

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 11, 2017**

Scott Borthwick called the open meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Canaan Meeting House. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister, Al Posnanski, Town Administrator Mike Samson and Administrative Assistant Sharon Duffy. Others: Adam & Elissa Eckhardt, Ed & Barb Bushor, Carol Corette, Arvilla Goss, Vi Wilson, Jane Wilson, S. Goss, Jim Wilson, Pat Fountain, Elaine Morrison, Kathy LaCroix, John Bergeron, Kathy Lee, Stripe Demarest, William Westgate, Dave Shinnlinger, Kevin Cattabriga.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the public session of June 20, 2017 and June 26, 2017 were approved with changes. The nonpublic session minutes for June 20 and June 26 were accepted as written.

West Farms Road

A group of people who live on West Farms Road attended the meeting to share their concerns about the highway repairs being made to that road. Resident Adam Eckhardt read a prepared statement in which he outlined some of his issues with the road which included poor drainage, rough surfaces, ruts, broken culverts, and dips. In addition he was concerned about the lack of communication or possible misinformation from the town about what work was being done and when. After he read the statement, several other towns people reiterated or added to his points. The overriding concern was that people wanted to be sure that the repairs were “done right.”

Selectboard members, Samson, and Highway Superintendent Bob Scott addressed individual concerns as they were voiced. They were apologetic for those who did not receive notice – letters were sent to tax payers only, therefore renters did not receive direct communication. There is no way to notify renters. Ten flashmail notices were sent over 10 weeks, and everyone was encouraged to sign up for this town publication. Some information did change over time. Rain and broken equipment did delay work on the road. In addition, the selectmen pointed out that information is available in the CIP report in the Town Report regarding road construction budgets and details. Mike Samson stated that Superintendent Scott has certificates in the highest training available in the state of NH, and reminded everyone of the good work that he and his crew have done in recent years on other roads in Canaan. Scott Borthwick asked if the attendees were satisfied with the work done on Talbert Hill and Codfish Hill. Attendees indicated they were satisfied. Scott Borthwick and Bob Scott indicated the West Farms Road would be comparable. Dave McAlister pointed out several roads that have remained in good condition for at least 10 years. It was pointed out that in order to have the road conditions that some people were talking about would be cost prohibitive for taxpayers. A related issue brought forward was the use of the road by heavy trucks and logging trucks. Several of these trucks have been seen speeding or operating dangerously. The selectboard said that residents need to call the police (or the town administrator) to make a report, to get plates numbers, and be willing to make statements for the police. In the end, the board thanked everyone for coming in and reassured them that they, too, cared about these issues. At this point this group of people left the meeting. Remaining attendees were the 3 selectmen, the town administrator, the administrative assistant, Bob Scott, Dave Shinnlinger, and John Bergeron.

Raised Garden

A resident of the Remale Block Apartments has constructed raised garden beds on town property in front of the Chinese Restaurant. This is a pedestrian hazard, and will interfere with Winter sidewalk maintenance. Mike Samson has spoken with the man, and let him know that it wasn't allowed, and that the beds needed to be permanently removed by the Fall. The Board agreed. They will send him an official letter stating this and giving him a deadline of October 1, 2017.

Appointment to the Historic District Commission

Dave McAlister moved and Al Posnanski seconded to approve Elizabeth Jutila to serve as an alternate on the Historic District Commission. All in favor.

Policy for Vendors on Town Property

Mike Samson presented a written summary of past, present, and proposed vendor policies. The new proposals included fees for use of utilities by vendors who are not participating in non-profit events sanctioned by the Town. Other new policies addressed vendors at Canaan Hall. The board will review the summary and create a final policy at a future meeting. They want wording in the policy to also reflect vendors at the Meeting House, and to have the policy published on the web and in the town flashmails.

Flood Mitigation Hearing

The next board meeting will occur as part of a public hearing for Flood Mitigation in Canaan. It will be at 6pm at the Canaan EOC on Tuesday, July 18.

Budget vs. Actual

Mike went over the expenses with the board. A few line items are over budget. One office computer needs to be replaced this year ahead of schedule – its fan is failing. The salary for the shared position between highway and cemetery is currently unbalanced, but it will work out. The same is true for government buildings. Also in govt. buildings, all of the painting will not get done. The Meeting House Tower may not be painted this year due to a lack of time. If delayed, it will be painted next year. The museum, and parts of the library and town office will be painted this year. Minor repairs to wooden siding at the museum will be done before it is painted. The advertising account is over budget because of the advertising to fill the mechanic's position. More advertising is expected later this Fall. The Fire Department will be changing some of the use of their CIP funds from a compressor to hoses. The compressor is not in need of replacement yet, and the hoses are. In regards to Water & Sewer billing, remediation is being made for the water meter at the Majewski Apartment that has previously been read, but unrecorded in the computer/billing system. Within two weeks, we should know what has not billed. In general board members thought that billing for this year would be fair, but not further back. They are reserving judgement, though, until they have all of the details.

Ladders

The Fire Department has some ladders that are no longer of use to them, and has asked the board if they could be sold/given away to fire fighters instead of being disposed of. The board agreed as a whole with the following conditions. For each ladder, the fire department should ask for a \$40 payment and sign a waiver of indemnification for the town. The fire department members should have first choice of the ladders, and then other town employees. After that, any ladders left should be sold for scrap

FEMA

The town applied to FEMA for \$75,000 for storm damage repairs. Bob Scott and Bill Bellion photographed the damage the day after the storm. If a declaration is made, a special meeting will be set to further process the request.

Guthri-Sprague Deed

David McAlister moved and Al Posnanski seconded a motion to sign a corrective deed. The first one was improperly notarized. Unanimous approval. The board signed the deed.

Police Department

In regards to the recent request agreement between the police department and the board of selectmen regarding acquiring a forfeit vehicle. The agreement was approved as written with the following additions or emphasis: The agreement is to end on October 1, 2017. It began on June 20, 2017. Use of the vehicle for training is approved.

The police union is ready to enter negotiations for the 2018 budget. The board is available to meet August 8 at 6 pm if the union is available that day. Mike Samson will confirm that date with them. Sharon Duffy will be sure it gets added to the EOC calendar.

Other Business

We have had problems retaining contractors to complete repairs on the town office and library. By consensus the board agrees that Mike Samson may advertise on the town flashmail for insured contractors to do the work. He is to make sure that he has their certificate of insurance before they begin any work.

There is no new news on the Canaan Cash Mart other than that the police are no longer opening the door for Linda Ware because her contract for access ended on July 1. Mike Samson has told Linda Ware that she can borrow a key from the town to get her stuff out of the building for time being.

Nonpublic Session

At 7:30 David McAlister moved and Al Posnanski seconded to go into nonpublic session. All in favor.

The board returned to public session at 7:44.

David McAlister moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Al Posnanski seconded.

Unanimously approved.

David McAlister moved to adjourn the meeting. Al Posnanski seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. All in favor.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

David McAlister

Al Posnanski
Canaan Board of Selectmen