

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2019
Canaan Fire Station, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Nate Deleault, Steve Freese, Jamie Jukosky, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk; Town staff: Canaan Town Administer Mike Samson, Amy Thurber; Library Trustees: Angie Robinson, Laura McDermott, Denise Reitsma. Committee member absent: Denis Salvail; 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

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to approve the October 3, 2019 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted and amended. Approved by all voting committee members with 3 abstentions (Davis, Freese, Riese). The change was to add the Committee members that were absent from the meeting.

3. Budget Update

A. Budget Overview

Town Administrator Mike Samson spoke about the tax rates. It is projected that the school tax rate increase will be 3.5% and the town tax rate increase will be 3.25%. The justification for the increased town taxes includes the last winter and other issues and there are no overlays and few revenue and expense variables that can provide any discretion.

B. Highway

Mike Samson reviewed the change to the Highway budget from \$239,000 to \$305,000. There will be increases in overtime and salaries and fuel. It could be as high as \$30,000 on fuel expenses this year depending on November and December weather. The supplies will be reduced by \$5,000. The town spent \$170,000 on road reconstruction this year. It is expected that funds for paving will come from some of the FEMA reimbursement funds. There are substantial increases to the budget for road reconstruction and road salt (expected to be \$50,000). The gravel increase will be associated with hard pack for roads.

There was a discussion about the 2% salary increase and some other account variances. The blinking traffic light which is state-owned was also a discussion.

C. Emergency Management

There is not a significant variance in the Emergency Management budget account. There

was a discussion about a tower. There was a discussion regarding contamination showers.

D. Fire Department

The Committee discussed the pay scale and commitment in the Canaan Fire Department. Samson cited how impressive the Fire Department staff is in Canaan. There are increases for fuel in the budget and allocations for the town departments. The equipment line has increased for CIP purchases. There is an attempt to maintain the CIP equipment lines in the town budget under \$90,000 each.

E. Canaan Emergency Medical Service

After the change to the EMS services in Canaan, the amount for next year is \$135,000 and Samson explained how the CEMS will be handled in the Canaan budget. The CEMS will also be funded from a variety of other sources including contributions, insurance payments per mile, and a formula for other towns to support it. There will be one fundraising campaign annually.

Samson reviewed the CEMS budget line-by-line. The staff coverage and budget was reviewed. The staff is intertwined with the Fire Department and the challenge of replacing the staff in the future at salaries that would be enough to attract new experienced staff was explained. There is a \$5 million liability insurance policy. There are some unknowns for this newly organized service and if the CEMS budget is not used it will go into the Capital Reserve account. The uniform budget could cover the cost of winter or rain gear clothing. Samson briefly compared the CEMS to the former Fast Squad.

F. Library

Librarian Amy Thurber distributed a document of statistics to the Committee members. There are 3,434 registered borrowers at the library but 1,869 active users who are associated with the 36,000 circulation. The library is participating in a national report and there were 86 people in the library this week. There is a program for about 25 elementary school children who visit the library in the afternoon. The equipment budget line increase is to replace a computer that was not acquired as planned last year. The balance of the \$6,000 budget increase is due to salaries. Ms. Thurber discussed the on-line and subscription cost aspect of the library. There are reciprocal relations with the libraries in Enfield and Grafton.

4. Canaan Budget Committee Meeting Schedule

It was announced that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 7.

5. Adjournment

Steve Freese made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to adjourn the meeting. Approved by all voting committee members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.