

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, November 12th, 2013**

Chairman, Bob Reagan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. In attendance were Selectmen Robert Reagan, Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister, TA Mike Samson, Bob Scott, Christine Frost, Carolyn Barney, Ellie Davis, Phil Salvail, and Al Posnanski.

Minutes of October 22nd, 2013

Motion by Dave McAlister to approve the minutes of October 22nd, 2013. Second by Scott Borthwick. Unanimously approved.

Safe Routes to School

There was extended discussion regarding the proposed feasibility study. Bob Scott noted that the money for this work was already awarded to the Town. He also indicated ORW and Pathways were asked for prices for the work and their prices were higher than the Regional Planning Commission. There was a great deal of discussion regarding whether there was a need for the proposed sidewalk. Ultimately, there was a recommendation to poll parents to see if there are kids who would use the sidewalk. Carolyn Barney, speaking for the Friends of Canaan Village, indicated that the Friends would do the survey before December 10th. There was general discussion by the Board of Selectmen regarding the historic dissatisfaction with the Regional Planning Commission. Christine indicated that when she first started with the Commission, the agency was not operating well. She also noted that she will offer contracted service for a fee even if the Town is not a member. She indicated that towns usually save much more than the cost of the dues through services offered by the Commission.

Wescott Closing

Samson reported that the Wescott closing had occurred and that the heirs had received more than \$16,000 from the sale. The sale was to David Zani.

Tax Deed Auction

Samson reported that the Vicellette property and the Moore trailer are to be auctioned off on November 20th.

Road Reconstruction

Samson indicated that the reconstruction work on Fernwood Farms Road was progressing. There was discussion regarding the lack of a driveway permit on Wesley Mansur's property and the need to make the drive more accessible after the road regrading. Wesley is directed to file for a permit and buy the culvert and the Town will set the culvert and bring in fill to grade to the new road elevation.

Equipment Lease Purchase

Samson reviewed the proposed strategies to allow for a quicker replacement for the three 6 wheel dump trucks. He noted that using a lease purchase would require an extra \$50,000 going into the Capital Reserve and would not be politically possible. He also noted that a significant portion of that cost was for interest. He indicated that it is possible to accelerate the purchase by a few years if we sell the Henley truck and put the funds into the capital reserve account. There was a consensus to follow that strategy.

Water Abatement

The Board considered a request by Vanessa Stone for an abatement of the water bill on her properties due to the sedimentation problem. The Board approved abating the usage for 14 days of the 90 day billing period.

Junk Yard

There was discussion of Larry Gaudette's property and Jameson's property. Motion by Dave McAlister to fill out a criminal complaint and issue a citation to Gaudette. Second by Borthwick. Unanimously approved. Motion by Dave McAlister to recognize that Jameson was in substantial compliance but to warn him that if the conditions deteriorated again, there would be no warning prior to issuance of a criminal citation. Second by Borthwick. Unanimously approved. The consensus of the Board is that junk yards will be enforced against only if there is a formal complaint by a resident or tax payer that meets the Town policy for enforcement.

Recycling Committee

Samson indicated that Larry Gaudette and Mike Batten were interested in serving on the recycling committee.

Landfill Claims

Samson reviewed the claims by Linda Johnson that the presence of the landfill next to her property was preventing a sale and her demand that the Town cap and monitor the landfill. Samson indicated that the Town tested her well and found absolutely no evidence that there were any pollutants that were within several orders of magnitude of approaching state action levels. We will take soil samples to verify the lack of soil pollutants. The water tests track with the absence of pollutants when last tested 10 years ago. The landfill has been closed for more than 20 years.

Utility Taxation

Samson indicated that there seemed to be a suggestion by Fairpoint that we should be taxing cable companies for their wires. After review, the wires are not taxable.

Recreation at Canaan Hall

Samson indicated that revenues were coming in at sufficient levels to keep the Hall open this winter. He also noted that he will be looking at installing a remote access thermostat and an in-line heater on the incoming water line.

Budget vs. Actual

The latest budget report was distributed indicating that the year remains very tight.

FAST Squad

Samson indicated that paving that was done in conjunction with the water and sewer lines would be reimbursed by the FAST Squad. They will be paying \$2,500 for the apron paving in front of the overhead doors. Samson was directed to make sure that no further work or expense was to occur by the Town on the FAST Squad project unless specifically approved by the Selectmen.

At 8:10, Selectman Borthwick moved to enter executive session. Dave McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 8:28 Selectman Borthwick moved to come out of Executive Session. McAlister seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:28 PM Selectman Borthwick moved to seal the minutes and Selectman McAlister seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Scott Borthwick to adjourn with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen