

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Canaan Police Dept EOC, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Stephen Freese (Select Board liaison), Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Dave McAlister, Mike Riese, Denis Salvail, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk. Town Administrator Ned Connell; 6 Public attendees Sal Percia, Monica Rowe, Phil Salvail, Christina Mackwood, John Hennesey. Hue Wetherbec.
Recorded by Roger Lohr

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Dave McAlister called the Canaan Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Documents were distributed including the 2023 Warrant for Canaan and the 2023 MS-DTB Default Budget for Canaan.

2. Minutes Approval

Sadie Wells made a motion which was seconded by Denis Salvail to approve the December 15, 2022 Canaan Budget Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Approved unanimously.

3. Warrant Articles

On Article 02, the General Fund Appropriation in the amount of \$4,636,050.79 and the default budget (\$4,301,197). **Article 02 was recommended with 7 in favor and 2 opposed (Davis, Salvail).**

On Article 03, for Water & Sewer in the amount of \$248,186.66 for operations which was \$139,202.83 for water and \$108,983.83 for sewer. **Article 03 was recommended with 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Davis).**

On Article 04, for Water & Sewer to accept grants and appropriate funds in the amount of \$2,100,000 (gross budget) for construction and installation of outlined projects. **Article 04 was recommended with 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Davis).**

On Article 05, which is for the purchase of a police cruiser to withdraw from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$45,000 with proceeds from the sale of the old cruiser to be applied to reduce the purchase price.

The Committee discussed the process for paying for capital equipment from the Capital Reserve Fund versus the extra equipment for the cruisers (i.e., radios), which would be paid from the general fund. The amount of the purchase, how the amount would be raised and paid, trade-in value of the old cruiser, the price of the new vehicle, and the plan to transfer funds into the Capital Reserve Fund were reviewed. It was stated that while many towns borrow to acquire equipment, Canaan has not had to borrow for that purpose for many years.

Article 05 was recommended 6-3 (Davis, Deleault, Salvail opposed).

On Article 06, which is the purchase of a replacement to the Highway Departments' backhoe with a similar piece of equipment and to withdraw from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$88,740 with proceeds from the sale of the old backhoe to be applied to reduce the purchase price.

The Committee discussed the need for the backhoe and the Highway Department recommendation to the Select Board and CIP Committee to acquire a mini-excavator.

Article 06 was recommended 5-3-1 (Davis, McAlister, Salvail opposed and Wolk abstained).

On Article 07, which is the purchase of a replacement to the Highway Department's bulldozer to withdraw from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$26,056 with proceeds from the sale of the old bulldozer to be applied to reduce the purchase price. **Article 07 was not recommended 1-8** (Bergeron favored).

On Article 08, which is the purchase of a replacement to the Transfer Station's Skid Steer Loader with a similar piece of equipment and to withdraw from the non-lapsing Transfer Station Special Revenue Account in the amount of \$24,216 with proceeds from the sale of the old Skid Steer Loader to be applied to reduce the purchase price.

It was stated that the Select Board opposed this equipment replacement at this time, but the CIP Committee had forwarded the request. The Select Board has been discussing the Transfer Station situation at each of its twice monthly meetings.

Article 08 was not recommended 2-6-1 (Bergeron, Wolk favored and Wells abstained).

On Article 09, which is the purchase of an 18-foot enclosed trailer with a generator and mobile radio system for the Fire Department to serve as a mobile command post in the amount of \$25,000.

It was stated that the old trailer was used 14 times in two years and a loaner has been used seven times since August.

Article 09 was not recommended 2-4-3 (McAlister, Wolk in favor and Bergeron, Riese, Wells abstained).

On Article 10, to add \$37,000 to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund from the Unreserved Fund Balance. The Committee discussed amending the amount in Article 10 to \$45,000. **Article 10 was recommended as submitted unanimously.**

On Article 11, to add \$85,000 to the Fire Truck Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund from the Unreserved Fund Balance. **Article 11 was recommended unanimously.**

On Article 12, to add \$14,000 to the Water and Sewer Non-Lapsing Operating Account from the Unreserve Fund Balance. **Article 12 was recommended 8-1** (Davis opposed).

On Article 13, to add \$170,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment from the Unreserved Fund Balance.

It was stated that the Highway Department wanted to purchase a grader but the public warning needed for a bond vote was not scheduled in time. The Highway Equipment Reserve currently has \$67,675. **Article 13 was recommended unanimously.**

On Article 14, to add \$7,500 to the non-lapsing Transfer Station Special Revenue Account from the Unreserved Fund Balance. **Article 14 was recommended 8-1** (Davis opposed).

On Article 15, to add \$40,000 to the Government Buildings Capital Reserve Fund to come from

the Unreserved Fund Balance. **Article 15 was recommended 8-1** (Davis opposed).

On Article 16, to add \$40,000 to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund from the Unreserved Fund Balance. **Article 16 was recommended unanimously.**

On Article 17, to establish an Emergency Medical Service Capital Reserve Fund and add \$50,000 to this fund, and name the Trustees of Trust Funds as agents to expend from said fund. The Committee discussed changing the agent to expend for this fund. **Article 17 was not recommended 3-6** (Bergeron, Freese, Riese in favor).

4. Petitioned Warrant Articles

On Article 18, Grafton County Seniors Citizens Council in the amount of \$13,500 was **recommended 5-3-1** (Davis, McAlister, Salvail opposed and Deleault abstained).

On Article 19, West Central Behavioral Health in the amount of \$3,920 was **recommended 4-3-2** (Davis, McAlister, Salvail opposed and Deleault, Riese abstained).

On Article 20, WISE in the amount of \$2,100 was **recommended 4-3-2** (Davis, McAlister, Salvail opposed and Deleault, Riese abstained).

On Article 21, Public Health Council in the amount of \$2,846 was **not recommended 3-4-2** (Bergeron, Wells, Wolk favored and Deleault, Riese abstained).

On Article 22, Tri-County Community Action in the amount of \$7,588 was **not recommended 4-3-2** (Bergeron, Freese, Wells, Wolk favored and Deleault and Riese abstained).

On Article 23, Advance Transit in the amount of \$9,840 was **recommended 4-3-2** (Davis, McAlister, Salvail opposed and Deleault, Riese abstained).

On Article 24, Mascoma Community Health Center in the amount of \$10,000 was **recommended 5-3-1** (Davis, Freese, Salvail opposed and Deleault abstained).

On Article 25, Visiting Nurse & Hospice for VT and NH in the amount of \$9,700 was **recommended 5-3-1** (Davis, McAlister, Salvail opposed and Deleault abstained).

On Article 26, The Bridge House in the amount of \$2,000 was **not recommended 1-4-4** (Wolk favored and Bergeron, Deleault, Riese, Wells abstained).

5. Next Canaan Budget Committee Meetings and Other Business

The next Canaan Budget Committee meeting is the public hearing on the Canaan 2023 budget at 7:30 PM on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Assignments for committee members for the public hearing were sent to committee members via email. The Town of Canaan Deliberative Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Canaan Elementary School.

6. Adjournment and Next Meetings

Denis Salvail made a motion which was seconded by Sadie Wells to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.