

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009**

The meeting was brought to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Reagan at the Town Office Meeting Room. Selectman Borthwick, Selectman Lewis and Town Administrator Michael Capone were also in attendance. Others present: Larry Brabant, Glenn Carey, Bob Scott, Police Chief Sam Frank, Amy Thurber, Nelson Therriault, George Lazurus and John Hennessey.

Update of 2009 Budget vs. Actual

Michael distributed copies of the latest budget vs. actual for everyone to review. He noted that currently spending was below average year to date which is good because of the anticipated drop in revenues for the year which will require a reduction in spending to avoid having to raise taxes.

Michael also noted that the Human Services budget deficit continues to grow and may be close to \$20,000 overspent by the end of the year. This will require funds to be transferred from some other part of the Budget to cover the shortfall.

2010 Budget Update

Michael mentioned that there were a few changes being made to the draft budget. He noted that the water and sewer line for the fire department budget would have to be increased to \$5,600 to account for hydrant charges assessed to the fire department account.

He also asked the Board about putting some money back into the C & D disposal line for the Transfer Station Budget because of the delay in implementing the program with Hammonds. The Board agreed to put \$2,000 back into that line.

Larry asked if the Board would consider putting some additional money into the repair parts line of the Mechanics budget. He has noticed that the cost of parts for the newer vehicles is increasing and he did not want to run out of money for parts. The Board suggested that he mention it at the Budget Committee meeting on Thursday.

Chief Frank mentioned that he would like to purchase a traffic counting device for the Police and the Highway Department to use. He mentioned that they cost about \$3,000, but half of the cost could be paid through a grant. Chief Frank noted that having this unit would help the Department to target areas where vehicles are speeding and allow him to step up enforcement. Bob Scott thought the unit would be helpful to measure traffic volumes to help him with analyzing where road improvements need to be made.

Michael reminded those present that the next budget committee meeting would be on Thursday, December 3 at 7PM at the Fire Station.

Michael also reviewed the latest non property tax revenue numbers with those present. He noted that as of the end of November those revenues were down more than \$60,000 from last year. If you combine that with some of the revenues the State is no longer paying to the towns it represents a loss of more than \$100,000 in revenue for the year.

Town of Canaan Health and Safety Policy

Michael checked with everyone to be certain that they had received a copy of the new Health and Safety Policy. He mentioned that the Health and Safety Committee would begin conducting safety audits shortly. It was also noted that the Committee will need to have new members selected from the Departments soon.

Chief Frank thought the safety audits were a good idea, but wanted to be certain that the Town would be able to follow through with the recommendations of the committee. Michael commented that it was his understanding that as long as reasonable efforts at compliance were made by the Town, regulators would allow sufficient time for compliance so that the money associated with the improvements would not have to be spent all at once. Chairman Reagan noted that we would have to be in compliance and the appropriate priority would be assigned making the improvements.

Other business

Michael asked if the departments could plan on submitting there year end reports before January 15, 2010 for inclusion in the Town report.

Michael mentioned that the Board had received a petition from the residents of Follensbee Road requesting that the speed limit on the road be posted at 20MPH. They also requested that the sign read "strictly enforced". There was a brief discussion with Road Agent Bob Scott and Chief Frank as to whether the limit could be lowered below 25MPH. Michael said he will look into it, but wanted folks to be aware that the request had been made.

Michael also mentioned that the Board would like to proceed with the Timber cut at the Transfer Station and along Follensbee Road.

Chief Frank asked if the Board had reached a decision with regard to a new cell phone plan for the Town. Selectman Lewis mentioned that the Board wanted to try the US Cellular plan with just phones and no Blackberries included. Michael mentioned that he was going to work out the details with US Cellular.

Michael mentioned that the Board had approved the purchase of some manufactured sand to try on the plow route in West Canaan. They asked Bob Scott to procure some material for the trial runs.

Bob Scott mentioned that he was collecting more information with regard to some new equipment and would get back to the Board soon with additional numbers.

Selectman Lewis asked the Road Agent what prompted his comment to the paper that the Selectmen were “running the Town into the ground”. Bob responded that he felt the Board was wrong to not allow him all of the money he needed to complete the roadside mowing during the fall.

Non-Public Session (RSA 91 – A.3-c)

With no further business before the Board, at 9:05 AM Selectman Borthwick moved, Selectman Lewis seconded and the Board voted 3-0 by roll call vote to go into non public session to discuss a personnel matter. At 9:55 AM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to come out of non-public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 9:55 AM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 9:56 AM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 by the Board.

Robert Reagan

Scott Borthwick

Tim Lewis
Canaan Board of Selectmen