

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, March 27th, 2012**

At 7:00 PM Chairman Reagan called the public meeting to order. Selectman Scott Borthwick, Selectman Marcia Wilson, Selectman Bob Reagan and TA Michael Samson in attendance. Members of the Public in attendance included Bob Scott and Al Posnanski.

Reorganization of the Board

Scott Borthwick moved that Bob Reagan be Approved As Chairman and Marcia Wilson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick moved that the Board be reappointed to the same committees and boards that they served on in 2011. Marcia Wilson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Acceptance of the Minutes March 13th, 2012

Motion by Scott Borthwick with second by Marcia Wilson to approve the minutes for March 13th. Unanimous.

Highway Expenditures

Bob Scott asked that he be allowed to buy the trailer immediately and take possession of the backhoe immediately with billing to come in June on the backhoe. Samson pointed out that most of this money (excepting the resale value of the old trailer) are already present in the Highway Capital Reserve account and would not impact the cash flow of the Town prior to sending out tax bills in May. Scott Borthwick moved to authorize the immediate purchase of the trailer and the purchase of the backhoe subject to billing in June. Marcia Wilson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. The Board asked what Bob thought he could sell the trailer for and he thought that \$5,000 was a fair price. Scott Borthwick moved to authorize Bob to sell the old trailer for no less than \$4,000. Marcia Wilson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Regional Commission

Christine Walker gave a presentation to the Board of the current work of the Regional Commission and explained a brief report of the nature of housing and employment and population in the region including Canaan. There was general discussion of how that data related to Canaan. Christine noted that the Regional Commission undertakes studies at the request of the communities it serves. No action requested or taken.

Health Care Proposal

Samson indicated that he has been working on a plan whereby employer insurance payers and their enrollees take a more active role in holding down primary care and prescription drug costs. The plan would use country wide bidding of drugs and primary care services that gave consumers a say in the cost and utilization of doctors, staff and equipment. The future savings over time could restrain cost increases by as much as 26%. Samson noted that he had given the individual Board members a preview of the plan and that he

understood that there was a consensus that he could contact other public and private employers to see if there was interest. It was also noted that they process will take about 5 years to fully implement the plan. All enrollees would still have choice on primary doctors and where they obtain their drugs but would pay a higher deductible if they chose not to use the the most cost effective service.

Recognition for Fire and Rescue

The Board reviewed a letter from James Collins, Assistant Chief of Massport Fire-Rescue about the professional quality of care that the Canaan FAST Squad and Fire Department exhibited while responding to an auto accident in Grafton. Mr. Collins asked if he could participate in a recognition ceremony for the crews for their excellent work. The Board indicated by consensus that they would like to set up a ceremony in the near future.

Sewer Capacity

Samson announced that the sewer connection moratorium has been officially lifted and we have notified all people on the waiting list. There will still be at least 20-25 units that can be added in the water and sewer district after the waiting list is complete.

Budget vs. Actual

Samson noted that there had been few changes in either expenses and revenues and there were no new areas of concern. The Board asked about the collective totals on electric usage and heating fuel usage and costs. Samson indicated that while some accounts are very low and others are very high, the cause is inaccurate allocation on the bill as to whether it is fire, highway or police where all three tanks are located together. The total of all heating accounts is generally under budget so far. On electricity, we have higher usage in KWH in police, fire and highway without a clear understanding of why yet. We will attempt to figure out why. The transfer station rewiring has resulted in a monthly charge of \$200 to pay for compactor electricity and heat in the shed but there has been no drop in other accounts near the transfer station so the belief is that the compactor may have been billed through the street light. Samson indicated that with increased enforcement activity, he believes that the legal expense item will run as much as \$20,000 over budget but will be offset by other savings.

Police Salaries – Police Contract

The Board signed a revised payroll authorization that includes higher police pay after the ratifying vote of the union contract at the March Town Meeting. The actual contract had been signed earlier and was in effect once approved by the voters. Samson noted that the signed contract had incorrect language on page 15 under “Article 12 – Outside Work Details” and that the final documents had the correct page 15 included.

Fire Department Officers

Samson indicated that Chief Bellion had submitted the list of Canaan Fire Officers for 2012. Motion by Scott Borthwick and second by Marcia Wilson to approve the list. Unanimously approved.

Meeting House Repairs

Samson noted that there is a contractors meeting on Wednesday, March 28th at 1:00 PM at the Meeting House. Bid solicitations went out to 3 local contractors, four contractors from New Hampshire, five from Vermont and one from Maine.

Other Business

Samson noted that the Transfer Station Committee had met at 5:00 PM to review operations at the Transfer Station. New Stickers would start in April after we get sufficient workers for the registration process.

Samson noted that we would be using the volunteer help of nearly 100 students from Cardigan Mountain School in April.

Bob Reagan asked that we find and replace the wandering bouys on Canaan Street Lake.

Motion at 9:10 PM to enter into executive session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) (d) & (e) by Marcia Wilson and second by Scott Borthwick. Unanimous.

At 9:20 PM Selectman Wilson made a motion to come out of non-public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Borthwick and unanimously approved. At 9:21 PM Selectman Wilson made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Borthwick and unanimously approved.

At 9:22 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Marcia Wilson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

Marcia Wilson
Canaan Board of Selectmen