

**TOWN OF CANAAN
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
March 17, 2011
Canaan Fire Station
Approved Copy**

Members present: Chair David McAlister; Dave Barney; Al Posnanski; Martha Pusey; Karen Wolk; Eleanor Davis; Denis Salvail; John Bergeron; Bill Crowther; and Scott Borthwick. Also present was Town Administrator Mike Samson.

David McAlister called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and took attendance.

There was a general round of introductions made for the new committee members.

David McAlister publicly thanked Russell Lester, Nathan Deleault, and Craig Lawler for their participation on the Budget Committee and their service to the Town of Canaan.

Election of Officers

David McAlister commented that he is not interested in serving as the Board Chair for another year and requested nominations for the position.

MOTION by John Bergeron and seconded by Bill Crowther to elect Dave Barney as Budget Committee Chair.

Dave Barney declined the position so no vote was taken.

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Denis Salvail to elect Eleanor Davis as Budget Committee Chair.

VOTE: 8 YES 1 NO [D. Barney] 1 ABSTENTION [E. Davis]

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Bill Crowther to elect John Bergeron as the Budget Committee Vice Chair.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTENTION [J. Bergeron]

MOTION by Martha Pusey and seconded by David McAlister to elect Karen Wolk as the Budget Committee Secretary.

There was general discussion that the secretary position is responsible for the posting the meeting dates and minutes and distributing the minutes to the committee members.

VOTE: 8 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTENTION [K. Wolk]

Approval of Minutes

There was general discussion that perhaps the minute taker position should be advertised for candidates since the minutes should be prepared and ready for distribution within 144 hours of the meeting. It was noted that candidates have been difficult to find or retain in the past and that the minutes have normally been available in time for approval at the next scheduled meeting. It was suggested that a committee member could volunteer to complete the minutes. David McAlister noted that the current arrangement does help to minimize the cost since this minute taker is able to complete the minutes from tape and not attend the meeting.

Committee members reviewed draft minutes dated January 12 and January 13, 2011.

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Scott Borthwick to accept the minutes dated January 12, 2011, as written.

There were no corrections suggested at this time.

The motion was unanimously approved in the affirmative.

MOTION by Scott Borthwick and seconded by David McAlister to accept the Public Hearing minutes dated January 13, 2011, as written.

There were no corrections suggested at this time.

The motion was unanimously approved in the affirmative.

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Scott Borthwick to accept the minutes dated January 13, 2011, as written.

There were no corrections suggested at this time.

The motion was unanimously approved in the affirmative.

Chairman's Report

David McAlister thanked committee members for their help with a smooth budget review process. David McAlister wished the new committee chair luck with this upcoming year.

Selectmen's Report

Scott Borthwick summarized that the Board of Selectmen authorized the voter approved purchases this week of a fire truck and a plow truck. Scott Borthwick commented that the three new generators arrived six weeks late but are now installed. Scott Borthwick noted that the new police cruiser will be purchased in July when there is better cash flow. Scott Borthwick summarized that the last Board of Selectmen meeting included a presentation by the Town Administrator regarding potential improvements to the Transfer Station, which attracted several residents.

Next Meeting

There was general discussion that this year's meeting schedule will most likely follow the same schedule used last year. There was general consensus to schedule the next meeting on June 16th for a review of the town's expenditures and revenues reports.

It was strongly suggested that committee members should have a better understanding of the water and sewer systems. Scott Borthwick commented that the Board of Selectmen will be reviewing and adjusting the rates, as well as, considering a system expansion and possible replacement of pipes that the Budget Committee members are welcomed to attend. It was noted that site walks have been helpful and informative in the past for committee members.

Scott Borthwick noted that the town mechanic is currently completing an inventory of the garage tools and equipment.

Eleanor Davis commented that the cemetery information posted in the town report was incorrect and that she would like the Cemetery Trustees to be contacted before information in the future is printed.

MOTION by David McAlister and seconded by Al Posnanski to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

The motion was unanimously approved in the affirmative