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MINUTES
of
Town Meeting
Deliberative Session

February 3, 2018

and

Day of Voting

MARCH 13, 2018

Town of Canaan, NH

REPORT OF TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 3, 2018

The Deliberative Session of the Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Dale Barney at Canaan Hall, February 3, 2018 at 1:00 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Moderator read the rules: 1) no smoking on the premises; 2) only legally registered voters from Canaan may exercise their voting rights; 3) a person must be recognized by the chair prior to speaking and then should direct all comments through the Moderator; 4) all discussion must be related to the article on the floor; 5) there can only be one amendment at a time on the floor; 6) amendments must be in writing; 7) negative motions will not be accepted; 8) the right to speak as well as the right to be heard will be respected; 9) comments should be limited to three minutes or less; and 10) five or more signatures will be required for a petition for a paper ballot on any article.

The Moderator asked for a moment of silence to honor the men and women in the military.

Article 2 General Fund Appropriation

Shall the Town of Canaan raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,668,506? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,541,830, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Selectmen or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 1 **Recommends** this article

A motion to open Article 2 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Bob Scott. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 2 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 3 Water & Sewer

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eight Two Thousand Four Hundred and Eight Five Dollars (\$182,485) for Water and Sewer Operations for the Town of Canaan with \$90,538 to be raised and appropriated for Water and \$91,947 to be raised and appropriated for Sewer. These funds are raised by user fees and are not funded by property taxes.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article

The Budget Committee Yes 9 No 0 **Recommends** this article

No additional property tax impact. User fees fund these programs. No anticipated increase or decrease in user fees.

A motion to open Article 3 for discussion was made by Martha Pusey, second by Bob Scott. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 3 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 4 Purchase 6 Wheel Dump Truck

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of One Hundred Eighty Thousand dollars (\$180,000.00) for the purchase of a 6 wheel dump truck with plow and wing to replace the 2007 International Truck; and further, of this total, to authorize the withdrawal of up to One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000.00) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with no additional amount to be raised by taxation. The Town intends to make payments during December of 2018 and January of 2019. This appropriation shall be non-lapsing through 2019. Any trade in value or proceeds from the sale of the old truck is to be applied to reduce the purchase price to be within the appropriated \$180,000.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 1 **Recommends** this article

No additional property tax impact.

A motion to open Article 4 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Morris Levy. Morris Levy inquired why the Town did not keep the original truck instead of trading it in. Mike Samson explained that it would be part of the purchase price. The Town of Canaan currently has enough trucks, and keeping old trucks can be expensive. Andrew LaCasse asked what was left in the Reserve Fund. Mike Samson said that there is nothing left, this will drain the account. The Capital Improvement Plan is very specific about what equipment is to be replaced and when. The Town of Canaan has been trying to play catch-up regarding the purchase of big equipment. No further discussion, so the Moderator declared that Article 4 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 5 Appropriate to Police Cruiser Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the previously established Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund with the Legislative Body (the Voters) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2017 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article

The Budget Committee Yes 9 No 0 **Recommends** this article

No additional property tax impact.

A motion to open Article 5 for discussion was made by Sam Frank, second by Bob Scott. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 5 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 6 Appropriate to Fire Truck Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) to be added to previously established Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund with the Legislative Body (the Voters) as Agents to Expend. It is estimated that this sum will result in an increase of the tax rate by \$.16 and would add \$32 in taxes on a \$200,000 home.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 9 No 0 **Recommends** this article

A motion to open Article 6 for discussion was made by Bill Bellion, second by Alan Ricard. Mike Samson explained that this is a change from the last 6 years. Usually this is taken out of the Unreserved Funds but will come from taxes this year. The Selectmen had to tighten up the budget and there is not enough in the reserves to cover this. Andrew LaCasse asked what percentage the taxes have gone up. Mike said approximately 1 ½ % for the Town. We are still under the tax rate that the town had 10 years ago. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 6 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 7 Appropriate to Highway Equipment Capital Reserves

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment with the Legislative Body (the Voters) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2017 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 9 No 0 **Recommends** this article

A motion to open Article 7 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Steve Ward. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 7 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 8 Appropriate to Bridges Capital Reserve Account

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) to be added to the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund with the Governing Body (the Selectmen) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2017 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 9 No 0 **Recommends** this article

A motion to open Article 8 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Bob Scott. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 8 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 9 Appropriate to Revaluation Cap. Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund with the Governing Body (the Selectmen) as Agents to Expend. This funding is needed to avoid a larger payment of \$80,000 in 5 years. This sum to come from the additional amount of \$10,000 be raised from taxation. This will increase the tax rate by \$.03 and will result in an additional tax of \$5.85 on a \$200,000 home.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 9 No 0 **Recommends** this article

A motion to open Article 9 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Steve Ward. Helen Skeist asked Mike Samson for an explanation. Mike said that the State of NH requires each town to re-evaluate every 5 years and the cost is over \$100,000. We do a quarter of the town for 4 years, and then finish in the fifth year. The assessment is done by a third party that the town hires. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 9 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 10 Appropriate to Govt. Buildings Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be added to the previously established Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund with the Legislative Body (the Voters) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance as of December 31, 2017 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 9 No 0 **Recommends** this article

A motion to open Article 10 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Alan Ricard. Eleanor Davis asked why this was not in last year's town report. Mike Samson explained that this is general housekeeping and the Selectmen reactivated accounts that had not been used; approved but not funded. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 10 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 11 Purchase a replacement tree and limb chipper

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) for the purchase of a new chipping machine to replace the 2006 Bandit chipper and authorize the withdrawal of \$55,000 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with no additional amount to be raised by taxes. The Town intends to make payments during December of 2018 and January of 2019. This appropriation shall be non-lapsing through 2019.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 2 **Recommends** this article

No additional property tax impact.

A motion to open Article 11 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Alan Ricard. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 11 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 12 Delegate duties of Cemetery Trustees

Shall we delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen? Pursuant to NH RSA 289:6, If there is a majority vote on this article, the delegation shall take effect 90 days after adoption and shall continue until rescinded by vote of the Town Meeting.

A motion to open Article 12 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Steve Ward. Claude Lemoi asked for an explanation of this article. Mike Samson explained that over the past 5 to 6 years there have been many changes in the Cemetery account, and the town is trying to better manage this account with fees going directly to the Town of Canaan. Trustees are volunteers, as most boards are, so they are not in the office on a regular basis. If this passes, the control passes to the Selectmen. There is money in the budget now for mowing and the care of the cemeteries. Martha Pusey asked if the current Trustees agree with this article. Mike said yes. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 12 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 13 Adopt an Ordinance Regulating Large Wind Systems

Are you in favor of the adoption of the Large Wind Energy Systems ordinance as proposed by the planning board?

A motion to open Article 13 for discussion was made by Steve Ward, second by Amy Thurber. Claude Lemoi gave an explanation of this article, and let the voters know that this is a 20 page ordinance. He said at the present time there are no rules in place regarding this issue. There are steps that would have to take place if this ordinance passes and an individual/Company approaches the town regarding the placement of Wind Systems. There would have to be hearings before the town would issue permits, environmental studies, etc. Any future changes to this ordinance if it passes would require voter approval. Al Posnanski asked what the cost would be to defend this ordinance. Claude said that if there was a lawsuit, the town would have to pay. Helen Skeist asked Claude why there is a limit in megawatts. He said that if a Wind System is over a set megawatt limit then the State of NH takes control. Mike Samson said the ordinance went to the town attorney for scrutiny. Carol Cushman asked if there are other towns that have this in their zoning laws. Shawn Tangey, Town Attorney, said yes and there have been no cases yet. Mark Wilson asked who would have to enforce this if it passes. Mike Samson said that the Town would have to enforce this ordinance. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 13 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 14 Approve Police Union Multi-year Contract

To see if the voters will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Canaan and the AFSCME Local 3657 Police

Department Employees Union which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Est. Increase	Fiscal Year	Est. Increase	Fiscal Year	Est. Increase
2018	\$2	2019	\$2	2020	\$2

and further the additional cost attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits is INCLUDED in Article 2 and no additional appropriation is required to pay for the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 **Recommends** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 0 **Recommends** this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.0001 per thousand or \$.02 on a home worth \$200,000.

A motion to open Article 14 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Shirley Packard. Mike Samson explained that the DRA requires a dollar amount be entered into the article, but it will be changed to zero by the DRA after passage. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 14 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 15 Public Health Council by petition

Will the voters raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Dollars (\$2,940.00) to support Public Health Council of the Upper Valley services to Canaan Residents in 2018. Services include flu vaccine programs, community based substance abuse and suicide prevention, oral health programs and more. The voters of Canaan have long approved annual funding for the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative (MVHI). In 2016, MVHI changed its name to the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley. We are the same organization, with the same mission, and the same focus on addressing the health needs of our rural communities.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 **Does Not Recommend** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 4 Abstention 1 **Does Not Recommend** this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.009 per thousand or \$1.74 on a home worth \$200,000.

A motion to open Article 15 for discussion was made by Steve Ward, second by Morris Levy. Carolann Morrison asked for support for all of the petitioned articles. Beverly Chapman asked the Selectmen to elaborate on the "Not Recommended vote". David McAlister explained that the board does not feel that they have the authority to choose what organizations outside of the normal budgetary responsibilities of the town will get donations. They want the voters to decide where the money goes when it is not a function of town government. Wayne Morrison asked why the board does not abstain from voting instead of voting no. Claude Lemoi asked if there is a law that says the recommendations have to be put a certain way. Shawn was not sure. Helen Skeist asked why a tie would be a "no" recommendation. Eleanor

Davis said that there have to be more yes votes than no or it fails and it is entered as a "no" recommendation. Mike Samson said that the Mascoma Community Healthcare (the Health Center) choose not to have a petitioned article. They would accept donations. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 15 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 16 Grafton County Senior Citizens by Petition

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. for services to Canaan residents in 2018. These services include congregate meals, home delivered meals, the town food pantry, transportation, outreach support, Service Link support and more. In FY 2017, Grafton Senior Citizens Council, Inc. provided services for 209 Canaan residents and Service Link provided services for 114 Residents. The cost of providing these services was \$138,954.15.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 **Does Not Recommend** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 4 **Recommends** this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.037 per thousand or \$7.40 on a home worth \$200,000.

A motion to open Article 16 for discussion was made by Amy Thurber, second by Steve Ward. Helen Skeist asked for support for this article. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 16 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 17 Advance Transit by Petition

Shall the voters in the Town of Canaan vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) to be allocated to Advance Transit, Inc. to help support public transportation services in the Town of Canaan in 2018. In 2017, 7,560 passenger trips boarded Advanced Transit in Canaan. Advance Transit provided services to the Town of Canaan at a cost of \$107,000.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 **Does Not Recommend** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 5 **Does Not Recommend** this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.027 per thousand or \$5.33 on a home worth \$200,000.

A motion to open Article 17 for discussion was made by Steve Ward, second by Alan Ricard. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 17 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 18 VNH by Petition

Shall the Town of Canaan vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$9,700.00) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and

hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse & Hospice for VT and NH.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 **Does Not Recommend** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 5 **Does Not Recommend** this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.029 per thousand or \$5.74 on a home worth \$200,000.

A motion to open Article 18 for discussion was made by Charles Townsend, second by Bob Scott. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 18 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 19 West Central by Petition

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$2,200.00) for the support of West Central Behavioral Health. In fiscal year 2017 – from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 – West Central provided 93 Canaan residents, including 36 children, with \$13,644 in charitable mental health care.

As the region's nonprofit community mental health center, West Central Behavioral Health provides mental health services for many of the most vulnerable residents, including adults, children and elders in Canaan. Support from the Town of Canaan will help us sustain our commitment to provide affordable mental health services to area residents.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 **Does Not Recommend** this article
Budget Committee Yes 3 No 5 Abstention 1 **Does Not Recommend** this article.

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.007 per thousand or \$1.30 on a home worth \$200,000.

A motion to open Article 19 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Charles Townsend. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 19 be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 20 WISE by Petition

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00) to support the mission of WISE (Women's Information Service). Inc. providing free crisis, intervention and support services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, training to community members and professionals; and prevention education in our schools.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 **Does Not Recommend** this article
The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 5 **Does Not Recommend** this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.006 per thousand or \$1.24 on a home worth \$200,000.

A motion to open Article 20 for discussion was made by Amy Thurber, second by Alix Olson. Stella Butterfield asked if the notes at the bottom of the articles concerning the tax rate would be on the ballot. Mike Samson said yes. Mark Wilson wanted to note that he supports all of the social services, and believes that the town should, also. Al Posnanski said that as private citizens they would vote for these articles privately and as Selectmen they felt they had to vote as recorded. No further questions so the Moderator declared that Article 20 be placed on the ballot as written.

Claude Lemoi wanted to thank the Selectmen, Mike Samson and Budget Committee for all of the work that they do. He asked what the status of the Canaan Hall was and if there would be any meetings there in the future. Mike said that the last event would be the March 13, 2018 Town Election. Helen Skeist asked if there would be a Meet the Candidates night. Sam Frank said that he was not sure. Morris Levy asked Mike Samson about the flooding on Route 4 in the center of town and what the town is doing to correct the issue. He also asked about the high price of insurance and other budget items in the warrant. Mike Samson explained that the town has been working on the flood issues for the last 2 years. If folks would like to get on the Town of Canaan flash email it is very informative and discusses the issues in the town. As far as health costs, the town negotiates with three pools in NH and we have a zero increase this year to help contain costs. The Selectmen have to stay within the budget limits of what the voters approve. Unfortunately there are emergencies that happen that we have to pay for.

No further discussion or questions so the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Canaan Town Clerk

Report of the Day of Voting

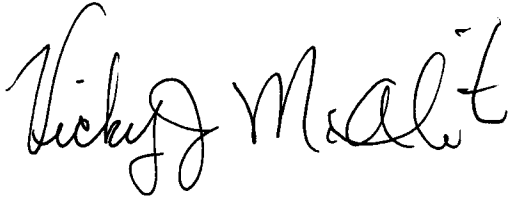
March 13, 2018

The Day of Voting was called to order by Moderator Dale Barney at the Canaan Hall on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 8:00 am. The polls were declared open for the purpose of voting by ballots for Town Officials (Article 1) and Articles 2 through 20. Supervisors of the Checklist Nancy Charbono-Ricard, Barbara Hayward and Therese Samson took their positions. Terri Purcell, Carole Cushman, Stella Butterfield and Harry Lang were ballot clerks, and Scott Borthwick was Gatekeeper. The absentee ballots were processed at 1:35 pm by the Moderator. The Moderator declared the polls closed at 7:00 pm. There were 2727 voters on the checklist, with 3 new registrations on March 13, 2018. Votes cast on the day of voting were 381 with 41 absentee ballots for a total cast 422.

Results for Articles 1 through 20 are as follows:

A true copy attest of the February 3, 2018 Town Deliberative Session

And a true copy attest of the Canaan Town Election held March 13, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vicky J. McAlister". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and "M".

Vicky J. McAlister

March 20, 2018