

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

Scott Borthwick called the open meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Conference Room Under Library. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister and Al Posnanski, and TA Samson. Others: Ellie Davis, Angie Robinson and Stella Butterfield.

Minutes 10/1/2020 and 9/15/2020.

Motion by Dave McAlister and second by Al Posnanski to approve the minutes of 10/1/2020 and 9/15/2020 as amended. Unanimous.

Angie and Stella spoke about the Friends of Canaan Village's plan to renovate the gazebo. The plans are to repair the roof, the lattice work, clean the wood and stain the wood with two coats of stain. The total cost is \$8,700 counting the materials but not including Dan Collins donated time. The Friends are looking for funding and will approach the Lions, Mascoma Bank and Dorothy Byrne in addition to making a donation themselves. They asked if the Town would install a 8-1/2" by 11" brass plaque acknowledging the donation of Dan Collins' time. The Board indicated that they would.

Budget

Samson reviewed the draft budget and draft water & sewer rates. The budget reflects a total cost of \$4,613,656 and total taxes to be raised of \$2,742,987. The resulting tax rate would go up 3.99%. There was general discussion of ways to decrease the tax rate down to about 2% but with dramatic impacts. There was a consensus to leave the budget as proposed recognizing that costs are increasing, there is less new revenue and underspending and we need to fund the capital reserves. Samson indicated that Water and Sewer needs to increase \$20,000 for the new half time employee and \$27,000 for debt service on the replacement water main. Overall, the proposed rates will increase revenues by \$68,000.

Highway & Mechanic Positions

Samson indicated that Eddie Provencal is willing to work part-time in the winter just for plowing. He also indicated that one of the applicants who declined to take the position was now available after the first of the year. The applicant that was offered the mechanic position has declined to take it as our health insurance is more expensive than the policy he has. The Mechanic's position will remain open.

Grafton Ambulance Contract

Samson indicated that he had heard that Grafton will not be using Canaan's services in 2021. This will reduce revenues by about \$24,000. Samson will try to confirm with Steve Darrow.

Other Business

Samson reported that we are trying to arrange for tree cutting at the old freight house. The power wires are in the tree branches and we have asked Liberty to take the trees down.

Samson reported on the progress with the Broadband Committee. The Committee will work to assure that the County provides highspeed access to every town in the County. It will then be up to towns to install the distribution system. The Committee will explore different business plans, technologies and costs and provide technical assistance to the Towns.

At 6:30 PM Selectman McAlister moved to enter non-public session for forbearance progress and personnel review. Posnanski seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 7:20 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 7:20 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 7:20 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to adjourn. Second by Dave McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

David McAlister

Al Posnanski
Canaan Board of Selectmen