

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 4th, 2015**

Chairman, Scott Borthwick called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Canaan Meeting House. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Robert Reagan, David McAlister, and TA Mike Samson. Others: Al Posnanski, Peter Michaud, Amy Dixon, Judith Kushner, Trish Weekes, Gary Wood and John Bergeron.

Minutes 7/21/15

Motion by Dave McAlister and second by Bob Reagan to adopt the draft minutes for 7/21/15. Unanimous approval.

Commendation Deferred

Village Common Trees

The Selectmen were urged to review the plan provided by the Friends of Canaan Village. It was suggested that a real expert look at the trees. It was suggested that we look at pruning. Bob Reagan noted that the complaint came because the trees screened the common from view as you are approaching it.

Proposal to Create Historic Registry for Village

Peter Michaud, Judith Kushner, Trish Weekes, and Gary Wood spoke strongly for the advantages of creating a registry of historic buildings in the Village. The proponents argued that the only negatives associated with a 106 review related to federal permits and grants would be true regardless of the the properties being on the historic registry. They argued that the designation would save future applicants time and money when faced with a 106 review. It was noted that a majority of property owners could make the decision to create a historic district regardless of the wishes of the minority property owners. Several Selectmen expressed displeasure with the potential for federal regulation of uses of the property and questioned the offsetting advantage of federal funds. The Selectmen ultimately felt that the wishes of the property owners should prevail.

Motion by Dave McAlister and second by Bob Reagan to adopt the following resolution: "The Town is happy to sponsor the application for the Pre Disaster Planning Grant for Historic Properties with the ultimate approval of a contract with the State to be conditioned on strong support (65% or more) of affected property owners and a majority of voters meeting at a public hearing warned at least four weeks in advance voting to support the effort." McAlister and Reagan in favor. Borthwick against.

Budget vs Actual

Samson reviewed the budget with both income and expense. The expense side is still running very close to fully encumbered and the income side is looking to be safe for the budgeted amount.

2016 Budget

Samson reported on the proposed budget where the goal is to fund several new initiatives including a capital reserve for government buildings and a higher appropriation for bridges while keeping the increase in the tax rate to 2% or less. This year a collaborative public process was used to prepare the budget. A budget was proposed by all department heads and adjusted in a group meeting on August 4th. The current budget draft is an increase of \$89,348 or 2.67% and a resulting tax increase of 1.47%. Insurance are not yet known nor are fees for

prosecutions and dispatch. Wages are tentatively projected to increase 2% and the increase is in the budget.

Septage & Gray Water

Samson indicated that we will be taking in gray water from the condos at Enfield at the rate of about 6,000 gallons a day. The cost will be 3 cents a gallon. We will also be taking in septage from Cardigan Mountain School next week. The meters and cameras are not yet active.

Appointments

John Bergeron proposed recommended appointments for the Historic District Commission. Motion by Dave McAlister and second by Bob Reagan to appoint Justina Lemoi with a term ending 2018. Unanimous approval.

Other Business

None

At 8:35 PM Selectman Reagan moved to enter executive session. Dave McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 8:58 PM Dave McAlister moved to come out of Executive Session. Reagan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:58 PM Dave McAlister moved to seal the minutes of the executive session and Selectman Reagan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Bob Reagan to adjourn at 8:59 PM with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

Robert Reagan

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen