

**TOWN OF CANAAN  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 3, 2011  
Canaan Fire Station  
Draft Copy**

Members present: Chair Eleanor Davis; David McAlister; Dave Barney; Al Posnanski; John Bergeron; Bill Crowther; Karen Wolk; Martha Pusey; and Scott Borthwick. Also present was Town Administrator Mike Samson. Members absent: Denis Salvail.

Eleanor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and took attendance.

**Deliberation of Department Budgets for 2012**

Eleanor Davis noted that committee members should have an updated copy of the proposed 2012 budget dated November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

Mike Samson commented that the only undetermined costs at this time are the police contract, the cost of living increase, and the health insurance increase.

Eleanor Davis noted that a revision is needed to the cemetery budget due to a miscalculation of the salary.

Eleanor Davis commented that the meeting schedule has been set for November and December and that committee members need to contact her in advance if they cannot attend a specific meeting date.

**Executive Budget: 01-4130.10**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$10,291 for the executive budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Town Administration Budget: 01-4130.20**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$61,550 for the town administration budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Town Meeting Budget – 01-4130.30**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$2,767 for the meeting budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Budget: 01-4140.10**

**MOTION** by Bill Crowther and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$76,151 for the town clerk/ town collector budget.

**VOTE: 8 YES      0 NO      1 ABSTAIN [D. McAlister]**

**Election Budget: 01-4140.20 and 01-4140.30**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$7,400 for the election budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Financial Administration Budget: 01-4150.10**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$75,906 for the financial administration budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Budget Committee Budget: 01-4150.20**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2012 department budget of \$1,232 for the Budget Committee budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Assessing Budget: 01-4150.30**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2012 department budget of \$93,152 for the assessing budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Treasurer Budget: 01-4150.50**

**MOTION** by Bill Crowther and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2012 department budget of \$5,962 for the treasurer budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Trustees of the Trust Fund Budget: 01-4150.55**

**MOTION** by Bill Crowther and seconded by David McAlister to approve a 2012 department budget of \$610.50 for the Trustees of the Trust Fund budget.

Mike Samson commented that the clerk has requested that the salary not be increased for 2012.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Data Processing Budget: 01-4150.60**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2012 department budget of \$33,066 for the Data Processing budget.

Mike Samson provided the missing line item numbers.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Legal Budget: 01-4153.10**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to approve a 2012 department budget of \$36,119 for the legal budget.

Mike Samson clarified that these line items have been adjusted to reflect the quoted cost.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Public Administration Budget: 01-4155.10**

This budget was tabled for committee review or approval until the next meeting date since the insurance costs are not known yet.

**Planning Board Budget: 01-4191**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to a 2012 department budget of \$1,104 for the Planning Board budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Government Buildings Budget: 01-4194.10**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$70,095 for the Government Buildings budget.

John Bergeron asked whether any funds are included in this budget to paint the museum next year. Mike Samson responded that funds are included for painting the museum but

not for the meeting house. Mike Samson added that there are other possibilities for painting crews besides professionals.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Cemetery Budget: 01-4195.10**

This budget was tabled until the next meeting date since the salary line items need to be adjusted.

**Property & Liability Insurance Budget: 01-4196.10**

**MOTION** by Bill Crowther and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$31,284 for the property and liability insurance budget.

Mike Samson explained why this budget is overspent this year.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**General Government Budget: 01-2199**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$37,095 for the general government budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Police Department: 01-4210**

This budget was tabled until the next meeting since negotiations for the police contract have not been concluded yet.

**Ambulance Budget: 01-4215**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$55,000 for the ambulance budget.

**VOTE: 8 YES      1 NO (E. Davis)**

**Fire Department: 01-4220**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$103,635 for the fire department budget.

There was general clarification that a 4X4 crew cab pickup vehicle will be presented to the voters as a warrant article.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Building Inspector Budget: 01-4240.10**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$11,854 for the building inspector budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Emergency Management: 01-4290**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$53,057 for the emergency management budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Mechanic Budget: 01-4299.10**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$118,240 for the mechanic budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Highway Department: 01-4311 and 01-4312**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$52,475 for the highway administration budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$426,479 for the second section of the highway budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$299,001 for the third section of the highway budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Bridge Inspection Budget: 01-4313.20**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$1 for bridge inspection.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Street Lighting Budget: 01-4316.10**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$11,000 for the street lighting budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Transfer Station Budget: 01-4323.10 and 01-4324**

**MOTION** by Al Posnanski and seconded by David McAlister to accept a 2012 department budget of \$147,271 for the transfer station budget.

Mike Samson explained why the water and sewer costs increased. Mike Samson noted that the hours needed for town trash collection is included in this budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous on the affirmative**

**Health Administration Budget: 01-4413.10**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$1,067 for the health administration budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Welfare Budget – 01-4441 and 01-4445**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$57,722 for the welfare budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Recreation Budget: 01-4194 and 01-4520**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by David McAlister to accept a 2012 department budget of \$10,654 for the recreation budget.

Mike Samson explained the purchase plan for the new playground equipment, the funding and coordination of the cross country program, and the staffing for the grounds keeping.

**VOTE: 8 YES      1 NO (E. Davis)**

**Library: 01-4551**

This budget was tabled until the next meeting.

**Cultural: 01-4581**

**MOTION** by Scott Borthwick and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$1,000 for the cultural budget.

**VOTE: 8 YES      1 NO (E. Davis)**

**Patriotic Budget: 01-4583**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$1 for the patriotic budget.

It was explained that this budget has been used for flags, wreaths, and fireworks in the past.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Conservation Fund Expenses: 01-4611**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$1 for the conservation budget.

It was explained that this line item is for current use penalties when land is developed.

Scott Borthwick noted that the Board of Selectmen has requested an update, explanation of the conservation fund, and the structure and function of the Conservation Commission.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Debt Service: 01-4711; 01-4721; 01-4723**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a 2012 department budget of \$18,401 for the debt service budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Contingency Accounts**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by David McAlister to accept \$37,000 for the recommended contingency accounts.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Capital Outlay Equipment: 01-4902**

**MOTION** by Bill Crowther and seconded by David McAlister to accept a 2012 department budget of \$1 for the capital outlay equipment budget.

Mike Samson explained that this line item is an expense account.

**VOTE: 8 YES      1 NO (D. Barney)**

**Improvements Other than Buildings: 01-4909**

**MOTION** by Bill Crowther and seconded by David McAlister to accept a 2012 department budget of \$1 for the improvements other than buildings budget.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**

**Sewer Collection and Sewer Treatment Budget: 03-4326 and 03-4327**

**MOTION** by David McAlister and seconded by Dave Barney to accept a total 2012 department budget of \$87,578 and to add one dollar in the legal line item for the sewer collection and sewer treatment budget.

There was general discussion regarding the public hearings that have been scheduled and the new rate structure that has been proposed.

**VOTE: 8 YES      1 NO (E. Davis)**

**Water Assessment and Water Treatment: 03-4331; 03-4332; and 03-4335**

**MOTION** by Dave Barney and seconded by David McAlister to accept a 2012 department budget of \$83,532 for the water assessment and water treatment budget.

**VOTE: 8 YES      1 NO (E. Davis)**

David McAlister noted that the revised bottom line figure for the sewer and water budgets is \$171,110.

**Other Business**

There was general discussion regarding the response to the proposed increases in water and sewer rates.

Mike Samson summarized the increases that contributed to the increase in the town's tax rate despite the town's attempt to stabilize the tax rate. Mike Samson also provided a percentage breakdown of how the increased tax rate impacted property owners.



There was general discussion regarding the results of the revaluation process and the revenue shortfall that is anticipated in the future.

Dave Barney summarized programs and meals available on Veterans Day.

John Bergeron noted a public hearing scheduled on November 10<sup>th</sup> regarding a proposed ordinance for drinking water protection

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled committee meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. at the fire station.

**MOTION** by Bill Crowther and seconded by David McAlister to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 P.M.

**VOTE: Unanimous in the affirmative**