

Cathy  
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Canaan Budget Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 19, 2019  
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nate Deleault, Stephen Freese, Jamie Jukosky, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk; Town staff: Canaan Town Administer Mike Samson, Nelson Therriault, Vicky McAlister; recorded by Roger Lohr

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Sadie Wells called the meeting of the Canaan Budget Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Minutes Approval

**Karen Wolk made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to approve the April 4, 2019 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted and amended. Approved by all voting committee members.**

3. Budget Update

A. Overview

Town Administrator Mike Samson distributed the documents including the 2019 Budget dated 9/19/19, bullet point highlights, an overview memo regarding the 2020 budget, the DRA Request to Exceed sheet and forms.

The extraordinary expenses included the flood \$175,000 and the Fairpoint settlement \$334,000. According to the state and auditors, Canaan has an unassigned fund balance of \$1.2 million. The state view of the unassigned balance includes capital reserves while the town shows about a \$300,000 real unassigned balance amount.

The list of significant increases \$243,800 and decreases \$67,000 to the budget showed a negative variance of \$176,800. The proposed 2020 budget \$4,017,950 is an increase above the 2019 budget by \$188,396.

Samson explained how the state handles the process for a town to exceed its budgeted appropriations.

B. Welfare

Nelson Therriault reviewed the welfare budget which has only minor increases in miscellaneous and medical assistance. Rent assistance is the largest aspect of welfare in Canaan. The food assistance has been covered well by the two pantries in town. The miscellaneous line is mostly used for cremations. It was reported that three patients have been helped by the Mascoma Community Health Center.

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#### C. Mechanic

Mike Samson reviewed the mechanic budget and stated that things are going well in the department with a \$2,000 reduction in the proposed supplies budget put forward to help offset the increase in salary.

#### D. Planning Board

John Bergeron reported that there were no significant changes to the Planning Board budget as what comes in also goes out. The town Master Plan, which is updated every 10 years has been completed and is expected to be published within two weeks. The plan was produced by the Planning Board volunteers.

#### E. Assessing

The increases in Assessing are for salaries and the Appraiser is projected to be under the \$27,000 that is in the budget. A reappraisal will be needed in Canaan in two years and that is projected to cost about \$100,000.

#### F. Town Clerk and Elections

Vicky McAlister reviewed the proposed budget for town clerk and elections. There will be an increase in dog licenses and the left-over amount is used for tags in the following year. The revenue for dog licenses is \$5,000 annually. There will be four elections resulting in a \$3,000 increase in that line item.

#### G. Building Inspector

Mike Samson commented that the decrease in the building inspector lines is for salary, which was moved out of the account but there is an increase in subscriptions. It was stated that wetlands and floodplains were being checked.

#### 4. Overspending Discussion

Mike Samson explained the Fairpoint settlement, which entailed a tax refund associated with nine years. The flood repairs had a total cost of about \$400,000 that included about \$220,000 of manpower and equipment from the town. It is expected that about 75% of the expense will be reimbursed. The road paving that was delayed last year will be done this year. He also discussed the water line break and expressed appreciation for the town departments working together so well. Other towns also participated. The situation with the water for 200 users in the village was explained as the economics are challenging but the cooperation between town departments helps to keep the costs reasonable on the water projects. The costs of the water line repair may total about \$4,000 plus another \$2,000 for the fire department. The Fairpoint payoff and flood repair projects are responsible for the town exceeding 2019 appropriations and will necessitate legal action by the town.

**John Bergeron made a motion which was seconded by Al Posnanski to approve the resolution to authorize exceeding the Canaan appropriation budget, and sign the required DRA form to request the action. Approved by all voting committee members.**

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Samson reviewed the proposed town staff salary increases for 2020 and he also spoke about the police department salaries.

5. Canaan Budget Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee decided to schedule the next meeting for October 3, followed by October 17 and November 7. Minutes taker Lohr commented that the Budget Committee dates are often the same as another of his accounts, and that he will rotate between the two while using the recording when he is unable to attend the meetings.

6. Adjournment

**John Bergeron made a motion which was seconded by Al Posnanski to adjourn the meeting. Approved by all voting committee members.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.