

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 15, 2015**

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

Tax Rate

There was extensive discussion of the tax rate. Overall the rate is up 8.4%. The rate is up 4% for the Town portion due to lost revenue from Fairpoint and a 50% increase in elderly exemptions and a 100% increase in handicapped exemptions. The school rate is up 13% and 4% of this is attributable to the same causes as the Town rate. The balance is due to the bond and school operating budget increases in spite of the use of school surplus of more than \$360,000 to reduce taxes. Samson indicated that he increased revenue expectations by \$20,000 to help offset the increase but the result only helped reduce the rate by 10 cents. The final rates are \$6.70 for Town, \$1.78 for County, \$19.22 for School and \$2.57 for State Education Tax. Motion to approve rate by Dave McAlister and second by Bob Reagan. Unanimously approved.

Skid Steer

Samson indicated that Amy Thurber's father has an old skid steer that he is asking \$1,700 for. With four new tires and foaming the total cost would be about \$5,500. Samson indicated that Greenfield is interested in the two balers and we are asking \$5,000 for the balers. The consensus of the Board was to buy the skid steer if we sell the balers.

Other Business

Samson reviewed his best estimate at this time for year end revenue and expense assuming the best case situation. On the revenue side he indicated that if Motor Vehicle revenues remain strong, we could end up with \$221,000 in additional revenue (\$67,000 from Motor Vehicle). On the expense side, the best case is \$85,000 in unspent money for a total of \$306,000 which is much more than we need.

Samson discussed a request for funeral service reimbursement for welfare. The applicant is in need and the cost of the full service is \$9,644. The cost of a cremation is \$750. The applicant offered to give a mortgage on his home for the funeral. The Board by consensus declined to loan money for the full funeral but would make a customary contribution for burial.

Samson presented the proposed agreement on Autoware and the consensus of the Board was to approve the agreement.

Motion by McAlister to adjourn at 7:15 PM with second by Reagan. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

Robert Reagan

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen