

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 5, 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 off site by Roger Lohr.

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 originally scheduled December 19, 2013 Canaan Budget Committee meeting would be moved tentatively to January 2, 2014 at 7:00 PM, if it was needed. The scheduled January 15th and 16th meetings of the Canaan Budget Committee would be moved to a later time at 7:30 PM to allow the public to attend the School Board budget meetings.

Chair Davis also announced that the Budget Committee presentations planned for the Deliberative Session would be coordinated with the same committee members as the last year's presentations.

The proposed Canaan Revenue Budget document was reviewed. Town Administrator Mike Samson informed the committee that the water and sewer rates were to be changed for next year.

The revenue grand fund total was \$3,411,806, which does not include the water and sewer changes, and for information purposes the appropriations are slated as \$3,565,178. **Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to accept \$3,411,806 as anticipated revenue in the town of Canaan for 2014. The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Water/Sewer Rates

Town Administrator Michael Samson reviewed the details related to the capital improvements on the water and sewer and that funds would be taken from the surplus account to overspend these budgets. Warrant article 2 will address this water/sewer situation and the Budget Committee will vote on this matter later in the meeting. Mr. Samson then distributed a document regarding the options to keep the water/sewer rates level between large and small water consumers in Canaan. The large Canaan water consumers would see increases in their water bills and the smaller Canaan water consumers will see 10-20% decrease in charges for their water/sewer usage. The average decline in small water user bills would be about \$87.

3. Warrant Article Review

Town Administrator Michael Samson distributed a document listing the preliminary proposed Warrant Articles. The Budget Committee discussed issues related to 12 articles. The Committee would vote on each article and cost-related item. The only extended discussion involved Article 6 regarding the Autoware property gift to the town and how the article should best be worded. The committee also briefly discussed Article 7 using a commercial realtor to sell town property rather than putting the property up for auction.

4. Budget Committee's Vote on Proposed 2014 Warrant Article

The committee then voted on the proposed Canaan Warrant Articles.

A question was raised about the difference for health insurance premiums if the coverage was offered for only the employee rather than for employee families. There is about \$50,000 possible savings associated with handling the health insurance in that manner, and it was thought that about 5 employees would leave as a result of the town changing its policy on the health insurance in that manner.

Article 2 - Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by Dave Barney to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate the amount of \$3,212,044. The motion passed 9-1-0 with Davis opposed.

Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by Dave Barney to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate the amount of \$3,128,314 for the default budget. The motion passed 8-2-0 with Davis and Salvail opposed.

Article 3 - Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate the amount of \$171,746 for Water and Sewer Operations. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

Article 4 - Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by Martha Pusey to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate the amount of \$110,000 for the purchase of a loader and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$110,000 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

Article 5 - Bill Crowther made a motion which was seconded by Al Posnanski to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate the amount of \$40,000 for the purchase of a 4-wheel drive police vehicle and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$40,000 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

Article 6 and 7 did not involve any funding, so the committee did not vote on these articles.

Article 8 - Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to recommend the town of Canaan authorize a payment in the amount of \$13,184 from the non-lapsing Transfer Station Special Revenue Account to the General Fund to reimburse the General Fund for the purchase and outfitting of a Freightliner

tractor to be used to haul waste and recyclables at a cost of \$8,634 and for the purchase of a utility trailer to be used to store and haul household hazardous waste at a cost of \$4,550. This account is funded from recycling revenue and no additional tax revenue is to be used or raised for this article. The article returns \$13,184 to the General Fund. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

Article 9 - Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund and name the Governing Body (Selectmen) as Agent to Expend. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

Article 10 – Bill Crowther made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate \$40,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund and name the Legislative Body (voters) as Agents to Expend. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

Article 11 – Martha Pusey made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate \$90,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment and name the Legislative Body (voters) as Agents to Expend. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

Article 12 – Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to recommend the town of Canaan raise and appropriate \$24,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for Police Cruisers and name the Legislative Body (voters) as Agents to Expend. The motion passed unanimously 10-0-0.

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 November 21, 2013 as submitted and amended. The motion passed with 7 in favor and 3 abstentions (Borthwick, Crowther, and Duszynski).

The changes made in a motion by Al Posnanski seconded by Scott Borthwick include removing the word “new” from Item 2, 4th paragraph, first sentence.

It was announced that half the necessary pledges have been received for the health center. The committee recorder was reminded to send the October 3 meeting minutes with changes incorporated to Chair Davis. It was announced that the town staff is having a Christmas party at Canaan Hall on December 19th at 1:00 PM and the Budget Committee members were invited to attend. The Canaan Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 1, 2014 at the Canaan Elementary School at 1:00 PM and the school district session is scheduled for 9:00 AM at Indian River.

6. Adjournment

Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by Dave Barney to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

The next meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Canaan Fire Station.