

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Bob Reagan. Selectman Tim Lewis and Town Administrator Michael Capone were also in attendance. Others present: Dave Barney, Matt Wilson, Ellie Davis, Al Posnanski, Denis Salvail, Shirley Packard, Alex Crate, Bruce Prince, Philip Salvail, Grafton County Commissioner, Martha Richards and State Representative, Chuck Townsend. Chairman Reagan led those in attendance in reciting our pledge of allegiance.

Acceptance of Minutes of the February 24, 2009 Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes and voted the following: Selectman Lewis moved and Chairman Reagan seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2009 as written. The Board voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.

Martha Richards, Grafton County Commissioner – Report to the Board

Commissioner Richards thanked the Board for the opportunity to present an update on County activities to the public this evening. She acknowledged the letter the Board had sent regarding their concerns with County spending and the County budget. She mentioned that the public is invited to the weekly meeting of commissioners every Tuesday morning at 9 in North Haverhill. She also mentioned that residents could obtain information with regard to a variety of County services and events by accessing the County website at www.graftoncountynh.us

Commissioner Richards provided updates on a variety of County activities including the new jail, preparation of a new budget, the County Farm, the Drug Court Program, the County nursing Home and other Social Service programs available to residents including a discount prescription card. She also took questions from the Board and those present mostly with regard to the jail.

Budget vs. Actual

Michael provided a general overview of the budget for 2009. Overall spending was slightly below projections for the year to date. The biggest area of concern was the amount of Welfare rental assistance provided which was running ahead of last years numbers.

Dave Barney asked about the cut to the Mascoma Visiting Nurse Association. Michael informed him that the number in the budget worksheet needed to be corrected from \$1,500 to \$15,000 and there in fact had been no cut to that line. Michael will post the correction to the website and the copy of the budget posted at the Town office.

Update on State Budget Issues

Prior to leaving, State Representative, Chuck Townsend, commented that there was a large turnout at a public hearing on the State Budget that was held in Claremont. The Representatives are fully aware of the concerns of the voters and Town governments and will work to restore budget cuts.

Michael provided an update on two recent meetings regarding the State Budget. On March 2, 2009, Michael and Chairman Reagan attended the Enfield Selectmen's meeting and had the opportunity to voice their concerns with regard to the State budget cuts to the three State Representatives and State Senator present. The Board will be joining the Boards of Enfield, Grafton, Orange and Dorchester to draft a letter to Governor Lynch requesting that he reinstate the revenues he has removed from the 2010/11 State Budget.

On March 11, 2009, Michael attended a New Hampshire Municipal Association Members meeting in Concord. At the meeting, representatives from more than sixty Cities and Towns discussed budget issues and provided direction to the Municipal Association with regard to their positions on the reinstatement of State revenues.

Update on Stimulus Funding

Michael provided those present with an update on Stimulus Funding. The River Road Bridge Project is eligible for a new program that would qualify for stimulus funding. Presently, this project is eligible for 80/20 funding where the State would pay for 80% of the construction costs of the Bridge and the Town would pay for the remaining 20%. Under this new program, the bridge would qualify for 60/40 funding, where federal funds would pay for 60% of the construction costs and State Funds would pay for the remaining 40%. The Town has to submit a letter of intent regarding a willingness to participate in the program, which if approved could allow the Town to retain approximately \$130,000 in Bridge Capital Reserve Funds. Al Posnanski asked if there were any strings attached. Michael commented that he had attended at meeting on Friday, March 13, 2009 where representatives from the State and Federal Governments outlined the program. Based on what was presented at the meeting, Michael felt that the real impact would be to the contractors in terms of materials used, wage rates required to be paid and stricter construction oversight. Since this was a one time construction project and not a long term program, it would appear the exposure to the Town would be limited at worst.

Michael also noted that pre applications had been submitted for some water and sewer projects under the stimulus programs being offered by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). On the Wastewater side, he had been told that over 300 project application totaling \$500-600 million dollars had been received by NHDES. The total funding available for the program is only about 39 million, so the competition would be tough. Michael did not have figures from the water side, but had heard there was an equally large funding gap there as well.

Fire Billings for Orange and Dorchester

Michael reported to the Board that the fire service cost sharing billings for 2009 had gone out to Orange and Dorchester. He noted that in preparing the 2009 billings he discovered that no billing had been done for 2007 and 2008. Those bills had been prepared and were sent out as well. Phil Salvail asked how much the billings were. Michael noted that they totaled over \$68,000. Chairman Reagan mentioned the Orange had asked to make installment payments for the 2007 and 2008 bills. Michael said he would contact them and make arrangements if the Board was in agreement that it would be okay for them to make installment payments.

Transfer Station Enforcement

Michael provided an update to the Board with regard to this topic. Due to a misunderstanding as to what constituted a violation of the Ordinance, letters were incorrectly sent to many residents who had been notified of the need for a sticker, but still allowed to dump at the Station. As an example, Ruth Conwell, called to express concern that her husband had received a notice for a violation when he had not even been to the Transfer Station with his vehicle. She had been to the station and in fact had been told she could dump but needed to have a sticker displayed on her next visit. This situation was reported by a large number of residents who had received notices.

Michael noted that he had spoken with Glenn regarding this matter. Al Posnanski, mentioned that he had spoken with Glenn as well and he hoped the situation has been corrected.

Michael also mentioned that he had put notice out on the Town website and in the Town Office asking for the assistance with this program so we can eliminate illegal dumping.

Other Business

Michael mentioned that he had received a request from Canaan Hardware for a road closure. They were asking the Selectmen to close "On the Common" for an event they would like to hold on a Saturday in May from 10AM to 2PM. The Board said they would review the request, but had concerns with closing that section of roadway on a Saturday morning. Dave Barney mentioned that there was a Lions event on May 16, 2009 at the Speedway that might pose a conflict if the Canaan Hardware event was on the same day.

Michael presented the Wright Pierce Waste Water Treatment Facility Evaluation and Groundwater Discharge Capacity Study Engineering Report Phase Contract for signature. Tim Lewis made a motion to accept the contract and authorize Chairman Reagan to sign on behalf of the Board. Chairman Reagan seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 2-0.

Michael noted that Town Counsel, Bernie Waugh had attended the Planning Board meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2009 and presented an update on some recent changes to pertinent municipal laws. If anyone would like a copy of the presentation they can contact Michael at the Town Office.

Selectman Lewis asked Michael to contact the Road Agent and have him prepare a list of projects for the coming year for the Board to review. This would afford everyone the opportunity to be informed with regard to what was planned and allow for a discussion of priorities should budget constraints dictate a cutback in work.

Ellie Davis asked if the auditor had been in yet. Michael informed her that the Auditors had informed Gloria that they would be in this month. Ellie expressed some concern with the delay.

Denis Salvail asked the Board to consider not taking any stimulus money for Town projects.

Non-Public Session (RSA 91 – A.3-c)

With no further business before the Board, at 9:10 PM Selectman Lewis moved and Chairman Reagan seconded a motion to enter into non public session. The Board voted 2-0 by roll call vote to go into non public session to discuss a tax abatement issue with a resident. At 9:19 PM Selectman Lewis made a motion to come out of non-public session. The motion was seconded by Chairman Reagan and voted 2-0 by roll call vote. At 9:20 PM Selectman Lewis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chairman Reagan and voted 2-0 by the Board.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Tim Lewis
Canaan Board of Selectmen