

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

Scott Borthwick called the open meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Conference Room Under Library. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister and Al Posnanski, and TA Samson. Others: Ellie Davis, Elwin Neily, Matt Wilson, Russell Reed, Dan Dash, Derek French, Michael Hutchinson, Hue Wetherby and Ritchie Wheeler.

Minutes August 18, 2020

Motion by Al Posnanski and second by Dave McAlister to approve the minutes of 8/18/20. Unanimous.

Approve request for \$550,000 in grant funds from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund

Samson indicated that the next step is to submit an application for \$550,000 in grant funds to replace the water main from the lake to the village. The total project cost is \$1.2 million dollars and we have already been awarded loan capacity if the voters approve the loan. The loan would be paid by the users over 30 years. Motion by Dave McAlister to authorize applying for the grant. Second by Al Posnanski and unanimously approved. Samson indicated that he would prepare models of rate increases to cover the projected loan. Once the model is approved, rate will increase and we will need to seek loan approval in March. The project will replace the 140 year old water main.

Other

Elwin Neily asked why we were cutting brush in the field between the transfer station and his field. He indicated that the Town had agreed to let the Town field act as a trap for flood debris by leaving the brush standing. Elwin thought that the Town agreed to plant trees on the field but Samson indicated that it supposed to have low brush and swales that would catch debris but let flood water drain back to the river. Samson indicated that he had no idea why the brush was cut except perhaps to prevent the spread of fire from the burn pit. Samson indicated he would check and that he would also instruct Highway not to cut the brush.

A first draft of the Noyes history was handed out. It will go to four reviewers who will be asked to comment and make proposed changes. He will release it at the next Selectmen's meeting.

At 5:30 PM Selectman McAlister moved to enter non-public session to discuss interview potential candidates for hire. Posnanski seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 7:00 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 6:45 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Review of 2021 Budget

Samson went through the revenues which look to be higher and noted that we need \$320,000 to go into the Capital Reserves. He indicated that in the past we raised about \$250,000 out of the unassigned fund balance. Because of tighter budgeting, he anticipated only raising \$150,000 next year. That leaves \$170,000 to be covered in taxes. The general fund budget so far is \$4,136,362 compared with \$4,036,474 last year. At this point he believes that the 2020 tax rate will be 3% higher and that next year's would be 4.5% higher. He will continue to look for savings and attempt to get the increase down to about 3.5% next year.

At 7:50 PM Selectman McAlister moved to enter non-public session to resume interviewing potential candidates for hire. Posnanski seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 8:15 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 8:15 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Motion by Dave McAlister to offer employment to Hutchinson, French, Reed, Wetherbee at the rates recommended by the TA. Second by Posnanski. Unanimous.

At 8:20 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to adjourn. Second by Dave McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

David McAlister

Al Posnanski
Canaan Board of Selectmen