

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 20, 2022
Canaan Police Dept EOC, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Dan Collins, Ellie Davis, Dave McAlister, Cindy Neily, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Karen Wolk. Town Administrator Ned Connell, former TA Mike Samson, Sam Frank, Ryan Porter, Vicki McAlister; Committee Members not in attendance: Nathan Deleault, Sadie Wells; Public: Salvatore Percia; recorded by Roger Lohr

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Dave McAlister called the Canaan Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The chair requested that committee members straighten the EOC before they leave after the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Dan Collins expressed his concern stating that the process undertaken in April 2022 for the appointment of the Canaan Budget Committee chair was not done respectfully claiming the oath was not administered as the state RSA specifically recommends. As a justice of the peace, former TA Mike Samson swore in Dave McAlister as Committee chair at that Canaan Budget Committee meeting. It was stated that no other committee members had expressed interest in serving as chair.

Committee member Dan Collins made a motion to reconsider the chair position of the Canaan Budget Committee and there was no second to the motion. Mr. Collins then resigned from the Canaan Budget Committee as Select Board liaison. Additionally, Mr. Collins spoke about an election issue that he stated had occurred in what may have been a non-public Select Board meeting.

3. Minutes Approval

Karen Wolk made a motion which was seconded by Cindy Neily to approve the October 6, 2022 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted and amended. Discussion: Sharon Duffy was not in attendance at the Committee meeting and the date of the meeting in the motion to approve was September 15. **Approved by all voting committee members with one abstention (Salvail).**

4. Proposed 2023 Budget Expense Police Department

In Legal, the county prosecutor amount needs to be changed and Mike Samson will look into it. The proposed police department budget reflects that the town will purchase one cruiser instead of two. Dues and Subscriptions may be too low at \$1,000. In past years, the police department has had \$2,000-4,000 of expenses that was unspent. It is anticipated that there may be two openings in the police department and this will impact the salaries and overtime line items. The proposed budget does not incorporate the two possible officer openings. According to the contract with the police, the cost of living increase is 7.2% which was the September statistic. There was a discussion regarding tracking the gas allocation to individual departments.

4. Proposed 2023 Canaan Budget Expense Town Clerk

Town Clerk Vicki McAlister requested that the dog licenses expense be \$2,000 rather than \$1,800. The difference in the election expense was also discussed.

5. Proposed 2023 Canaan Budget Expense Planning Board

John Bergeron stated that Planning Board expenses were reduced because a light year was anticipated. It was pointed out that the revenue associated with the Planning Board offsets most of the expenses.

6. Town Administrator Update

There was no other administrative update except to report that the town assistant clerk position has been filled.

7. Other Business

7A. The town tax rate has not been set by the DRA yet, but there is an estimated 2% increase. The tax rate associated with the proposed 2023 town budget is an increase of 7.63%. The Capital Reserve will be substantially increased this year and it will come from an increase in the unassigned fund balance. The private transport revenue is projected to raise \$125,000-150,000 for the Rescue.

7B. The water bill formula has not been decided yet and there is a \$25,000 shortfall in the water/ sewer budget.

7C. The school budget has not been developed yet but high special education costs and an increase in expenses on benefits are anticipated.

8. Adjournment

Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by John Bergeron to adjourn the meeting. Approved by all voting committee members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

The next Canaan Budget Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 3, 2022.