

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 20, 2018
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Stephen Freese, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells; Town Administrator Mike Samson. Committee member not in attendance Patty Duszynski, Jamie Jukosky, Philip Smith Jr. recorded by Roger Lohr.

Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sadie Wells called the meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Minutes Approval

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to approve the November 29, 2018 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted and amended. Approved by all voting committee members.

3. Items for Discussion or Action

A. 2019 Budget Changes Update

Town Administrator Mike Samson distributed the updated documents for the proposed 2019 budget, and actual and budget revenues.

The overall health insurance increase is 7.5% and there are increases in legal fees, dispatch and liability insurance. Samson informed the Committee that one of the law suits involving the town has been eliminated.

The Committee discussed the current employee health insurance benefits. A single employee health insurance plan cost \$11,000; 2-person plan is \$18,000; family plan is \$24,000. There are no deductibles paid by the employees. Employees hired 2015 or later pay 15% for family members. Samson commented about the plan in conjunction with employee salaries compared to other towns. There are 20 Canaan employees on the health insurance plan. The Committee discussed the "buyout" option for employees that choose to not take the health insurance benefit, whereby they are given \$6,000. It was commented that the insurance was a "Cadillac" plan that may be more than what is currently offered by businesses and other towns and is funded by taxes. It was suggested that an analysis of the Canaan employee health plan benefit be conducted in comparison to other towns.

Samson reviewed the Canaan Emergency Medical Service and the new accounts that have been set up for it. The town put \$110,000 toward CEMS this year and will incorporate CIP investments to replace CEMS ambulance vehicles in the future. The revenue for CEMS will be in a revolving account and will also come from other towns, other revenue sources, and fundraising. The CEMS is within the Canaan Fire Department and has responded to 400-600 incidents annually. There will be a Warrant Article put to

the Canaan electorate regarding CEMS. Samson also cited the high level of training for the staff at the Fire Department and CEMS.

The other area that Samson referred to was the Welfare Department that could reach 45 households. There are 5-6 people in need currently. The assistance is for fuel but mostly to subsidize rent.

The 2019 proposed Canaan Budget will increase by 4.4% and revenues will increase 3.2%. The tax rate is projected to increase from \$7 to \$7.23.

B. Canaan Budget Committee Meeting Schedule

The Canaan Budget Committee scheduled for January 3 was cancelled. The next Canaan Budget Committee meetings are scheduled for January 9 and 10 at 7:30 PM at the Canaan Fire Station. These meetings will be for voting on the Warrant Articles and a Public Hearing, respectively. The Deliberative Session is set for February 9 in the Canaan Elementary School at 9:00 AM.

C. Motions on Proposed Budget

Steve Freese made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to accept the 2019 Town of Canaan Budget in the amount of \$3,830,223 as proposed. Approved 6-1 (Davis opposed).

Ellie Davis made a motion which was seconded by Sadie Wells to accept the 2019 Town of Canaan Budget Revenue in the amount of \$4,253,042 as proposed. Approved 7-0-0.

4. Adjournment

Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by Sadie Wells to adjourn the meeting. Approved by all voting committee members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.