

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: 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.

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Ellie Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Various budget documents were distributed to the committee members. The 10% rule was cited. Chair Davis announced that the January 16 meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM and it will be started on time. Assignments for the public hearing were distributed previously.

There are 3 seats for three-year terms that will be up including Bill Crowther, Martha Pusey, and Al Posnanski while Sadie Wells, who was appointed to fill a seat on the committee could run for two years.

Another issue was the calculation error in the operating budget in the debt service. The correct number should have been \$1,126 less so the budget total should be \$3,210,919, which should be voted on by the Budget Committee.

Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to accept \$3,210,919 as anticipated revenue in the town of Canaan for 2014. The motion passed with 7 in favor and 2 opposed (Davis, Salvail).

2. Warrant Articles

Town Administrator Mike Samson explained the Warrant Articles with regard to tax impacts Articles 13 and 14 will have tax increase impacts (1% tax increase combined). He reviewed the semantics of the tax impact on tax bills and on taxes for a \$200,000 home.

Article 2, which is the Canaan budget was voted on by the Budget Committee in the previous motion. Articles 3-12 were recommended by the Budget Committee 10 Yes and 0 No. Articles 13-15 were not voted on by the Budget Committee.

Article 16 regarding legal cost associated with appeals by the NH Electric Cooperative and Liberty Utilities to avoid Canaan taxes was read to the Budget Committee and it was explained that the cost of the legal issue will have no tax impact. The Budget Committee voted 9 Yes and 0 No to Recommend Article 16.

The petitioned articles included Articles 17-23 and the committee voted on each of them.

Article 17 Mascoma Health Initiative services: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend 3 Yes and 6 No.

Article 18 Grafton County Senior Citizens Council: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend 4 Yes and 5 No.

Article 19 Advance Transit: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend 3 Yes and 6 No.

Article 20 Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend 3 Yes and 5 No and 1 abstention.

Article 21 West Central Behavioral Health: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend 2 Yes and 7 No.

Article 22 WISE: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend 4 Yes and 5 No.

Article 23 Tri-County Cap: the Budget Committee Does Not Recommend 2 Yes and 5 No and 2 abstentions.

Chair Davis reviewed the Committee member assignments to present the Canaan budget for the public hearing. Town Administrator Mike Samson will provide support with the detailed budget information, if needed so questions at the Public Hearing could be diverted to the Town Administrator. It was suggested that names be avoided in the presentations and that instead the position could be named. Some comments were made regarding the debt service and water/sewer, and a few other line items.

A document outlining the Committee assignments for the Public Hearing was distributed and Town Administrator Mike Samson invited Committee members to contact him if they need help with their assignment. It was also stated that questions at the Public Hearing could be diverted to the Town Administrator.

Town Administrator Mike Samson distributed the Canaan MS 7 budget document and explained the document. This document should be brought to the Public Hearing as it has the revenue accounting on it. Mr. Samson discussed the town hiring to replace open positions.

Chair Davis tabled handling the last meeting minutes. The MS 7 document was signed by the Budget Committee members.

3. Adjournment

Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.