

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, November 18th, 2014**

Chairman, Bob Reagan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. In attendance were Selectmen Robert Reagan, Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister and TA Mike Samson.

Also in attendance were Bob Scott, Philip Salvail, Ellie Davis, Al Posnanski, Helen Rocke, Jenny Tuthill, David Reynolds and Thomas Crory.

Minutes of October 21, 2014

Selectman McAlister moved to approve the minutes of October 21 with the addition of Al Posnanski in attendance. Scott Borthwick seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Selectman Borthwick moved to approve the minutes of October 30. Dave McAlister seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Budget vs. Actual

Samson indicated that the current budget had an increased potential balance since there was an item that was projected to need additional money that was in fact saving an equal sum of money which increased the savings by about \$15,000. The bottom line is that the budget is about \$23,000 to the good.

2015 Budget / Health Benefits

Samson reported that the health insurance numbers will not be available until December 4th and he indicated that we will finalize the budget on December 18th. He believes that we will have police union numbers by December 18th as well. There is a proposal for \$7,000 for Cross Country to up-date the current use numbers. This is a DRA requirement. Samson indicated that there is already enough money in the budget to fund this work.

EDPR Wind Turbines

A representative of Wind Watch discussed the fact that EDPR, a portugese wind energy company, had filed with FAA for permission to erect towers on Mount Tug (and ridges behind Tug). The representative talked about health issues, scenic blight, environmental impacts, insufficient tax revenue, insufficient closure costs and no energy cost advantages to the host community. No application or other contact has been made to the Town of Canaan.

School Tax Rate

Samson reported that Patrick Andrew had informed the Town that the inclusion of the phrase that “the only way to reduce the school tax increase was through the use of their voice and their vote with the schools since the Town was powerless to make any change” was illegal. Samson indicated that he would like to apologize for including that phrase and noted that neither he nor any of the Selectmen were aware of the rule forbidding any phrases that urged voters to take a particular action being included in the tax bills. Facts without calls to action are allowed. Another claim by the school district that any communication is electioneering is totally without merit for a variety of reasons. The same flyer could have been mailed out the day after the tax bills and would have been legal.

Highway / Fire Station

There was discussion about whether the Highway Department should start work on a new road around the Fire Station. The Board indicated that it was a good idea but that the work should be deferred until a later date and only when other jobs were completed.

Ice Storm

Bob reported that there was no evidence that salt was needed when the road work was done during the last storm although there were a few areas that ultimately were slick. Salt was available.

Conservation Commission

Samson reviewed additional covenants that the Conservation Commission requested. The Board was in agreement on all except the clause that 80% of all voters would be required to make a change. The Board indicated that they wanted to stay with at least a majority of the voters actually voting at an annual Town Meeting. Dave McAlister moved to add all of the covenants except for the 80% voter requirement. Second by Scott Borthwick. Unanimously approved.

Septage

Samson indicated that there was a problem with septage being dumped after other haulers were shut off for the year. John Coffey indicated that Stearns had an emergency and was allowed to dump a couple days after the end of the season. The Board asked that all haulers be treated the same.

Senior Center

Samson described the reduced funding that was available to the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council and noted that Roberta Berner would be speaking with the Board on December 2nd.

Junk Yards

After discussion Samson was directed to send out violation notices on Chuck Adams and a reminder to Jameson that his area was returning to junk yard status.

Other Business

Samson asked for abatement of penalties and interest on the Catherine Bates property. Selectman Borthwick moved to approve the abatement/waiver. Dave McAlister seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Samson asked for a change order for a nominal amount on the Goose Pond Bridge project. Selectman Borthwick moved to approve the change order. Dave McAlister seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Samson was asked to send two letters telling landowners to free up turn arounds at the ends of roads for plow trucks.

Selectman Borthwick moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues at 7:20. Dave McAlister seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. At 8:03 Selectman Borthwick moved to come out of Executive Session. McAlister seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Selectman Borthwick moved to seal the minutes. Dave McAlister seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Motion made by Dave McAlister to sign a proposed 4 year contract with Chief Sam Frank. Seconded by Scott Borthwick. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Scott Borthwick to adjourn at 8:09 with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen