

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2013
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: Dave Barney, John Bergeron; Scott Borthwick, William Crowther, Ellie Davis, Patty Duszynski, Al Posnanski, Martha Pusey, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells; Town Administrator Michael Samson; recorded by Roger Lohr. 2 Public attendees, Bayne Stone and Bill Bellion.

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Ellie Davis called the meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee to order at 7:00 PM. It was announced that the report of the highway department would be postponed until the October 3 Budget Committee meeting.

2. Proposed 2014 Budget for the Mechanic

Town Administrator Michael Samson discussed the budget issues related to the mechanic. There is a larger amount expected to be spent this year (\$150,000) but it should result in a decrease of the amount needed for next year (\$140,000). The largest portion of the mechanic budget is in the repair and repair parts accounts. The mechanic acquired diagnostic equipment and a tire machine, which are expected to lower the need to send equipment out for those purposes and thus save money. It is expected that the town equipment will run for 15 years and the town will rely on the mechanic to help meet that goal. A preventative program to maintain the town equipment will also help.

The mechanic Bayne Stone also serves as the hauling service driver, which saves money for the transfer station. It was stated that mechanic labor is charged to the mechanic account but parts and equipment for the police fleet or transfer station truck for example, are allocated to those respective departments. The mechanic is using a computerized program to track work on equipment to be specified by department. There were no such records kept in the past.

Town Administrator Michael Samson reported that the town feels Bayne Stone is doing a great job as the mechanic for the Canaan town departments and he has saved the town money by serving as the hauling truck driver. A small bonus was paid to town employees last year to recognize their commitment and dedication to the town.

3. Proposed 2014 Budget for Sewer and Water

The Budget Committee discussed issues related to sewer and water, which are maintaining about the same amount of budget funding next year. The significant account items were cited. It is necessary to acquire a new aeration system in the sewer department and there'll be a \$50,000 expenditure made this year or next year for it. The town now has doubled the sewer capacity than is currently needed so there is room for town growth in that area.

The water department was also discussed and Town Administrator Michael Samson explained a number of incidents that occurred with the town water and its delivery and filtration. The water quality has been improved and the town now has doubled the water capacity than is currently needed so there is room for town growth in that area.

The water system is an old one but it continues to provide the town with water. It is more sophisticated than the sewer system. The town reports about the water and sewer system status regularly on the town website.

4. Proposed 2014 Budget for the Fire Department

The committee discussed issues related to the Canaan Fire Department with Chief Bill Bellion. There were about half the fire emergency calls in 2013 than previous years and this may be related to luck or more careful citizens. The Fire Department calls include fire, accidents, fallen electric wires, carbon monoxide incidents, and false alarms. Cardigan Mountain School has had multiple false alarms but there was a fire there on one of the calls. A question was raised about an ordinance to charge a fee for false alarms but it was uncertain if the proposed ordinance will be passed this year. The Fire Department has budgeted for the acquisition of breathing apparatus paying for it in a two-year cycle. Chief Bellion also explained the manpower and recruitment at the Fire Department and the cost of training. There are 32-34 people in the department and a few more are interested in joining the department. This year eleven firefighters had training to improve specific preparedness. He also explained the relationships with other town fire departments in the region,

The Emergency Management department budget was also discussed. The largest aspect of this department is the dispatch service, which will increase in cost next year by about \$4,000-5,000. Canaan has more police calls than Hanover. The committee also discussed the town siren, which is no longer operational. If public announcements need to be broadcast in the streets, the town would use loud speakers on fire engines or police cars. The reverse 911 service can also be used in case of town-wide emergencies where residents need to be notified.

Town Administrator Michael Samson reported that the town feels the Fire Department is doing a great job for Canaan.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dave Barney made a motion which was seconded by Scott Borthwick to approve the Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes of September 5, 2013 as submitted and amended. The motion passed unanimously.

The changes include adding Scott Borthwick to the meeting attendee list; in item 2, last sentence: delete the word "an;" in item 2, second paragraph, second sentence: insert "at the Transfer Station" after the word "employee;" the Adjournment section should be number 5.

It was announced that the Lake Sunapee Regional Commission will meet in Canaan on October 3 at 6:00 PM to discuss the regional master plan.

6. Adjournment

Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by Dennis Salvail to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

The next meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Canaan Fire Station.