

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, October 8th, 2013**

Chairman, Bob Reagan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Selectmen Robert Reagan, Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister, TA Mike Samson, Paul Grumbine, Gary Wood, Keith Batten, Jeff Majewski and Ellie Davis.

Minutes of September 24th, 2013

Motion by Dave McAlister to approve the minutes of September 24th, 2013. Second by Scott Borthwick. Unanimously approved.

Ball Field

Samson reported that the lights and buildings have been removed from the ballfield at Canaan Speedway.

Grafton County Economic Development Corporation

Samson reported on a meeting with Grafton County Economic Development Corporation. He indicated that there were discussions regarding the plans for the Autoware property. GCEDC agreed to act as the conduit for financing of the project and indicated that they might be able to help secure the funding. The strongest uses for funding were to support the arts and the Farmer's Market. They also indicated a willingness to partner on filling the new incubator building. There was a discussion of the funding needs for a regional health center. They indicated that GCEDC would assist in applying for CDFIA tax credit financing, CDBG loans and grants and USDA RD loans and grants. Finally, Samson reviewed the goals of stimulation of Village commercial activity and a new industrial park.

Autoware

There was significant discussion with Jeff Majewski regarding why the Town won't waive the interest and penalties on the Autoware property so that he could buy it for less money from Danny Ware. Jeff indicated that he had plans to tear down the house next door and had someone who was interested in developing the combined properties but declined to name or describe the project. There was a review of the planned uses of the property by the Town including additional parking and a community business retail outlet. Ultimately, it was pointed out that there was no agreement yet with Danny Ware and Jeff was free to make any bargain he wanted with Danny but the interest and penalties would not be waived. Jeff argued that we were waiving them for Danny but wouldn't waive them for him. Samson noted that we are using funds from the interest and penalty to buy out Danny's redemption rights to develop the commercial incubator which is a benefit to the Town whereas a waiver for Jeff would only benefit Jeff.

Health Care

Samson indicated that the next community wide health care meeting would be held on the 10th. People attending would be asked if they thought the project was ready for pledging by potential patients. All of the financial data was discussed including the review by Helms & Company. Also discussed was the availability of a consumer owned and managed non-profit insurance company that would be a great fit to capture the savings

from a regional health center. The proposed budget for construction, equipment and working capital were also reviewed.

Budget vs. Actual

The budget continues to be very tight with less than \$10,000 in discretionary latitude between accounts.

Health & Safety Inspections

The Board asked what options we had to keep current on our health and safety inspections. Samson indicated that there was a H&S Committee that is supposed to do the inspections but had not been active this year. He recommended that we turn the responsibility of setting up the inspections to Louis Jacobs. He noted that we have been doing four trainings a year.

Cell Tower

Samson was asked to review the Town's efforts for a new cell tower. He indicated that there was a plan to locate a Verizon tower in the Town but the timing was uncertain and would follow a new tower near Mascoma Lake. He also reviewed discussions with several independent tower developers and WavComm. So far, nothing has materialized.

Uniforms & Boots

There is a proposal to switch to higher reflective uniforms to assure employee safety. G&K has indicated that they will provide the new uniforms at no extra cost if the town extends the contract for 5 years. Samson indicated that he was inclined to support a three year extension. Motion by Scott Borthwick to approve a three year contract extension with new uniforms and add employees as needed to the uniform list with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved. There was a discussion regarding the need for boot replacements where the contact with chemicals in the highway garage was degrading the boots too quickly. Motion by Scott Borthwick to authorize the mechanic to purchase up to two pairs of boots each year if the boots are used on the job and destroyed due to the nature of work with lubricants and chemicals with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Police Grant

A grant application for state funding for extra road patrols was reviewed. Motion by Dave McAlister and second (for discussion purposes) by Scott Borthwick to approve the grant application. Passed by Bob Reagan and Dave McAlister with Scott Borthwick voting no. Scott noted that with the heavy work load from the doubling of arrests, it seemed to be inappropriate to add more time for road safety patrols.

Other Business

Samson was asked if highway crew double dip if they go on fire calls and indicated that they do not.

Samson was asked why sick time could only be taken in half day increments. He indicated that the finance department found that policy easier to manage. It was suggested that the Town change the policy to a minimum of 2 hours used for sick leave.

At 8:47, Selectman Borthwick moved to enter executive session. Dave McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 9:20 Selectman Borthwick moved to come out of Executive Session. McAlister seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:21 PM Selectman Borthwick moved to seal the minutes and Selectman McAlister seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Scott Borthwick to adjourn with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen