

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2020
Via Zoom, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Stephen Freese, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski (Select Board liaison), Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk; Town Administrator Mike Samson, Highway Superintendent Bob Scott; Canaan resident Bob Curtis; recorded by Roger Lohr.

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sadie Wells called the Canaan Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Minutes Approval

Stephen Freese made a motion which was seconded by Al Posnanski to approve the October 15, 2020 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted and amended.

Discussion: Changes to replace two positions with one position; and remove Fairpoint settlement. **Approved by John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Stephen Freese, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk.**

3. Proposed Canaan 2021 Budget Update

Town Administrator Mike Samson explained the color coding on the budget documents which highlight large variances compared to last year's budget. He stated there will be a 1% wage increase and explained the details associated with the Potato Road project. New hires pay about \$5,500 for health insurance for a family plan and the high deductible could save the town \$14,000.

Highway and Mechanic

The high contract services are associated with renting a grader for a month. The increase for salt is associated with more frequent storms based on this year's usage. Salt has increased about \$10 a ton in the last decade.

A replacement for the mechanic has not been found and the search is continuing but there is currently one candidate. Samson explained that a portion of the mechanic salary could be moved to repairs that are needed to be outsourced because the town does not have a mechanic. He reviewed what the town has done to find more candidates for the mechanic position.

Proposed Revenue Budget

Revenues have been changing and the goal is for the Canaan budget to maintain a flat tax rate this year. The rate increase is currently 1.5% with the proposed budget and the aim is to get it below 1%. The water/sewer fee rates will increase by 40%. Samson talked about the recreation program which due to COVID has been changed to self-directed recreational activities rather than a department with a staff. The after-school program has provided funding for the Canaan recreational programs and when things get back to normal there is hope that this will continue in the future. The Canaan recreational programs have also been covered by user fees. A \$2,400 mistake was found by Committee member Ellie Davis.

4. Adjournment

Ellie Davis made a motion which was seconded by Al Posnanski to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Approved by John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Stephen Freese, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk.