

**-CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> , 2010**

Selectmen convened at 7:00 PM and was called to order by Chairman Reagan. Others present: Selectman Scott Borthwick, Selectman Marcia Wilson, and TA Michael Samson. Guests included Selectman John Franz and Treasurer Brian Howe from Dorchester, John Franz, and Steve Darrow, Selectman from Grafton. Superintendent Barbara Tremblay and Business Manager George Caccavaro, Patrick Andrew and Stella Butterfield from SAU 62 attended, Cookie Hebert, Dorchester School Board Member as well as area legislators including Charles Sova, Paul Mirski, Chuck Townsend, and Jeanne Forrester, Valley News and citizens, including Ellie Davis, Russell Lester, David Lester, Al Posnanski and Phillip Salvail.

**State aid and Statewide Education Property Tax**

The was general review and discussion of the potential for significant increases in property tax rates as the “collar” and hold harmless clauses of the statewide education property tax system resulted in significant lost revenue in FY 2011.

Generally, there was opposition to the tax increases that three of the SAU 62 towns would face in 2011. It was noted that property wealth does not translate into ability to pay higher taxes. Solutions included continuation of the “collar” and hold harmless provisions to a constitutional amendment getting the State out of the statewide education tax business and leaving educational funding up to the individual towns.

**Welfare Reform**

There was a general review of local welfare administration including widely divergent costs and services and the lack of any type of limit on the Town’s requirement to provide benefits. A variety of suggestions were offered to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing services. Also suggested were changes to limit local liability and give municipalities more authority to require personal responsibility.

At 8:35 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman Wilson and voted 3-0 by the Board.

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Robert Reagan, Chairman

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Scott Borthwick

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Marcia Wilson

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