

Canaan Budget Committee Special Meeting
Thursday January 24, 2019
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

FINAL Apr. 9, 2019

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Jamie Jukosky, Al Posnanski, Michael Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells. Ellie Davis joined the meeting approximately 7:40 Public attendees: Canaan Town Administer Mike Samson
Committee members not in attendance: Stephen Freese, Philip Smith, Patty Duszynski

The special meeting of the Budget Committee was called to discuss a \$2100 Petitioned Warrant Article (33 signatures) submitted by WISE (Women's Information Service). The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair Sadie Wells.

Town Administrator Mike Samson reviewed for the Board a recent development that requires Board action. He just this week discovered the above mentioned Warrant Article as an attachment to an unrelated email. The email, dated January 3, 2019, was submitted prior to the January 9, 2019 deadline for such submissions and prior to final Budget Committee approval of the 2019 Budget. Mr. Samson presented three options for Board consideration and the balance of legality in each case with regard to MS:737 and Municipal Budget Law, section 32:5. The issue is primarily the inability to schedule a public hearing with 7 day notice prior to the January 28, 2019 budget deadline. He also summarized counsel he received from the town and municipal attorneys. His recommendation to the Board was to vote on the Warrant Article, have Selectman post the budget by January 28, 2019 as required and to schedule a public hearing for February 4, 2019 for the proposed budget.

Chair Sadie Wells described a lengthy phone conversation and advice she received from DRA. As instructed, she asked Town Administrator Mike Samson if he was prepared to defend in court if challenged on his recommendation. He affirmed he was, after discussions with town and municipal attorneys earlier in the day.

John Bergeron made a Motion to vote on the \$2,100 Petitioned Warrant Article submitted by Wise. There was no Second, and discussion resumed.

Further discussion clarified for the Board that no option exists to fully comply with Municipal Budget Law, section 32:5 and MS:737, specifically the need to post notice of a public hearing.

John Bergeron made a Motion, Seconded by Al Posnanski to vote on the \$2100 Petitioned Warrant Article submitted by WISE. The motion passed 2-1-3. Ellie Davis was not present to vote.

John Bergeron made a Motion, Seconded by Michael Riese to hold a public hearing on February 4, 2019. Motion passed 6-0 (Ellie Davis did not vote).

Town Administrator Mike Samson asked if the attending Board members would sign the MS-737 at the conclusion of the meeting. Four of six agreed to.

There being no further business to discuss, Jamie Jokosky made a Motion, Seconded by Michael Riese to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6-0 (Ellie Davis did not vote).

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Riese
Budget Committee Member