

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, September 16th, 2014**

Chairman, Bob Reagan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. In attendance were Selectmen Robert Reagan, Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister, and TA Mike Samson. Also in attendance were Phil Salvail, Chief Sam Frank and Ellie Davis.

Minutes of September 2nd, 2014

Selectman Borthwick moved to approve the minutes of September 2. Dave McAlister seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Budget vs. Actual

Samson indicated that the budget was essentially unchanged and that the total anticipated surplus was about \$33,000.

Goose Pond bridge Project

Samson reported that the west footing and abutment were complete and that the utility lines have finally been removed. It is still anticipated that the reopening will be the second week of October. At this time, the grinding of Codfish Hill is deferred until the bridge is reopened.

Police Department

There was a discussion of the statistics indicating a significant increase in criminal prosecutions with more than half being serious. Samson described the inability to use part time employees to do investigations, prepare prosecutor and court documents and attend court sessions. Chief Frank concurred. Samson recommended that the Town reduce the number of part time employees by two and reinstate a full time officer. There will be an increase of about \$45,000 in the overall budget but there is sufficient non tax revenue to cover the cost. The Board expressed concern that the actual number of part time officers be reduced by two and that at least 1,000 hours of part time service be cut, that the position be filled by a certified full-time officer and that there be no additional cruiser. Samson was directed to see if these conditions can be met.

Chief Frank reviewed his ranking in compensation in comparison with Chiefs in similar size towns. He indicated that he is in the lowest 25% of chiefs. He stressed that he believes that he has delivered on all of the requests of the board regarding personnel issues and has maintained a Department that is free of serious complaints. Samson concurred. There is a difference of about \$1,000 in total compensation between the Chief and his two sergeants. He indicated that he needs to reach an average of \$70,000 per year for at least three years to meet his retirement objectives and based on current CPI adjustments he would not do so. He asked that the board consider an increase sufficient to increase the current \$64,000 proposed budget up to to about \$75,000 within four years. That would require a pay increase of about \$4,000 in addition to CPI adjustments over the next four years. The Board noted that he received an increase of \$2,000 in excess of CPI in 2011 to put him higher than officer base wages. The Board indicated that they would consider the request.

Other Business

Dave McAlister asked whether there was a no-smoking policy at the highway garage. There was also a question raised as to why the trees were being cut behind the garage and where the wood from that cutting as well as the Goose Pond Road cutting was going. Samson indicated that he would check.

Selectman Borthwick moved to discuss personnel issues at 7:25. Dave McAlister seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. At 8:32 Selectman Borthwick moved to come out of Executive Session. McAlister seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:32 PM Selectman Borthwick moved to seal the minutes of the executive session and Selectman McAlister seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Scott Borthwick to adjourn at 8:35 with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen