

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 3, 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: Ruth Conwell, Audrey Tacy, Philip Salvail, Gary Wood and Al Posnanski.

Minutes

Dave McAlister moved to approve the minutes of 10/20/15. Second by Bob Reagan. Unanimously approved.

Budget vs. Actual

There are no changes in the budget at this time. The expected surplus for this year could be as high as \$55,000 depending on whether we will experience further unanticipated expenses.

Silvio Conte Refuge

There was general discussion of the proposed alternatives for the expansion of the Silvio Conte Refuge area. Scott Borthwick indicated that he opposed Alternatives B, C and D because they allowed the possibility of eminent domain, a further limitation of uses, and the loss of payments in lieu of taxes. He indicated that he would only support an agreement like the Roby agreement. Motion made by Dave McAlister to oppose alternatives B, C & D with second by Reagan and unanimously approved.

Rockwell Lawsuit

Samson reviewed a lawsuit by Susan Rockwell regarding a parcel of land owned by Rockwell in Canaan. The claim is that the Town failed to defend Rockwell's claim of title. The property was deeded by the Town in a tax sale and by quitclaim deed with no warranties. Rockwell's claim is that the police department failed to use criminal process against her neighbor who contested ownership. The police department treated the situation as a civil matter to be adjudicated by a civil court. Samson indicated that he would have Shawn Tanquay answer the complaint.

Ruth Conwell Abatement

Ruth Conwell requested an abatement of the penalty imposed on her late filing of the property inventory form. She indicated that it was due to her mistake that made the form a couple of days late over a weekend. Samson noted that the Board has voted to discontinue the inventory forms in 2016 and due to the error, it was not unreasonable to abate the penalty. Ruth Conwell (inappropriately) indicated that if she received an abatement, she would make a contribution to the new health center. Based on the mistake, motion to approve the abatement by Dave McAlister with second by Bob Reagan. Unanimously approved.

Clark Hill Road

Audrey Tacy of 180 Clark Hill Road indicated that there was a rumor that the Town was planning on shutting down Clark Hill Road in the winter. The Board indicated that one member of the Board had heard a comment that it might be a good idea. Audrey noted that Clark Hill is the shortest route for emergency vehicles to reach parts of Canaan. She also noted that utilities, busses and postal workers use the road regularly. The Board indicated that before any action is taken there would be a hearing.

Transfer Station

Samson indicated that the ramp for the recycling area is under construction. The Board directed that the HHW waste be bulked and shipped out this fall. They also authorized Brent Stevens to help John. They also authorized the use of a plumber and or electrician for completion of the meters and cameras.

Personnel Policy

Samson reviewed a number of proposed changes to the personnel policy that came up during the Town wide employee review. There was one possibly contentious issue about comp time. Samson reviewed the concerns about the policy and the verification that the policy is in fact legal. He also proposed a change that it would only be used in extraordinary events. He asked whether the Board wanted to remove the comp time option. The consensus of the Board was to not remove the option. Motion to approve the proposed amendments to the personnel policy made by Dave McAlister with second by Bob Reagan. Unanimously approved.

Autoware and Henley

Samson reported that there was a tentative agreement regarding Autoware and communication regarding Henley. Notices of pending sales are going out on six properties.

Other Business

The track expansion to 1.5 miles is complete and it is hosting performance trials for the USA Subaru Rally Cross Team.

The Board directed Chief Frank to keep a record of all of the accidents at the new MVUHS entrance to Route 4.

The Board asked that the freight house and Cash Market be posted against trespassing.

At 7:22 PM Selectman McAlister moved to enter executive session. Bob Reagan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 7:50 PM Selectman McAlister moved to exit executive session, seconded by Bob Reagan and it was unanimously passed.

At 7:51 Selectman McAlister moved to seal the minutes. Bob Reagan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Motion by McAlister to adjourn at 7:51 PM with second by Reagan. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

Robert Reagan

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen