing to check on #2 fuel and propane pricing with area dealers in an effort to determine what the Town might pay for fuel this year. Prices continue to fluctuate for both types of fuel, although they are more stable in the propane market. Michael will continue to monitor the market conditions and report to the Board.

Michael mentioned that he had spoken with Dan Fleetham in regard to the involvement of the Historic District Commission with efforts to preserve the Kimball House. There were some funding issues that Dan thought the Board should discuss. Michael thought it might be an issue for the Board to consider at an upcoming meeting.

With no further business before the Board, at 9:18 PM Selectman Borthwick moved, Selectman Lewis seconded and the Board voted 3-0 to adjourn.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

Tim Lewis

Canaan Board of Selectmen