

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2014
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, William Crowther, Ellie Davis, Patty Duszynski, Al Posnanski, Martha Pusey, Philip Smith Jr., Sadie Wells; Budget Committee members not in attendance: Scott Borthwick, Denis Salvail. Public attendees: Cindy Neily, Bob Scott, Bayne Stone, Amy Thurber, 1 other public attendee. Canaan Town Administer Mike Samson; recorded by Roger Lohr.

Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Ellie Davis called the meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee to order at 7:03 PM and took attendance.

2. Highway Department

Bob Scott reviewed the budget in the Highway Department. There's a \$3,200 budget increase for uniforms and this was recommended by the Canaan select board. The additional uniforms are needed for additional staff. Electricity use is going to be investigated. The committee also discussed salt and fuel levels.

3. Mechanic

Bayne Stone spoke about the budget increase of \$5,500 for petroleum products and some expenses have been diverted to the Highway Department.

4. Trust Funds

Cindy Neily discussed the Davis Trust, where a resolution is near to apply it to water systems at the cemeteries. There is \$93,000 in the Davis Trust. Additionally, the Capital Reserves, which are at about \$1.1 million (\$400,000 for the town and \$700,000 for the school district and scholarships) will be moved from the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool to Charter Trust. It is projected that moving the funds will earn ten times the interest for the town. A warrant article will be placed for the town to approve the payment of Charter Trust management fees out of the Capital Reserve Fund.

5. Library

Amy Thurber of the Library distributed two documents including the library budget and Canaan Town Library Information and Statistics for 2014. Besides the salary increase in the budget, there is an increase for contracted services, which includes software. The Friends of the Library group funding will be used to complete bookcases and the acquisition of a file server and computer. Town Administrator Mike Samson said he would work with the library staff to incorporate such purchases in the CIP. Ms. Thurber also acknowledged the Friends group support and mentioned the museum passes and genealogy subscription that are also contributed by the Friends. She then reviewed the Library statistics showing the number of users, Internet use, and registered borrowers from Canaan and surrounding towns.

6. Planning Board

John Bergeron of the Planning Board commented that this budget is identical to last year. He stated that the Master Plan work, which is due in 2016 is one third complete.

7. Other Budget Discussion

The Committee considered approving documents from previous meetings minutes.

A motion was made by John Bergeron and seconded by Al Posnanski to approve the Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes of October 2, 2014 as submitted and amended. The motion passed with 5 in favor and three abstentions (Crowther, Duszynski, Pusey). The amendments included the spelling of Therriault in the roster and item 5 and changing the fifth sentence in item 4 so that it ends after the word "needed."

A motion was made by Sadie Wells and seconded by Phillip Smith Jr. to approve the Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes of September 18, 2014 as submitted. The motion passed with 6 in favor and two abstentions (Duszynski, Pusey).

A motion was made by Al Posnanski and seconded by Sadie Wells to approve the Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes of April 3, 2014 as submitted. The motion passed with 5 in favor and three abstentions (Bergeron, Crowther, Smith).

Town Administrator Mike Samson commented that the newest town department head employees review two years of previous budgets looking at all the line items and considering unexpected expenses. He also reported that he will teach the budget process, which he entitled "rational budgeting" to three residents including Joe Frazier, Steve Ward, and Russell. It was suggested that a female resident be included in the budget process course and one suggestion was Cindy Neily.

8. Adjournment

John Bergeron made a motion which was seconded by Sadie Wells to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Upcoming meetings: November 6 and 20, and December 4 and 18. On Wednesday, January 14, 2015 the Budget Committee will meet to vote on the Warrant Articles and then on Thursday, January 15, 2015 the Budget Committee will hold a public hearing.