

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting  
Thursday, December 19, 2019  
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nate Deleault, Steve Freese, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk; Town staff: Canaan Town Administer Mike Samson; recorded by Roger Lohr

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sadie Wells called the meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Minutes Approval

**Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by Nate Deleault to approve the November 21, 2019 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Approved by all voting committee members with 1 abstention (Davis).**

3. Budget Changes

Town Administrator Mike Samson distributed three documents including the proposed 2020 Canaan budget from 12/19/19, project list information, and the proposed town revenue budget.

There are changes to the 2019 budget associated with the flood and settlement that were approved by the DEA. Samson explained the changes in the 2019 budget and then reviewed the changes in the 2020 proposed budget. These changes for the 2020 budget included increases or decreases in DP salary, mortgage search, PA health insurance, PD chief salary, CEMS emergency, FD heating and chief salary.

Samson reviewed a list of the proposed six projects totaling \$7,510,000 and associated grants. Three bridges are being replaced. For the equivalent cost of one and a half bridges, the town will get projects covered for three bridges, trestles, pump station and flood control. The funding will come from the state Economic Development Administration, FEMA on the Federal level, and the town bridge account.

The projects will go out to bid by the end of the year and construction will occur during 2020 and mostly into 2021. Warrant articles will need to pass for \$71,357 for paving and \$108,988 for repair and replacement to the pump station, transfer station bridge, and raising Potato Road.

The proposed 2020 expense budget for Canaan is \$4,257,575.66. The projected tax rate is an increase of 3%, and 2.5% of the increase involves the Fairpoint settlement.

The committee discussed staff health insurance and Samson explained the reasoning

behind the levels of benefits. There are about six employees under the new formula which charges for family insurance coverage. Other town plans have been investigated to compare Canaan benefits program. The committee expressed interest in exploring options for the health benefits.

**A motion was made by Ellie Davis and seconded by John Bergeron to establish a subcommittee to look at alternative health insurance plans with a team of three committee members and a representative from the town. All attendees voted in favor.**

#### 4. Revenue Budget

Mike Samson reviewed the proposed revenue budget highlighting the significant variances from last year. The highlighted variances included the timber yield tax, motor vehicle tax, block grant, sale of property, and interest on investments (which was associated with a new sweep account). The total of projected revenue is \$5,455,620.

#### 5. Adjournment

**Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to adjourn the meeting. Approved by all voting committee members.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

The next meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2020.