

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 21, 2020**

Scott Borthwick called the open meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Canaan Administrator's Office. In attendance were Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Dave McAlister and Al Posnanski, TA Samson and Chief Sam Frank. Others: Two residents of West Farms Road.

Minutes April 7, 2020

Motion by Al Posnanski and Second by Dave McAlister to approve the minutes of 4/7/20. Unanimous.

Grant for ballistic helmets and plated vests

Sam Frank asked for Board approval of a full grant for the purchase of ballistic helmets and vests for protection of officers against rifle shots. He explained that the PBA account will fund the purchase and the grant will reimburse the PBA account. Motion by Al Posnanski and Second by Dave McAlister to approve the application and receipt of grant funds for the vests and helmets. Unanimous.

West Farms Road

The Board heard from two residents from West Farms Road. They complained that West Farms Road was impassable by their house in mud season. It was pointed out by Samson that the Highway Department worked 4 days on that stretch of road when they received the first complaint. Many truckloads of stone was brought in to stiffen the road. Samson indicated that the road appeared to be in decent shape within two days of the complaint. He also noted that he received another complaint two days later. One resident complained that Samson didn't communicate with her and had not emailed her back. Samson indicated that he had two emails that he had sent advising her of the Selectmen's meeting. He said that he had tried to explain why the Town can't afford to pave the 70 miles of dirt road and that the work that the highway department did on her road was more than the normal level of service to make dirt roads passable in the spring. He believed that he could not provide service to meet her standards and therefore suggested she attend a Selectmen's meeting. The resident indicated that she could not attend the meeting that Samson had suggested and had emailed that she could not attend the night of the meeting. Samson indicated he received the email after the meeting. The resident had been advised that the Board meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The residents indicated that the Town would be held liable if there was a failure to get a police officer or ambulance down the impassable road. She also indicated that she provides an essential service as a child services social worker and needs to have adequate roads to return home. She also noted that she pays a great deal in property taxes and is entitled to at least have passable roads. She asked that at the very least she be notified when work was going to be done and asked the Board to drive down the road. The Board took the complaint under advisement.

Budget v. Actual

Samson reported that there were no major issues yet in the budget. Samson indicated that he was concerned that tax revenue would be down significantly with the Covid 19 crisis.

Water - Sewer split employee

Samson distributed the proposed job description for a combined water & sewer operator and transfer station attendant position. By consensus, the Board asked to change the requirement for a CDL to be either have a license “or” be able to obtain it within a reasonable period of time. Motion by Al Posnanski and Second by Dave McAlister to approve the job description for the position but to hold off on advertising the position until we see how tax revenues come in during June and July. Unanimous.

Humane Society Contract

Samson indicated that last year we transported fewer than 3 animals to the Humane Society. The normal charge for a cat is \$60 and \$200 for a dog. The contract has been increased to \$1,500 a year and as a result does not appear to be justifiable. Motion by Al Posnanski and Second by Dave McAlister to discontinue the contract. Unanimous.

At 5:45 PM Selectman McAlister moved to enter non-public session to discuss pending claims. Posnanski seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 6:10 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 6:11 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Dave McAlister moved to direct Samson to post the schedule for grading of roads in the flash email. Second by Al Posnanski. Unanimously approved.

At 6:12 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to adjourn. Second by Dave McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

David McAlister

Al Posnanski
Canaan Board of Selectmen