

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2020
Via Zoom, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Stephen Freese, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski (Select Board liaison), Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk; Town Administrator Mike Samson, Bill Bellion, Claude Lemoi; recorded by Roger Lohr.

APPROVED Minutes

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sadie Wells called the Canaan Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. Minutes Approval

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Stephen Freese to approve the October 15, 2020 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted and amended.

Discussion: Changes were a typo in the last motion and to add Bob Curtis to attendee roster.

Approved by John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Stephen Freese, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk.

3. Proposed Canaan 2021 Budget Update

3A. Fire Department and Emergency Management

Fire Chief Bill Bellion spoke with the Budget Committee. He stated that he is working with Enfield fairly well and the trucks are in good shape. Training is needed on hazmat-oriented emergencies.

Samson explained that a request for CARES Act was submitted by the town to reimburse expenses noted in the budget as the COVID stipend for \$86,000. Costs for the dispatch service are combined between Canaan fire, police, and emergency management (EM). A FICA amount is associated with the CMT COVID stipend, which was included in the fire, police, and emergency management accounts. The paramedic training is about \$10,000.

There were 416 ambulance calls this year and in an average full year there are 452 calls. There have been only a few COVID calls and screening is done on every call. There were not many events held which is reflected in the EM expenditures this year. The EM salary budget lines were cited.

COVID supplies have been available as the town has enough masks, gloves, gowns, and face shields for a couple of months. There was a conversation about mutual aid for nearby towns, whereby public works and emergency medical are provided when needed. The situation with Grafton on fire and ambulance coverage was explained by Samson.

CIP

Claude Lemoi reviewed a report prepared by the Capital Improvement Program Committee. Bridge projects and planned purchases of vehicles in the CIP budget plan were reviewed. There are 5 bridge projects planned in four years including Potato Road 2021-22, Transfer Station 2022-23, two rail trail trestles 2023-24, Grist Mill 2023-24. Much of the funding for these projects will be from FEMA or other sources to support Canaan's investment in these projects.

Vehicle and equipment purchases were reviewed for fire, police, highway, transfer station, and ambulances. The annual sticker program for trash was discussed again and it was explained that

this was needed to underwrite equipment purchases at the transfer station associated with a declining revenue from recycling.

An effort to keep the tax rate low while using the CIP for major purchases was discussed. There was discussion about police cruiser accessories such as radios, computers, breathalyzers, and cameras.

Plans to renovate town buildings were reviewed with mention of the \$180,000 extension for the highway garage. There is a placeholder for town office renovation but this project is more than a decade in the future. Samson mentioned the status of many of the town's buildings such as the meeting house, the bath house, library, senior citizen buildings, fire station which needs more storage area, museum, transfer station, water/sewer, and community center.

Mike Samson requested that the Committee members review the two budget attachments prior to be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. Adjournment

Stephen Freese made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM. Approved by John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Stephen Freese, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk.