

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting & Public Hearing
Thursday, January 15, 2015
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, William Crowther, Ellie Davis, Patty Duszynski, Al Posnanski, Martha Pusey, Denis Salvail, Phillip Smith, Scott Borthwick, Sadie Wells; Town administrator Michael Samson; 5 public attendees: Selectman Bob Reagan, Dave McAllister, Russell Lester, Phil Salvail, Falen Racard; recorded by Roger Lohr.

Final Minutes

1. Call to Order of the Public Hearing

Chair Ellie Davis called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 PM and took attendance of the members of the Canaan Budget Committee. She announced that the intention of this public meeting was to review the Budget Committee's proposed 2015 budget for the town, the revenue budget, the default budget, and the warrant articles.

2. Proposed 2015 Canaan Budget

Various budget documents were distributed to the members of the public. The Canaan budget document and Warrant Articles can be found on line at the Canaan town website.

The Budget Committee members reviewed the line item sections announcing the amount of each section recommended by the committee and explaining any significant variances from the previous year's budget.

Borthwick reviewed executive, town administration, town clerk, and election expenses.

Smith reviewed printing, bookkeeping, budget committee, assessments, treasurer, and trustee expenses.

Duszynski reviewed legal, personnel, and government building expenses.

Bergeron reviewed cemetery, insurance, general government, police, ambulance, fire department, building inspector, and emergency management expenses.

Salvail reviewed mechanic, road agent, highway, bridge inspection, and street lighting expense.

Posnanski reviewed transfer station, health, and welfare expenses.

Pusey reviewed recreation, library, cultural, patriotic, and conservation accounts.

Wells reviewed debt service, capital equipment, and improvements.

Crowther reviewed sewer and water accounts.

The proposed 2015 Canaan operating budget is \$3,336,035 and if it is rejected by voters the default budget is \$3,282,073. Chair Davis reviewed the items that were included in the default budget. The MS7 document, which reports town revenues, appropriations and the warrant articles was cited. Chair Davis reviewed the warrant articles and corresponding fund amounts on the articles and whether the Select Board and Budget Committee recommended voting for the articles. Chair Davis also reviewed the revenue budget with revenues other than taxes, which totaled \$3,358,857 and \$1,269,857 without including taxes.

Town Administrator Samson announced that there were some taxes that were not received in the town, which totaled about \$40,000. Other substantial payments include the school, county and state. He stated that this was the seventh year without raising taxes due to purchasing capital items in a manner that is pre-funded and staggered. Secondly, the town operation managers consistently find cost effective ways to save money. The members of the Budget Committee will be needed to sign the MS7 document.

Appreciation was expressed by the committee chair to Town Administrator Samson and the committee members for work on the budget.

The public hearing was closed at 8:15 PM.

3. Adjournment

Scott Borthwick made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.