

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting and Public Hearing
Thursday, January 14, 2021
On-Line via Zoom, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Ellie Davis, Steve Freese, Cindy Neily, Nate Delault, Al Posnanski, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk;
Town Administrator: Mike Samson. Recorded by Roger Lohr

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Sadie Wells called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

2. Public Hearing

Committee Chair Sadie Wells opened the Public Hearing and the Committee members then proceeded to review the proposed 2021 Canaan budget. The committee members would review the sections of the budget.

Stephen Freese reviewed executive, town administration, meetings, town clerk, tax collection, and election expenses.

John Bergeron reviewed financial administration/bookkeeping, budget committee, treasurer, trustee expenses, data processing and assessing.

Karen Wolk reviewed legal, personnel, planning board, and government building expenses.

Nate Deleault reviewed cemetery, insurance, general government, police, emergency services, fire department, building inspection, and emergency management.

Sadie Wells reviewed mechanic, road agent, highway, bridge inspection, and street lighting expenses.

Al Posnanski reviewed transfer station, health, and welfare expenses.

Cindy Neily reviewed recreation, library, cultural, patriotic, and conservation accounts.

Denis Salvail reviewed debt service, capital equipment, and improvements.

Mike Riese reviewed the sewer and water accounts.

Ellie Davis reviewed the default budget \$4,099,977 and the revenues.

Samson announced that an additional Petition Warrant Article from Tri County Cap was misplaced at the town offices and should be added as Warrant Article # 25. He read aloud

Warrant Article 25 for the Tri County Cap.

Mike Riese made a motion which was seconded by Karen Wolk to add the Tri County Cap petition article to the 2021 Canaan Warrant Articles. The motion passed 10-0-0.

The Budget Committee then voted to not recommend Warrant Article 25 with four being in favor (Neily, Bergeron, Wolk, Wells), four opposed (Posnanski, Salvail, Davis, Freese) and two abstentions (Riese, DeLault).

Town Administrator Samson explained that the rounding in the budget line items results in a \$3 difference in the budget total so the Committee needed to approve the different budget number.

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to change the general fund budget to \$4,127,517. The motion passed 9-1 (Davis)-0.

Ellie Davis then reviewed the Warrant Articles that were associated with funding and the source of that funding along with the Budget Committee recommendation. The changes on Article 8 were reviewed because it established a new fund and then specified how the land sale proceeds would be used. The wording on Article 15 was slightly changed. Article 22 had a typo that was changed. The tax impact for each of the Warrant Articles had been updated in the document.

Town Administrator Samson will submit the budget information to the DRA and expects to receive the MS-737 for the Budget Committee to sign. He asked the members of the Budget Committee to stop by the town office to sign this document.

The public hearing was closed at 8:08 PM.

3. Minutes Approval

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Ellie Davis to approve the Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes of January 13, 2021 as presented and amended. The motion passed 10-0-0. The changes were on the recommendation tallies whereby the majority of the voters without abstentions determined whether the articles were recommended. Town Administrator Samson cleared this majority practice with the town counsel. There were other corrections on two of the motions and the Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

4. Other Business

There will be three member terms expiring this year and people interested in serving on the Canaan Budget Committee should register with the town office to get on the ballot.

5. Adjournment

Al Posnanski made a motion which was seconded by Ellie Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 10-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.