

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

Chairman, Scott Borthwick called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Conference Room. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Bob Reagan, David McAlister, and TA Mike Samson. Others: Ellie Davis, Sharon Duffy, and AI Posnanski.

Minutes

Dave McAlister moved to approve the minutes of 1/19/16. Second by Bob Reagan. Unanimously approved. Dave McAlister moved to approve the minutes of 1/25/16. Bob Reagan seconded. Unanimously approved. Dave McAlister moved to approve the minutes of 1/30/16. Reagan seconded. Unanimously approved.

Reorganization was skipped.

Schedule for Town Meeting

Scott Borthwick is taking the first shift. Bob Reagan is taking the second shift. Dave McAlister is taking the third shift.

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council Lease Renewal

Samson reviewed the terms of the lease renewal. It is nearly identical to the previous lease but there are changes including setting a fixed term of 10 years.

Refunds and Abatement

Samson discuss the request by Phil Salvail for an abatement on his late inventory and a refund for Tony Bishop's erroneous car registration. Salvail's abatement was because he forgot to send in the inventory. Tony Bishop's refund was because his car was inadvertently renewed for only a one month registration rather than to put it a new year registration. Motion by Dave McAlister and second by Bob Reagan. Unanimously approved the refund for Tony Bishop and the abatement for Phil Salvail.

Town Policy Regarding Advocacy on the Canaan website

Sharon Duffy indicated that generally there are no politics allowed for candidates on the website. It is unclear how to deal with political issues. The issue came up with the wind turbine opponents when they wanted to advertise their meetings on the web site. Several options were discussed about what could happen including leaving a link to the meeting on the website but saying we're not endorsing the meeting. Another option was to present the usual pro or con. A third option was to take the issues off of the website entirely or limiting discussions to just town positions that are approved by the selectmen. One proposal was to add a separate page in the future that could be used for a pro and con discussion of issues. The Selectmen indicated that they would defer the discussion until after Town Meeting to allow Sharon and Samson to generate a recommendation. In the meantime, we will take the link off of the website. We will notice meetings on the flash email system with no endorsements of any type.

DRA Review

Samson reviewed a number of issues were raised by DRA. Issues which the town had agreed with included removing the truck that was purchased over two years from the

default budget for 2016. Another issue was to remove the reimbursement of the skid steer since it wasn't a direct purchase. We also agreed to changing the museum account specifically to a capital reserve account next year. The town and DRA disagreed on the use of operating funds to make payments into capital reserves. Gardner Fulton and Waugh's attorneys all agreed that legally, the town was absolutely correct in the practice of funding capital reserves from the operating budget. Furthermore the attorneys at Gardner Fulton and Waught indicated the New Hampshire Municipal Association agreed with the position as well and that there were several towns following this practice. The Commissioner announced that he would not enforce against the town for doing it this year but encouraged us to change it next year. We indicated that we would continue to contest the decision since there was no legal basis in the law for that decision. There was an agreement with the Commissioner to meet after Town Meeting day with counsel for municipal association, Town Counsel and myself and any counsel which Hamilton chooses to bring in from the attorney general's office so that we can review of the legal basis of his decision. If we find that in fact he does have a legal basis, then we reserve the right to request the legislature to change the rules.

Other business

Canaan Hall - Samson indicated that the cost of Canaan Hall wasn't fully funded last year unless the last fund raiser being the harvest dinner was used to support Canaan Hall. There was no indication that that was the case. Samson will discuss it with the Recreation Commission at their next meeting. The goal must be that Canaan Hall pays its own way. Even applying the receipts from the harvest dinner, it is still \$700 short for paying for the cleaning, heat and the lights at Canaan Hall. Costs were covered by other recreation programs.

The Board noted that we needed to keep using the waste oil from Autoware.

At 7:18 PM Selectman Reagan moved to enter executive session. Dave McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 7:42 PM Selectman McAlister moved to exit executive session, seconded by Bob Reagan and it was unanimously passed.

At 7:43 Selectman McAlister moved to seal the minutes. Bob Reagan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Motion by Reagan to adjourn at 7:43PM with second by McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

Robert Reagan

David McAlister
Canaan Board of Selectmen