

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 2020
Via Zoom, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski (Select Board liaison), Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk; Town Administrator Mike Samson, Librarian Amy Thurber, Library Trustees: Angie Robinson, Susan Nero, Laura McDermott; recorded by Roger Lohr.

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. 2021 Library Budget

Librarian Amy Thurber submitted a document of library statistics and commented about the COVID pandemic impact on the library operations and how the library has adapted. Streaming video is now available, e-books are very popular, and visits to the library are done by appointment. The arrangements with Grafton and Dorchester were explained. The library operations are partly funded by the Brundage Foundation that is represented by a local family. The library has also given books to Canaan Elementary School students. The library sales were explained. A statement was made expressing appreciation for the information that the library annually brings to the Budget Committee.

3. Minutes Approval

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Mike Riese to approve the December 3, 2020 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted.

Approved by John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk.

4. Budget Update and Approval

Mike Samson informed the Committee about the health insurance line item. The premium rate has increased by 1.13% and the budget for that insurance is \$431,750. A large portion of the increase in that area is associated with employee changes or additions. Additionally, the town will receive a \$27,000 refund from the insurance company which will go into the unassigned fund balance.

The tax rate increase associated with the proposed Canaan 2021 budget would be .25%. Samson commended the town department heads for supporting the 1% salary increase for town employees. He also referenced the increase of \$1.50 per hour over three years for a police officer.

Samson explained the status of the \$10 stickers for trash disposal and commented about the hazardous waste collection at the Transfer Station. The decision about charging for the trash disposal is still uncertain.

The Committee reviewed the upcoming meetings to approve the Warrant Articles on January 13 and to conduct a public hearing on January 14. The deliberative session is scheduled for February 6 but the plans have not been finalized.

Committee Budget Approvals

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Karen Wolk to approve the 2021 Canaan Budget in the amount of \$4,443,386 as submitted.

Approved 8-1 with John Bergeron, Nathan Deleault, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese,

Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk voting in favor and one opposed (Ellie Davis).

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to approve the 2021 Canaan Budget general fund in the amount of \$4,071,319 as submitted.

Approved 8-1 with John Bergeron, Nathan Deleault, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk voting in favor and one opposed (Ellie Davis).

5. Adjournment

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. Approved by John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Cindy Neily, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk.