

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 10, 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 (by zoom) and Al Posnanski, and TA Samson. Others: Ellie Davis, Sharon Duffy, Todd Baravalle and Ryan Porter.

Non-Public

At 5:00 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to enter non-public session for personnel review. McAlister seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 5:10 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 5:12 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Motion by Dave McAlister and second by Al Posnanski to approve the minutes of 10/20/2020. Unanimous.

Budget Review

Samson indicated that because of the community concern with the budget, he had tinkered the next year budget more. The Part time regional recreation director's position is now reduced to \$1 since Katie has indicated that she has stepped down from the position. Ryan has selected someone to replace her but Canaan was not involved. Ryan asked if funding would be available and Samson asked for guidance from the Board. The consensus of the Board was to reduce the funding to \$1 and notify Enfield. That leaves a budget increase of \$126,000. On the revenue side, the increase in this year's rate means that we will need an increase next year of only 1.13%. This years rate is fixed without relief but next's year's rate may go up 1% or less.

There was a discussion of getting some type of revenue to offset HHW cost if we are to continue the program. David and Scott indicated that they would only support the program and the purchase of the Hazardous Waste storage building if we could find revenue to support the program. Samson did an extensive review of the HHW costs which costs about \$4,800 a year for Canaan. Of this amount, about \$1,000 a year pays for latex paint disposal. He suggested dropping latex paint from the collection since it is not hazardous. He also suggested increasing HHW revenue by imposing a \$10 a visit user fee (with low income discounts) that would generate \$1,570 a year in new revenue. He also suggested limiting the drop-off to 5 gallons with maybe a higher cost option for larger volumes. The limitation would reduce costs by another \$500. The net result would be \$3,300 costs and \$1,570 revenue for a net cost of \$1,730. This would be a budget savings of \$4,270. Samson indicated that he will redo the budget with this savings. The consensus of the Board was to continue the programs and approve of the storage unit with the changes in cost and revenue. Samson indicated that he would ask that the voters authorize taking \$7,000 from the recycling account to pay for most of the cost of the hazardous waste storage container.

Samson reported that Debra Ford had indicated that she believed that the school budget would go up 2%. The problem is that because of the school age census, we would go up 4%.

Police Contract Discussion

The Board and the two officers discuss the current contract. There is very little change that has been suggested. Scott Borthwick point out that since there hasn't been any disagreement over the past 10 years, the need for a union may be moot. The officers said that while the two sides seem to be working well together, that might change if the Board changed. There was brief discussion about language that was supposed to be removed at the bottom of page 21 and top of page 22 that gave hiring preference to part-time officers. It had been decided to remove it during the past negotiations but was left in the final draft inadvertently. The Selectmen and officers agree to remove the language. There was discussion of the final issue for this year which is the pay range for patrol officers that have worked 4 to 15 years. The current regional range for these officers is \$25.32 to \$29.29. The officers asked that we increase this amount from the current \$25 which is our starting pay and below every other department. Discussion focused around an increase to \$27 or \$28 with no immediate actual increase for any officer next year. The Board said that they would look at the issue.

Other Business

Non-Public

At 6:05 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to enter non-public session for personnel review. McAlister seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 6:15 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 6:15 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 6:15 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to hire Laura Bicknell for website services at the rate of \$21.50 per hour which is the same rate that Sharon Duffy will receive for in-office work. With total hours not to exceed a total of 20 hours per week combined on the average for both positions. Second by Dave McAlister. Unanimously approved.

At 6:17 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to adjourn. Second by Dave McAlister.

Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

David McAlister

Al Posnanski
Canaan Board of Selectmen