

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Bob Reagan. Selectman Scott Borthwick, Selectman Tim Lewis and Town Administrator, Michael Capone, were also in attendance. Others present: Al Posnanski, Pat Danielson, Elwin Neily, Shirley Packard, Glenn Carey, Roger Cantlin, Matt Wilson and Ryan Kress. Chairman Reagan led those in attendance in reciting our pledge of allegiance.

Other Business

Ryan Kress, an Arborist for National Grid was present to review some tree cutting to be done in the Town Forest Land along Route 4 and in front of the 4-H building. He was looking for authorization from the Board to do the cuts, but wanted to explain the extent of the work to the Board. Selectmen Lewis suggested that the entire tree in front of the 4H building be removed rather than the large limb proposed. Ryan mentioned that, since it was a line tree, he would check with the abutter to be certain they had no problem with removing the entire tree before proceeding. Michael informed the Board that he had asked Ryan to check with the Conservation Commission in regard to the Town Forest land to be certain they were okay with the proposed cutting. Selectman Borthwick made a motion to approve the proposed cutting and to authorize Chairman Reagan to sign the form on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and the Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Minutes of July 14, 2009 Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes and voted the following: Selectman Lewis moved and Selectman Borthwick seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2009 meeting as written. The Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Transfer Station-Discussion of Operations

Al Posnanski, Chairman, and members of the Recycling Committee, were present along with Glenn Carey, Transfer Station Manager to discuss operations at the Transfer Station. In particular, Al wanted to discuss the status of enforcement and what options the Board would want to consider with regard to operational changes at the Station. Al mentioned that the Committee had discussed exploring pay as you throw, purchasing our own roll-off truck, curbside trash pickup and privatization of the Transfer Station as possible future options. Al asked Glenn for an update on current operations.

Glenn noted that there had been a decrease in the number of residents coming into the station without stickers. He also mentioned that they see about 750 vehicles per week. Michael noted that in the last two weeks he had only received 59 plate numbers from Glenn. Of those 59, only two had been in more than once. Those two residents will receive the initial notification letter explaining the requirement to display a sticker. Michael mentioned that the revised letter was in the Selectmen's box in the office for their review and comment.

Glenn also noted that material is still being left after hours, but he is not certain if it is left by residents or by the Road crew during the day. Michael said he would check with Bob Scott to see how often that occurs.

Glenn then discussed current operations at the station and some other options for the Board to consider. There was a discussion with regard to going to a dual stream recycling model. This would have only two collection points for recyclables. One would include paper and cardboard and the other would include all glass, aluminum, steel cans and plastic.

Glenn went on to explain that there are many factors to consider when evaluating the dual stream model. Co mingling recyclables reduces their recycling value. This can be offset by a potential increase in the amount of material recycled. In addition, there is a reduction in manpower and equipment required to handle recyclables which lowers operating costs. There was some additional discussion among those present with regard to exploring this option, but it was determined that further evaluation would be required. Michael suggested that he and Glenn put together some numbers for the Board to review. Chairman Reagan thanked Glenn, Al and all of the recycling committee members for their time and effort.

Other Business

Chief Bellion was present to discuss two purchase requisitions he had submitted to the Board for approval. In particular he wanted to answer any questions the Board had with regard to the requisition for new turnout gear.

Selectman Lewis asked the Chief how many people were on the department and how many responded to calls. The Chief explained that there were currently 32 members of the department. He further explained that in order for them to be safe, they would need to replace worn turnout gear. Typically this would need to be replaced every three to five years, but often they would try to stretch the cycle out to seven years.

The Board members commented that they wanted to be certain that our firefighters were safe. The concern they had was spending money buying gear for members who did not respond to calls or were not sufficiently trained to the point where they would be in a position to need the gear. Chief Bellion commented that in the past he has refused to buy gear for members who do not show up. He commented that they are not outfitting people who do not go to fires.

Selectman Borthwick asked how individuals get paid and how incidents are handled. The Chief explained that the department was organized into three shifts. Available members on each shift will respond to a call and if necessary summon additional assistance from other shifts. Once a situation has been assessed members who are not required to be at the scene are sent home.

With no further questions from the Board members, both requisitions were signed. Chief Bellion thanked the Board for their time and Chairman Reagan thanked the Chief for coming in to the meeting.

Budget vs. Actual

Michael reviewed the 7/27/09 budget worksheet with the Board and those present. He noted that 30 weeks into the budget year account balances should be near 42.30%. The overall balance is at 46.83%. Michael noted that all of the “problem” areas in the budget still remain. He also noted that the Highway Supplies line had been drawn down and he would get detail on those expenditures to review.

Michael mentioned that he had also been reviewing non property tax revenues for the first half of the year. This would include but not be limited to, revenue from building permit fees, current use penalties and motor vehicle registrations. Overall these revenues were down by approximately \$90,000 from 2008. In addition, property tax collections for the current warrant were running behind the three year average by \$40,000. If this trend were to continue in the second half of the year, it would result in a loss in revenue of approximately \$260,000 for 2009. If you add the reduction in State contributions to revenue sharing and the retirement costs passed on to Towns by the State it would total over \$300,000 in decreased revenue for the year. This loss would have to be made up in either reduced spending or increased taxes.

Timber Cuts-Phase 2 at Transfer Station and Town Lot on Follansbee Road

Selectman Lewis addressed this topic. He suggested that the Town proceed with the second phase of the Forestry Plan for the Town property off of Transfer Station Road. He also wanted to include cutting some wood from the Town property on Follansbee Road and possibly some roadside cutting in areas the Road Agent needs cleared for improvements. The other Board members were in agreement. Michael mentioned that he had called Jim Burnett and left a message to call back to discuss market conditions and a plan for the cut. Michael will discuss how to proceed when Jim calls back.

Other Business

The issue of gravel production and gravel use came up during the road improvements portion of the timber cut discussion. In particular, there was a discussion of the use of the sharp ledgestone during spring maintenance of the roads. The Board members had all received complaints from residents regarding the damage the stone was doing to tires. Selectman Lewis made a motion that the Board direct the Road Agent to explore alternatives to the use of ledgestone for spring maintenance of roads. The motion was seconded by Selectman Borthwick and voted 3-0 in favor by the Board.

August Meeting Schedule

Michael wanted to review August meeting options for the Board's consideration. After a review of everyone's meeting schedules and considering Chairman Reagan's continued involvement with the Enfield withdrawal review, the Board decided that the two meetings for August will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at 8AM and Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 7PM. Michael will publish the meeting schedule for posting on the Town website and the four additional locations in Town. Discussion of the September schedule was tabled until Michael receives an update from the SAU with regard to the Enfield withdrawal review meeting schedule for September.

Project Updates

Michael informed the Board that he had received a detailed listing of lighting fixtures from National Grid. He had a brief conversation with a representative in regard to the costs associated with removing fixtures in order to reduce lighting expenses. There is a fifty dollar charge per fixture for removal. Michael mentioned that he was going to review the list and try to map out locations for the Board to review prior to making a decision with regard to which lights will be turned off.

Michael mentioned that he had a follow up conversation with Wright-Pierce regarding an issue with the second water quality test sample at the well site. The lab had confirmed that the second sample results were valid. Wright-Pierce was going to speak with DES to discuss how the new readings would influence the blending strategy under consideration.

Other Business

Michael asked if anyone had heard from Richard Remacle with regard to returning to work at Orange Brook. Selectman Lewis mentioned that he had not seen him lately, but would try to contact him.

Michael informed the Board the assessing firm hired by the Property Liability Trust (PLT) to perform the review of Town property would be in during the week of 9/14. This service is provided at no expense to the Town, but allows PLT an opportunity to update town property assessments.

Selectman Lewis mentioned that he was asked about a tractor being stored in the Cozy Corner building. Michael noted that it was going to be used by the Recreation Committee for the Float in the Old Home Days parade on Saturday. Michael apologized for not mentioning it previously. He noted that the tractor would be out next week after the parade.

Non-Public Session (RSA 91 – A.3-c)

With no further business before the Board, at 9:42 PM Selectman Lewis moved, Selectman Borthwick seconded and the Board voted 3-0 by roll call vote to go into non public session to discuss advice from legal counsel. At 10:54 PM Selectman Lewis made a motion to come out of non-public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Borthwick and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 10:54 PM Selectman Lewis made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Borthwick and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 10:55 PM Selectman Lewis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman Borthwick and voted 3-0 by the Board.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

Tim Lewis
Canaan Board of Selectmen