

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019**

Scott Borthwick called the open meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Selectmen's Conference Room. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister and Al Posnanski and TA Mike Samson. Others: Scott Berry, Mary Noordsy, Melissa Allen, Karen Wolk, and Doug Noordsy.

Minutes:

Dave McAlister moved the approval of the minutes for 12/18/18, 12/27/18, 1/8/19, and 1/10/19. Al Posnanski seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Petition for Care of Historic District Sidewalk

A petition was presented requesting the Board to provide winter maintenance of the Historic District sidewalk. The Board asked why it wasn't presented as a petitioned article for vote at Town Meeting. Attendees indicated that they thought the petition was sufficient to show the support for maintenance. The Board indicated that they did not support the request. Their objections included the general lack of use, the cost of moving equipment and personnel to the area after every storm, the fact that the road right of way there was owned by the state, that the Town did not own the right of way, that they did not want to increase the cost to the taxpayers by adding additional sidewalk. The attendees asked what the cost would be. Samson indicated that he thought the labor cost and supplies would be less than \$1,600 a year. Scott Berry asked if this would be the incremental cost since the labor was paid even if the Town did not maintain the sidewalk. Samson indicated that this was correct. The Board indicated that the plowing of roads was the first priority and that if the Town did plow the sidewalk there, it could be several days after the storm or even longer if there were repeat storms. The attendees thought it would take about 3 hours. Samson thought it would take as long as 4 to 6 hours including transport of equipment. Attendees argued that it was a town sidewalk since Buster Charbono laid the asphalt sidewalk down back in the 1990's. The Board questioned whether that was accurate. An attendee indicated it was done as part of a NH DOT/ADA grant and the Selectmen indicated that they were not aware of it. Attendees indicated that the taxes paid on the homes in the Historic District were very high and they felt that this high level of taxation deserved some service such as the sidewalk plowing. The Board indicated that there would be voter opposition since many voters would view the situation as the wealthy people asking for new services. The attendees asked why the Village sidewalks get plowed and theirs doesn't. The Board indicated that there is more pedestrian traffic in the Village and the foot traffic is related to commercial and community service activity. The attendees suggested that this is an insufficient difference. The Board suggested that the attendees should have petitioned the request for Town Meeting. There was some discussion that the attendees have lost track of the time for filing petitions. The Board suggested that they warn the request for the 2020 Town Meeting. The attendees asked why it couldn't be added. The Selectmen indicated that is the process they use. Samson indicated that the Selectmen could add it to the Warrant up until January 28. The Board indicated that they would not since they require the interested parties take the initiative of getting the petitions signed and submitted. They also indicated that the Warrant is now legally done as far as petitions are concerned. The attendees indicated that they would continue to push for maintenance. No further action was taken.

2018 Financial Report

Samson handed out the 2018 year end Budget v. Actual. The financials indicated a surplus of \$67,457 (after paying \$110,000 for the Canaan FAST equipment) and a proposed 2019 budget of \$3,829,554 compared to \$3,366,506 in 2018.

Warrant

The Proposed Warrant articles for the proposed budget of \$3,829,554 for the general fund, \$598,000 for all capital acquisitions and \$194,837 for water and sewer be approved. Motion by Al Posnanski and second by Dave McAlister to approve the warrant articles. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board indicated unanimously that they would not recommend any of the petitioned Warrant Articles.

Canaan EMS

Samson indicated that aside from the Canaan FAST stripping all equipment from the EMS station (in violation of the agreement), all activities were running smoothly. So far at least 16 providers had signed up. It is anticipated that the providers will elect Bill Bellion as Chief of Service.

Canaan Police Administrative Assistant

Sam Frank is negotiating with a new dispatch and administrative assistant. He expects a final decision soon.

Town Report

Samson reported on the results of the bid process for the Town Report. The numbers were only \$40 apart and the Board consensus was to stay with RC Brayshaw since they have been giving us good service in a timely manner.

At 7:25 PM Selectman McAlister moved to enter non-public session to discuss personnel performance. Posnanski seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 7:30 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 8:05 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 8:05 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to adjourn. Second by Dave McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

David McAlister

Al Posnanski
Canaan Board of Selectmen