

**Approved with corrections
6-17-2010
Corrections made by Russell Lester
Secretary.**

March 4, 2010

TOWN OF CANAAN, NH

Town of Canaan Budget Committee Meeting

**Ubiquis/Nation-Wide Reporting & Convention Coverage
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Town of Canaan Budget Committee Meeting

[START TAPE --]

MODERATOR: take attendance first Dave.

Dave: Yes.

MODERATOR: Ellie.

MRS. ELEANOR DAVIS: Yes.

MODERATOR: Russell.

MR. RUSSELL LESTER: Yes.

MODERATOR: Al.

MR. AL POSNANSKI: Yes.

MODERATOR: Craig.

[Off-Mic Comment]

MODERATOR: DENIS.

[Off-Mic Comment]

MODERATOR: John.

[Off-Mic Comment]

MR. JOHN BURGERON: Yes.

MODERATOR: Nate.

MR. NATHAN DELEAULT: Yeah.

MODERATOR: On here, Scott is absent with permission, so we have a quorum. Everybody got a copy of those one handout from Dave pertaining to legal? Everybody should have that. We have four batches of minutes. December 17th, January 13th, January 14th and then deliberative session. I want to clear up, so we start out the New Year on a clean slate. We'll go ahead and take December 17th. I make a motion. We accept it as written.

MR. DAVE BARNEY: Second.

MODERATOR: Seconded by Dave Barney. Opened for discussion. Any corrections? I'll give you a minute. Everybody a minute unless everybody has got it.

MALE VOICE 1: These are the minutes we were waiting for from Chris and she finally did get them through to us.

MALE VOICE: Yeah, it's in.

MALE VOICE 1: Oh, good.

MODERATOR: And Chris, she is doing fine. She did lose her cat.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 2: Lost her what?

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Correct. Lost her cat.

MALE VOICE 2: Lost her cat.

MALE VOICE 1: Oh, no.

MODERATOR: But you talk about timing is everything.

MALE VOICE 1: Oh, that's right. Yes.

MALE VOICE 3: Maybe yes.

MODERATOR: No Mark. Oh, that's Mark. Where?

[Crosstalk]

FEMALE VOICE: This is Mark.

MODERATOR: Sorry. We're already there.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: She is getting real close. It just so happens that the flowers that the budget committee sent her came on the day that she had lost her cat, and she said you couldn't believe the timing. She says, "I was so depressed until those flowers came." And she said, "I was so, so turned around." So timing is everything.

MALE VOICE 1: We had all agreed just while we were waiting a minute, people were reading the minutes to give—to fund David for what he—and for anybody that's still outstanding then. Okay. Yeah.

MODERATOR: Oh, It's going to cost you a whopping \$5 a head.

MALE VOICE 2: All right.

MODERATOR: Whenever you get it. I'm not worried about it. It's all bought and paid for and I didn't put it on the credit card.

MALE VOICE 3: Got a five?

MODERATOR: You know I do. I'm a car salesman.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 1: I've got two five's.

MODERATOR: Thank you, sir. This doesn't look good, does it?

MALE VOICE 1: No.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 1: And Al, Dave...

MODERATOR: Thank you. All right. I appreciate that.

MALE VOICE 1: One more here.

MODERATOR: Thank you - - . And she did really—she said she started crying when she got the flowers, so it did make an impression on her. Moving on. No corrections to the minutes. It stands as written.

MALE VOICE 1: As written.

MODERATOR: Everybody in favor of that, say, I.

EVERYBODY: I.

MODERATOR: Those not in favor, say, No. Abstentions as written. Thank you. The next one is January 13th. Moved by Dave to accept them. Seconded by John. Any corrections? Did anybody saw—this was at the senior center.

MRS. DAVIS: I have a correction.

MODERATOR: Yes, Ellie.

MRS. DAVIS: I have a correction but yeah, towards the end of that big paragraph.

MODERATOR: Oh, which one are we on?

MRS. DAVIS: On Page one.

MALE VOICE 1: Okay.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MRS. DAVIS: If you read out, it says, "Next on the agenda." If you go up two lines, it says, "David also pointed out." I don't know who David is. Is that David McAlister or is that David Barney?

MODERATOR: McAlister, I believe.

MRS. DAVIS: David also pointed out the police department in section and budget, 2009 encumbrances were added on the line.

MODERATOR: Yes, I believe I did that.

MRS. DAVIS: Okay.

MODERATOR: So that would be Dave McAlister. We'll just put McAlister right there?

MALE VOICE 1: Okay.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Everybody okay with that? Yes, I remember that.

MRS. DAVIS: Okay.

MODERATOR: Thank you.

MRS. DAVIS: - - .

MODERATOR: Well, no. When there's two Davids-

MRS. DAVIS: Yes.

MODERATOR: -that are vocal. Anything else? All right. If there's nothing else as corrected, all those in favor, say I.

EVERYBODY: I.

MODERATOR: Those opposed. Abstentions written as corrected. January 14th and this is a public hearing.

MR. DAVID MCALISTER: What is it? I've got to abstain on that. I wasn't here for that meeting, so...

MALE VOICE 1: Okay.

MODERATOR: All right. David abstained.

MR. MCALISTER: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. We can do that.

MALE VOICE 1: January 13th.

MODERATOR: Thirteenth. So January 13th—

MR. MCALISTER: I'm sorry. December 17th I was not here.

MODERATOR: All right. December 17th, David—

MR. MCALISTER: I should have abstained—

MODERATOR: [interposing] abstained.

MALE VOICE 2: Too late. You already voted.

MR. MCALISTER: All right. Whatever.

[Crosstalk]

MR. MCALISTER: I don't think the world will end.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Not a problem. Now we're clear. Now back to the 14th.
I'll make a motion we accept them as written.

MR. LESTER: Russell Lester, the second.

MODERATOR: Seconded by Russell. Opened for discussion and
corrections if needed.

MALE VOICE 2: I've made an amendment which I've written out.
It's on Page 2 about two-thirds of the row down in
advertising and regional associations budget paragraph. And
what I've changed it to read is, there was a discussion and
concern the selectman was refusing to pay the client's budget
that he advertised in the regional association of 2009 - - .
And he was told that this was technically legal, that he
would propose an amendment again this year. Fund with those
agencies - - for the 2010 funding. The two - - .

MALE VOICE 3: Okay.

MODERATOR: Did you find it?

MALE VOICE 3: No, I didn't find it.

MALE VOICE 4: There was a discussion right there.

MALE VOICE 1: Right there. Okay. Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Discussion, concern and selectman.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: I don't remember that. And there's quite a few changes to tell you. I think I would have to listen to that recording. That's a good part about the recording. And I don't mind. I think you've got that.

MALE VOICE 1: Yes. Yeah.

MODERATOR: It's a - -

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] It's the 17th the one we're having trouble with, I guess. We had the minutes for the 17th.

MALE VOICE 3: We want to tape these minutes-

MODERATOR: Yeah, why don't we do that?

MALE VOICE 1: Yeah.

MODERATOR: I think I'd rather and-

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] Not to go against or for or against. Let's just see how, you know-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] And it may be absolutely but, you know, if we have the recording and we can even get a copy of the recording, I think, because-and that would clarify exactly what was said. And there was-

MALE VOICE 1: There was quite a lot said.

MODERATOR: There was some chatter there.

MALE VOICE 1: Yes.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Yeah, so you have to have-is that all right with you, Dave, if we table it-

MR. MCALISTER: That's fine.

MODERATOR: -and review the recording to see-Ellie?

MRS. DAVIS: Yeah, I just wanted to say that my recollection was that the selectman didn't put - - . Basically, what they did was they transferred the money indirectly because they overspent the welfare line by more than that amount.

MODERATOR: That was my understanding.

MALE VOICE 1: Yeah.

MODERATOR: And that was what was said by Scott, I believe.

MRS. DAVIS: Right. Right. That's why-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] That they moved that money into the welfare...

MR. MCALISTER: My recollection is that welfare overspending was not-was less than the \$31,000 that...

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MRS. DAVIS: But they - - another line.

MALE VOICE 1: Yes. Yes.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 1: Right.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: But I remember talk about-

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] So - - the fund balance.

MODERATOR: Yeah, I remember the talk about that, I think.

MR. MCALISTER: This doesn't mention where it was purchased. The fact is they didn't pay it.

MRS. DAVIS: Well, they have the right to do that regardless of what they want - -

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Yeah, I know that but what was said-

[Crosstalk]

MR. MCALISTER: It says they have a right to do that but-

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] They want to go by what was recorded that night.

MODERATOR: Who said it? What was recorded, so... All those in favor of tabling January 14th until the next-

MR. POSNANSKI: [Interposing] If we table these minutes, I might not be here for the next meeting.

MODERATOR: That is true.

MALE VOICE 1: Yeah.

MR. POSNANSKI: That's something I would like to-

MALE VOICE 1: No, that's fine. Sure.

MODERATOR: Well, that's okay, Al.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 1: Go ahead.

MR. POSNANSKI: Absolutely.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: I apologize-

MALE VOICE 1: Right.

MODERATOR: -to Al Posnanski.

MALE VOICE 1: What page Al?

MR. POSNANSKI: Okay. Page 3.

MALE VOICE 1: Okay.

MR. POSNANSKI: My name is there - - .

[Crosstalk]

MR. POSNANSKI: The paragraph below that, it says, "The town has gone to a more efficient dual stream recycling system that will save money." I would like to have that read, "The town has gone to a dual stream recycling system."

MODERATOR: Scratch, "More efficient"?

MALE VOICE 2: No, the question is what was said.

MR. POSNANSKI: Well, what is implied here is that I-

MALE VOICE 1: I said it. Right.

MR. POSNANSKI: It said, "I."

MODERATOR: You didn't say that.

MR. POSNANSKI: And if I said it, I didn't mean it in the way that it presented here. It was the way I thought I meant it was that the reason that the selectman did it was because they thought it was going to be more efficient.

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MR. POSNANSKI: I don't want that to be associated with my name because I don't think it's going to be more efficient, and I don't think it will save money.

MR. MCALISTER: It should read the way you said it. The way you-

MR. POSNANSKI: Well, I would like to have it the way that I-

MALE VOICE 1: Gone to a dual-and remove, "More and efficient."
That's the question?

MR. POSNANSKI: "More and efficient," and, "That will save money."

MALE VOICE 1: Okay.

MR. POSNANSKI: Just the adjectives.

MALE VOICE 1: Okay.

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 1: More efficient.

MODERATOR: The town has gone to a dual stream recycling system.

MR. POSNANSKI: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Period. Period.

MALE VOICE 2: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Great.

MALE VOICE 1: And you don't want, "That will save money." Okay.

MODERATOR: Any problems with that correction?

MALE VOICE 3: No. Unless we got in one tape saying - - .

MALE VOICE 1: Right.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Well, the good part is, we'll listen.

MALE VOICE 1: We're going to be listening to it anyways, so-

MODERATOR: Anything else? Thank you.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Okay. We'll table minutes for January 14, 2010, until the next meeting.

MR. LESTER: Second up.

MALE VOICE 1: Russell.

MODERATOR: Russell second it. All those in favor say I.

EVERYBODY: I.

MODERATOR: Oppose?

MRS. DAVIS: - -

MODERATOR: Ellie oppose. Abstentions. Ellie oppose. All right.
So they are tabled. Okay. Next. The deliberative session.
I'm not going to do it because I wasn't here, so I can't-

MALE VOICE 1: Oh, okay.

MODERATOR: I just need somebody else to put it on the table here.

MALE VOICE 3: I - - ready.

MR. LESTER: I'll second it. Russell Lester second.

MODERATOR: Russ second. And Dave made a motion to accept them as
written. Opened for discussion.

MR. MCALISTER: I have actually three amendments. The first one I
spelled John's last name right? B-u-r-g-e-r. The second one
is to replace the first four paragraphs-

MALE VOICE 1: Yes.

MR. MCALISTER: -this with thing I'm amending up now. The people
who - - amendment - - we recommend the amended budget rule
and that's what written here. The budget committee voter
wanted to recommend the budget as amended during the
deliberative session - - .

MALE VOICE 1: I can't get my fingers to work.

MR. MCALISTER: - -

MODERATOR: Yeah, - -

MALE VOICE 1: Right. Because they complain about it, right?

MALE VOICE 2: And your proposal is to replace which?

MR. MCALISTER: The first four paragraphs.

MODERATOR: With this one.

MALE VOICE 2: Which-

MALE VOICE 1: Starting with two-

MALE VOICE 4: [interposing] With two one liners?

MR. MCALISTER: Starting with two amendments that were presented-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] Okay. Right.

MR. MCALISTER: -and the last fourth one that the budget committee voted on the two amendments.

MODERATOR: The spelling is John Burgeron, right?

MR. MCALISTER: Yes.

MODERATOR: And then-

MR. MCALISTER: Oh, how about Al?

MODERATOR: Yeah, I've just seen that. Yeah.

MR. MCALISTER: Al Posnanski too.

MODERATOR: Plosnanski.

MR. MCALISTER: We'll fix that-

MODERATOR: All right. We'll correct those two spelling.

MALE VOICE 1: Oh, okay.

MODERATOR: Thank you.

MALE VOICE 1: Thank you.

MODERATOR: Oh, thank you. And Good Lord-

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: -Mrs. Tucker isn't here otherwise we'd be in trouble.

MALE VOICE 1: Right. Right.

MODERATOR: She was my English teacher. - - . Any other discussion about it?

MALE VOICE 3: I guess on the next paragraph which begins with, "Eleanor discussed," on the second line where it says, "Both field - - because," I'd like to precede, "Both," with "Eleanor reported both field."

MR. MCALISTER: Well, let me finish the first - -

MRS. DAVIS: I don't think you can tell me how - -

MODERATOR: Well, we've got one amendment here already that strikes how-

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 4: Yeah, we've got it.

MALE VOICE 1: Get it straight so we can get to this straight.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: All right. So the amendment out here right now Don is to strike at all four.

DON: I buy that.

MODERATOR: And if that is accepted then we don't have to worry about that one. All right. You follow me?

DON: Okay. Yep.

MODERATOR: All right.

MALE VOICE 2: I don't think so. He is not deleting that one.

MODERATOR: Yes, he is.

MALE VOICE 3: He said he wasn't.

MODERATOR: Oh.

MALE VOICE 1: No, it's the next line. The next one below that.

MR. MCALISTER: Replace the first four paragraphs.

MALE VOICE 4: With two one lines as with the two three lines.

MR. MCALISTER: Okay. Well, that one paragraph. My third amendment will address the next paragraph.

MODERATOR: Okay. This will address the first paragraph. Begin.

MR. MCALISTER: The first four paragraphs. The first one starts with, "Two amendments were presented blah, blah," and the fourth paragraph starts, "The budget committee voted on the two amendments." Okay. I'm going to be replacing all those first four paragraphs with that one. We didn't vote in the amendment. We voted on whether to recommend there would be an amendment.

MODERATOR: Are you following? I'm sorry, I-

MALE VOICE 4: Yeah. He's calling these paragraphs.

MALE VOICE 1: Yeah, these two, three, four-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] Oh, Okay. All right.

MALE VOICE 1: -take those out. There's more dialogue in there than he wants.

MODERATOR: Okay. The committee does not... Okay.

MALE VOICE 1: Makes it hide because you - - .

MODERATOR: Yeah, well, that's why I'm-

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] Yeah, but-

MODERATOR: -leaning to the right.

MALE VOICE 1: Okay.

MODERATOR: Not that that's the way I lead-

MALE VOICE 1: It was a half hazard meeting at best because we were all trying to get everybody-

MODERATOR: Out of there and moving around.

MALE VOICE 1: -together and right afterwards.

MALE VOICE 4: Pretty much all we did was vote on-

MALE VOICE 5: [Interposing] Just yeah. Just ask-

MALE VOICE 4: -the budget.

MALE VOICE 5: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 4: That's all we did really.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Which is basically what this says.

MALE VOICE 3: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 2: Yeah.

MR. MCALISTER: Determined the minutes weren't there or-

MALE VOICE 3: Yeah. Exactly.

MALE VOICE 4: Yeah.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: All right. Any more discussion on that amendment?
All those in favor of the amendment say I.

EVERYBODY: I.

MODERATOR: Those oppose. I will be abstaining.

MRS. DAVIS: I'm abstaining too.

MODERATOR: Two abstentions. Ellie-

MALE VOICE 1: So this-

MODERATOR: -and David McAlister abstaining.

MALE VOICE 1: That goes out.

MODERATOR: All right. Now the next amendment.

MR. MCALISTER: The next amendment is-the next paragraph, it starts with, "Don was discussing the amendment et cetera, and the email I handed out to everyone is from Gregoire who says he did not agree with that, that he said, "- - proposal as long as it's listed here." So you ought to delete that paragraph.

MALE VOICE 4: One second - -

MODERATOR: Okay. And David made an amendment.

MALE VOICE 1: John-

MODERATOR: John seconded it. Do you have a copy of that or you just want to delete it all?

MR. MCALISTER: Okay. Just-

MALE VOICE 1: It was the minutes that he handed out-

MR. MCALISTER: Paragraph on the minutes.

MODERATOR: Oh, it's in the-

MALE VOICE 1: -on the legal.

MALE VOICE 4: The one that begins with, "Don."

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 4: And the minutes of January 30th.

MALE VOICE 1: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 4: The paragraph that begins with "- -

MALE VOICE 1: No. What he's looking for is what the dialogue is and David handed out that in the-

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 1: -corrections, I believe.

MR. MCALISTER: It's a long email.

MODERATOR: First of all, let me clarify my conversation with Mr. Davis.

MR. MCALISTER: Yeah, maybe it took a long time to get there.

MODERATOR: "It did not happen after the deliberative session," what it says. Is that the part?

MR. MCALISTER: Yes.

[Crosstalk]

MRS. DAVIS: Yeah, he said something. And I was talking to him earlier. He couldn't give me any answer. And then he said he wasn't sure and he thought I might be right.

MALE VOICE 4: Is that what he said afterwards? I just saw you guys talking so-

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 1: And that's what was related to me, so-

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 4: I don't know what was said. I wasn't-

MRS. DAVIS: He didn't give me a definite answer but I mean, - -

MALE VOICE 1: I don't care what they put in because I'm not going to take another settlement anyway, so-

MR. MCALISTER: He goes through pretty thoroughly. It takes a lot words to do it but-

MRS. DAVIS: But-

MALE VOICE 4: He is getting paid by the word.

MR. MCALISTER: Well-

MRS. DAVIS: Well, I approached him before the meeting because I figured it would cost the town some money-

MODERATOR: Okay. So we're going to just strike that?

MR. MCALISTER: That's what I'm doing-

MALE VOICE 4: That's the amendment.

MODERATOR: Okay. That's the amendment. Strike Eleanor paragraphs. Any other discussion on it? All those in favor, say I.

EVERYBODY: I.

MODERATOR: Oppose. I'll abstain.

MRS. DAVIS: And I will also.

MODERATOR: Ellie and David McAlister abstained. Okay. Anything else?

MALE VOICE 4: Just on the last paragraph, I did find in my minutes that Vickie had emailed to me after the fact.

MODERATOR: Oh.

MALE VOICE 4: I just have overlooked it and I really didn't have them. Because it didn't come from one of the regular sources.

MODERATOR: Oh, I see. Yeah.

MALE VOICE 4: It was misfiled.

MODERATOR: Okay. Yeah. Yeah.

MALE VOICE 3: But that means we don't need to change the minutes unless someone wants to. I thought I didn't have them but, you know.

MR. MCALISTER: You might want to add it here that the minutes were 12/17, 1/13 or 1/14 - - . When we attended the meeting it was to do those three, I guess, right?

MODERATOR: Was what?

MRS. DAVIS: I didn't know anything about the other. I didn't know anything about the 12/17 minutes. All I think I remember you telling me was those two and that's what I had written down.

MODERATOR: Right.

MRS. DAVIS: Was to do the 13th and the 14th. I didn't know he hadn't done-

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] There was one other seven minutes that-

MALE VOICE 5: [Interposing] So this reflects what we all knew at the meeting-

MRS. DAVIS: Right.

MALE VOICE 1: Right. Exactly.

MALE VOICE 5: -which is insufficient - -

MALE VOICE 1: You know, the 17th was still outstanding.

MRS. DAVIS: It doesn't matter that we were wrong.

MALE VOICE 1: No.

MRS. DAVIS: I mean, this is more than whatever. That's just what-

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] This is all that was-

MRS. DAVIS: That's just what-

MALE VOICE 1: -yeah.

MRS. DAVIS: -actively what happened at the time, so-

MALE VOICE 4: [Interposing] Yeah.

MRS. DAVIS: -I think it's okay to leave it the way it is.

MALE VOICE 1: And these were basically put in the folders but not disseminated, so I got them.

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] Yeah. Because Al and I-

MALE VOICE 1: So that I can disseminate them to anybody else. Only the people in the folders got them.

MRS. DAVIS: Because Al and I are the only two that had them. Now what the - -

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] Not a big deal. It's just that's why it wasn't in-why we couldn't handle that.

MALE VOICE 3: Okay. Yeah. Just for clarification.

MRS. DAVIS: I wouldn't think the Board would have a meeting if I don't know if we had the minutes. That was - -

MALE VOICE 2: [Interposing] And why you needed to vote?

MRS. DAVIS: I wanted to do the minutes so that we could get it over with-

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 2: Right.

MRS. DAVIS: -before the election so that we can-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] Yeah, well, that's primarily why we're here tonight because I'd like to get this cleared up.

MRS. DAVIS: Right.

MODERATOR: As Al said, "We don't know. We don't know."

MRS. DAVIS: Because the attorney-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] And we were here and we may not be the next time, so and-

MRS. DAVIS: Because the attorney told me that we didn't really have to take the vote. But I figured well, why we were there, we'd make it official just in case it needed to be recorded somewhere. Because he told me that once the town meeting amends our budget, it's no longer our budget and our recommendations wouldn't go on the warrant regardless. But I didn't know if it needed to be recorded somewhere.

MODERATOR: Who told you that?

MRS. DAVIS: The attorney.

MALE VOICE 1: I'd like to see that in writing though.

MRS. DAVIS: He said it's not our budget.

MODERATOR: Yeah, I want to see that.

MALE VOICE 1: I want to see that.

MRS. DAVIS: Neither are the documentations. You know, the selectman's recommendations-

MALE VOICE 1: [Interposing] We've been stuffed before by the attorney, so-

MRS. DAVIS: -were no longer valid once it's been amended at deliberative session. But I thought-I didn't know that they might need it for some other reason, it needed to be recorded because when you do-you know, we ended at seven. Before when we put our recommendations on there, the DRA still needed to know what our recommendations were regardless of whether they went on the warrant or not. So I just thought that I needed it for-

MODERATOR: Yeah. Okay.

MRS. DAVIS: -just for legal reasons of it.

MALE VOICE 3: Don't we have those recommendations on the ballot now?

MALE VOICE 4: Not to the budget.

MODERATOR: Not the budget.

MRS. DAVIS: We do now. So when we vote on the budget, because it's not our budget.

MALE VOICE 1: Yeah, No.

MALE VOICE 2: But I mean, the official ballot which is already printed.

MALE VOICE 4: The one that's on the website doesn't have the recommendations.

MALE VOICE 5: Okay. Just for the budget.

MODERATOR: Right. All the rest of the-

MALE VOICE 1: Right.

MRS. DAVIS: Just the money - -

MALE VOICE 1: This is just so the people at the meeting, the legislative body, can see what the two recommendations are known recommendations, so-

MRS. DAVIS: Because you know, when you get to-well, the main reasons why I was concerned about that is because of the 10% rule. Because the town meeting can't override us.

MODERATOR: [Interposing] Right.

MRS. DAVIS: We're more than 10%.

MODERATOR: Right.

MRS. DAVIS: So-

MODERATOR: So our recommendation is the number that the 10% rule applies to is not the amendment.

MRS. DAVIS: Right. It's whatever our original budget was.

MODERATOR: Right.

MALE VOICE 3: But by that same logic where we changed-the way the deliberative session changed Article 4 to a study, should the selectman's recommendations disappear under the article?

MRS. DAVIS: No. They can still put their recommendations on. The only reason you-we can change our recommendations if the-if anymore article is amended except for the operating ones, because we're the only ones that are responsible for that one article.

MODERATOR: Right.

MRS. DAVIS: All the other - - articles, the selectmen are responsible for except the petition ones. We have more authority to do anything else except the operating budget.

MALE VOICE 3: But the deliberative session changes one of the nine budget articles by a-

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] But we don't-

MALE VOICE 3: -substantial amount. That might change our recommendations.

MRS. DAVIS: Yes. Then we have the right to be - - .

MODERATOR: But is that what the attorney was saying they couldn't or - -

MRS. DAVIS: No. This just only applies to the operating budget. It doesn't apply to the other ones. We can change our votes on the other ones and have them appear on the warrant.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MRS. DAVIS: As long as we do it within that time frame, and that's what I was told the best time to do it is immediately after-

MALE VOICE 1: The meeting.

MRS. DAVIS: -the meeting.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 3: Deliberative session.

[Crosstalk]

MRS. DAVIS: Because it's properly non-listed. It's best within that timeframe as long as we don't conduct any other business. We can't change the budget. We can't change our proposal. Between the hearing, I mean, after the hearing, we can't change anything. The only thing we can change is our recommendations.

MODERATOR: Okay. We'll go ahead and vote on the amendments. I think we already have.

MRS. DAVIS: Yeah, you did.

MALE VOICE 4: Oh, just vote on the minutes?

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 3: The minutes as amended?

MALE VOICE 2: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 5: Yeah.

MALE VOICE 3: All right.

MALE VOICE 1: And it says, "Amended."

MODERATOR: And I'll have to take your—I want to -- so—

MR. LESTER: I make a motion that we accept the minutes as amended.

MR. BURGERON: Second.

MODERATOR: Russell made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. John seconded it. All those in favor say I.

EVERYBODY: I.

MODERATOR: Those oppose. Abstentions. David abstains and Ellie as amended.

MALE VOICE 1: David McAlister.

MRS. DAVIS: David McAlister.

MODERATOR: David McAlister. All right. Amen. And Ellie. Okay. That freezes up the minutes. Okay. I have one other thing

I'd like to bring up. At the beginning of the year, I asked if anybody had any questions, if they would funnel through the Chair, and it's to keep things clear and less confusing, where we don't double it. We just had one incident where we just doubled it. Dave, you went to the town and current attorney, didn't tell anybody. He went and did yours. At the same time, he'd already was working on her request from the selectman, the same request, at \$160 an hour. That's expensive to the town. That is one of the reasons if we funnel it through here, then we go through the selectman's office. I don't know. My opinion, anytime we use the town attorney, it should go through the selectman. We shouldn't be going out there and using him to our own discretion.

MALE VOICE 5: Well about several years ago, I think the selectman did put out a memo that said all of the attorney conversation has to go through him.

MODERATOR: Right.

MALE VOICE 5: That was not under the current-

MODERATOR: Right.

MALE VOICE 5: - - but-

MODERATOR: And I appreciate that.

MALE VOICE 5: - - make an appointment.

MODERATOR: Yeah. But I mean, thanks. I feel that's just common courtesy. As I said, at \$160 an hour, we just doubled what we did.

MALE VOICE 5: But I don't think he'd - -

MODERATOR: Well, we've got the attorney working on the same thing and-

MALE VOICE 5: [Interposing] He is not going to - - double for two
- -

MODERATOR: Well, that's all well and good. I'll tell you that after we get the bill.

MR. MCALISTER: - - the selectman's request.

MODERATOR: But nonetheless, whether he is not going too or not, it could have happened that way. This is one other ways to clear it up by going through one person. And I was a little disappointed hearing that, so let it be in the minutes that

from now on, we need to not route on our own and start doing things. We need to coordinate with the selectman whether you like it or not. That's just protocol, I think. And we should respect that. Ellie.

MRS. DAVIS: Yeah, maybe we should apprise the attorney of that fact as well. He shouldn't have answered it.

MALE VOICE 5: He called me. Let's get the record straight. And he called me after he received Dave's email. He said, "I just got an email from Dave. What do you want me to do with it?"

MRS. DAVIS: Oh, okay.

MALE VOICE 5: Because he and I are were already working on this very question, which I think I mentioned to John when he approached me - - session with concerns regarding the validity of the original comments that Bernie had made. So what I told Bernie was, "Well, I suggested that you respond to both of us since we're going to answer your question." We essentially both asked him the same question.

MODERATOR: Right.

MALE VOICE 5: He was already working on it with me. He said, "Well, since Dave had emailed you, you can answer the email to him but cc me and we'll leave it at that, and I'll mention it so that there's no other confusion. We don't know if we're going to get billed the extra money for the time that Bernie spent but--"

MODERATOR: Except, you know, this is a case of we just doubled our quote. The potential was there to have doubled up, and if we'd had gone through the protocol as we asked at the beginning of the year, this wouldn't have gotten where it is now, and I wouldn't be talking to you. So, I think it's a wise idea that we just kind of keep it a little neater, if you will.

MR. BARNEY: I want to comment on this end. I did not know about this until the week after the meeting. Russell - - minutes. This was not discussed at the meeting when I was there. I thought the meeting was over. - - on the budget, determined the minutes were not there. I thought - - left. This all came up after I left and I did not know what until what, a week later, which didn't thrill me at all.

MODERATOR: Well, and I appreciate that Dave but back to my original statement, if you would have gone to Michael or perhaps me, and I would have gone to Michael, we'd have found out. We were working on the same thought and that would have stopped—my concern is the chances of doubling up—

MR. BARNEY: Yeah.

MODERATOR: —to the town attorney, we need to go through— especially if we're going to use the town attorney, we need to go through the selectman's office, Michael or whoever. And that's where I'm focused. How it happened, not quite so much of a concern to me. It's that it happened this way.

MR. BARNEY: The end result is a very similar message to Michael and D.R. and I.

MODERATOR: But—

MR. BARNEY: And that was it, I believe.

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MR. BARNEY: The only extra time - -

MALE VOICE 3: That's probably true but I'll tell you when I get the bill.

MALE VOICE 2: Right.

MODERATOR: Ellie.

MRS. DAVIS: No. I just want to apologize because it's my fault because I didn't adjourn the meeting before I talked to - -. But I thought I had, so... There was just too many people. I mean, people - -

MODERATOR: [Interposing] Yeah, and I appreciate that but—

MRS. DAVIS: Well, part of the problem was, I was upset because people—I told everybody we'll have the meeting. They all took off on me.

MALE VOICE 1: Right. Right.

MRS. DAVIS: And I was ticked because nobody said, "You know, I'm going to get something. I'm going to the bathroom, whatever. I'll be right back." I just wanted to get the meeting over and done with and get out of there so that everybody could go home. So I had to wait until everybody went and get a snack

and did whatever, so... And then I was even more ticked because I found out that nobody had any minutes.

MALE VOICE 1: Right.

MRS. DAVIS: That only Al and I had the minutes. So, I guess, I wasn't feeling too-

MODERATOR: Well, Ellie-

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] polite or whatever, you know.

MODERATOR: -but let me-

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] By the time it got done-

MODERATOR: -let me keep backing up here.

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] Bernie wasn't giving me - - even though I felt like since he was our attorney, you know, and he was supposed to be available not just for the budget committee but for anybody there that had questions. And I thought if I asked him that question, and I had this idea in my head because it was something that the LDC had spoken to me about several years before. So I guess, I was kind of upset because he was walking back and forth about the answer. Because at first he said I was wrong and then he said I might be right and-

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me back up one more time. It's not this that I'm concerned about.

MRS. DAVIS: I know.

MODERATOR: It was how it was gotten.

MRS. DAVIS: But it wouldn't have gotten in there. If I had an attorney meeting, it would have never been in the minutes-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] Okay.

MRS. DAVIS: -to start with, so-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] But that's my point.

MRS. DAVIS: -it wouldn't have been an issue.

MODERATOR: We need to start using the protocol and that's my point. How it happened, and I understand Dave's point. I understand your point, but protocol from now on, as a budget committee, we need to focus either coming through myself. If I'm not there, then we focus through the Chair, Vice Chair.

If the Vice Chair is not there, any time we use or feel we need to see or use the town attorney, absolutely through the selectman's office. And that's it, plain and clear.

MRS. DAVIS: But I was okay ask—I mean, was I within my right to talking to him because I just assumed—

MODERATOR: [Interposing] You can talk to the town attorney anytime you want.

MRS. DAVIS: But I wouldn't have done it outside—

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MRS. DAVIS: —the meeting.

MODERATOR: That's not the issue. I mean, we all can talk to the town attorney if he's there, but—

MALE VOICE 4: [Interposing] It's going to cost money.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: —but he's being paid.

MALE VOICE 2: He's already being paid.

MODERATOR: He was already being paid to be at the meeting.

MRS. DAVIS: Right.

MALE VOICE 2: Yeah. Yeah.

MODERATOR: And that's not the issue. It's when we call in outside the meeting, he was already being paid for that. But when we go beyond that—

MRS. DAVIS: And then somebody else—I got distracted by something else too. I think that there was some piece of paper that I—

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MRS. DAVIS: —need to have you fill out or sign or something, and so I was trying to do a half dozen of things at the same time and I—because I'm not the Chairman.

MODERATOR: But—

MRS. DAVIS: I'm not used to—

MODERATOR: On another note—

MRS. DAVIS: —thinking through that, but—

MODERATOR: I think this is very clear. It was for me. And I think we needed this piece of paper that was gotten. So, on the positive side, thank you for doing that. And it got a lot of things cleared up for us, how things are supposed to be done. So, there is a positive side to it, and I never want to leave a meeting on a negative note, so thank you. I think that's all we have unless somebody else has something. Thank you, Michael.

MALE VOICE 5: I have something. It's probably pretty minor. But the piece of papers I have here, the Town of Canaan capital reserve fund. That is all the reserve funds and all that stuff, and I spoke about this two times with Michael and all that. We still have our - - and reserve fund and I spent - -

MALE VOICE 4: It's a special revenue fund.

MALE VOICE 5: A special revenue fund.

MALE VOICE 2: It wouldn't reported - - .

MALE VOICE 5: Where can I find in the budget?

MALE VOICE 4: - - . It wouldn't be in the budget. It would be in the--some of the Treasuries - - .

MALE VOICE 5: And that's the only place that anybody in the town would know that this has happened? Is that-

MALE VOICE 4: Yes. Presently yes.

MALE VOICE 5: Because of the way it's worded? Is that-

MALE VOICE 4: No. It's just the way it's being reported. Is your question--Do you want it to be reported somewhere in the town report?

MALE VOICE 5: I think that's what it is. I think, you know, what I'm saying is it's not out in the open.

MRS. DAVIS: It's-

MALE VOICE 5: - -

MODERATOR: Okay. Ellie.

MRS. DAVIS: I just read the town report the other day and I remember seeing it. It isn't there. I can't find it anywhere.

MALE VOICE 5: I'm looking at the town report.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 4: It might be in the Treasury report.

MALE VOICE 5: Oh, the Treasury report. Yes.

MRS. DAVIS: Yeah, I think it is. Because I think it was in there with the police detail. I think it's the page numbers that aren't on here. It says, "Page 32," but where is Page 32?

MICHAEL: You've got the transfer station CD. I just want to make a general statement.

MODERATOR: Yes, Michael.

MICHAEL: I've beaten myself up sufficiently about this, but I feel compelled to apologize in every public forum there is. We tried to do a number of things with this report to make it more readable for people, and we paid a price for doing that. I assume full responsibility for any errors, omissions or problems that were generated with this report. And there have been a number that had been pointed out to me. It's entirely my responsibility, and I don't want anything to reflect badly on anybody else other than myself, so... Having said that, Ellie, know there aren't some—we couldn't put some of the pages that was on here because of some of the formatting we had to do to make it more readable.

MRS. DAVIS: Yeah.

MICHAEL: We planned on correcting all of that next year. It led to a number of problems, but to your point the—

MRS. DAVIS: I found it.

MICHAEL: —in the transfer station CD, this is the amount out. They took the money—

MALE VOICE 5: Very good.

MICHAEL: —and put it in here. It's in the Treasury's report.

MALE VOICE 5: The Treasury. Okay. That's fine.

MICHAEL: And we just instructed her today to transfer the other \$523 in change, so that will go in there, so you'll know to look—

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 5: I'm happy.

MRS. DAVIS: Okay.

MODERATOR: Anything else?

MRS. DAVIS: I just had a question. Do you want to schedule a date for the next meeting because-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] I think the 18th is what we're tentatively-

MALE VOICE 1: For those of us who are still on the committee. We have a meeting with the-

MRS. DAVIS: The 18th of what? This month?

MALE VOICE 1: -CIP - -

MODERATOR: The 18th of March will be the next meeting.

[Crosstalk]

MALE VOICE 4: 18th of March?

MODERATOR: Right. Is that correct?

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: The CIP, there are some discussion there. Dave will have a presentation or whoever is on it.

MALE VOICE 1: It should be-Okay. Steve - - is the Chairman.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MALE VOICE 1: And if I am re-elected - -

MODERATOR: Okay. Dave already-

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] But if you're not here, I'll go chair your meeting.

MODERATOR: Yeah, if I'm not here.

MRS. DAVIS: I'll do it. Okay.

MODERATOR: Well, you know, something I don't know?

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: Oh, you're talking about election? Oh, all right. Well, I didn't know. But maybe you heard something I didn't.

MRS. DAVIS: - - either.

MODERATOR: Well, you never know. And that's why-

MALE VOICE 4: You should vote in your Chair or vice Chair before
- - .

MODERATOR: That's what it will be then.

[Crosstalk]

MODERATOR: At that meeting, we'll vote on everybody's position-

MRS. DAVIS: [Interposing] That's what they did last time.

MODERATOR: -the paying positions.

[Crosstalk]

MRS. DAVIS: Because that's what happened-

MODERATOR: [Interposing] Oh, that's right. We don't have any.
I'm sorry.

MRS. DAVIS: Because that's what happened last time because I was
the only-

MODERATOR: Yeah, you were the one and-

MRS. DAVIS: The one that came back, and so that was what we did -
- so-

MODERATOR: All right. If there's nothing else-

MALE VOICE 5: Seven o'clock, - - .

MODERATOR: Excuse me?

MALE VOICE 1: Yes.

MODERATOR: The same thing. Yeah, same time, same place. Same
back channel. Make a motion. We adjourn the meeting at
7:40.

MR. LESTER: Russell Lester second.

MODERATOR: All those in favor, say I.

EVERYBODY: I.

MODERATOR: Oppose. Abstentions. Thank...

[END TAPE --]