

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 27, 2020
Town Meeting House, 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, Town Administrator Mike Samson; 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

Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to approve the January 16, 2020 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted and amended. Approved by all voting committee members with one abstention (Neily). The change was to include name spellings.

3. Committee Officer Election

It was suggested by John Bergeron that the same slate of last year's Budget Committee officers be re-elected.

John Bergeron nominated Sadie Wells as Canaan Budget Committee Chair, Stephen Freese as Vice Chair and Ellie Davis as Secretary and the nominations were seconded by Michael Riese. There being no other nominations, the Budget Committee members voted in favor with one abstention (Wells) to elect the officers as nominated.

4. Future Committee Meetings

The Committee decided to continue meeting in the Fire Station for Budget Committee meetings in September through January. The schedule (one meeting in Sept, Oct, Nov and two meetings in December and January respectively) is to meet on Thursdays each month during that period and the specific meeting dates will be finalized by the chair and forwarded to Committee members.

There was a discussion regarding meeting in person or on line with Zoom or a phone connection to the meeting. It was decided that Committee members should wear masks or face shields at the in person Committee meeting. Town administrator Mike Samson will look into acquiring a microphone so it is easier to hear speakers at the meeting.

5. Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator Mike Samson distributed three documents and gave a preliminary overview of the 2021 Canaan budget. He reported that it had been a difficult year and cited the proposed budget variances that were on the budget summary document. The tax rate is projected to increase by 3%, which was lowered from a much higher previous

projection. Expenses have been tightened and the Capital Reserve account is in a good position.

The proposed budget would apply \$150,000 from the unassigned fund balance and \$200,000 from taxes. There will be a request for a \$225,000 funding restoration to the Capital Reserve. There is a transition plan for raising salaries to meet current today's competitive salary levels for a number of positions where retirements are expected within the next five years. There is a new full time position expected for the transfer station and water/sewer. Equipment acquisitions were also referenced.

4. Adjournment

Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to adjourn the meeting. Approved by all voting committee members. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.