

Canaan Budget Committee Meeting and Public Hearing  
~~Wednesday~~, January 12, 2023  
Canaan Police Dept EOC, Canaan, NH

Attendees: Budget Committee members: John Bergeron, Stephen Freese (Select Board liaison), Ellie Davis, Nathan Deleault, Dave McAlister, Cindy Neily, Mike Riese, Sadie Wells, Karen Wolk. Town Administrator Ned Connell; Public attendees Scott Borthwick, Dan Collins, Monica Rowe, Sal Percia, Phil Salvail, Christina Mackwood, Wesley Mansur, Hue Wetherbee, Mike Samson. Recorded by Roger Lohr

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Dave McAlister opened the Canaan Budget Committee's Public Hearing at 7:32 PM. Documents were made available including the 2023 Warrant for Canaan, 2023 MS-DTB Default Budget for Canaan, and 2023 Proposed Budget for Canaan.

Committee members then proceeded to review the budget's departmental lines including the 2022 budget figure for the department, the amount expended in 2022 for the department, and the proposed 2023 Canaan budget for the department.

Wolk reviewed executive, town administration, town clerk, tax collection, and election expenses.

Bergeron reviewed book keeping, budget committee, treasurer, trustee expenses and data processing.

McAlister reviewed legal, personnel, planning board, and government buildings.

Deleault reviewed cemetery, insurance, general government, police department, ambulance, fire department, building inspection, and emergency management.

Wells reviewed mechanic, road agent and highway in three sections, bridges, and street lighting.

Freese reviewed transfer station, health, and welfare expenses.

Neily reviewed recreation, library, cultural, patriotic, and conservation.

McAlister reviewed debt service, capital outlay, and the general fund.

Riese reviewed sewer and water.

Davis acknowledged the default budget at \$4,301,197. The estimated 2023 revenue amount was \$5,053,988.13. The transfer amounts were highlighted \$220,559 and the unassigned balance was \$405,000.

Davis then reviewed the Warrant Articles that involved appropriations individually acknowledging the purpose and amount in each of those articles including the town and petitioned articles. Davis also cited how the Select Board and Budget Committee voted on each of the articles.

2. Other Committee Activity

2A. On Article 10 there was a request by TA Ned Connell to increase the amount added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve from \$37,000 to \$45,000.

The Select Board voted 3-0 in favor of changing the amount in Article 10 to \$45,000.  
The Budget Committee voted 9-0 in favor of changing the amount in Article 10 to \$45,000.

2B. On Article 17 there was a request by TA Ned Connell to replace the Trustees of the Trust Fund as agents to expend with "the voters of Canaan."

The Select Board voted 3-0 in favor of replacing the Trustees of the Trust Funds as agents to expend to the voters of Canaan in Article 17.  
The Budget Committee voted 9-0 in favor of replacing the Trustees of the Trust Funds as agents to expend to the voters of Canaan in Article 17.

The Budget Committee then voted to recommend Article 17 by a tally of 8-1 (Davis opposed).

2C. There were discussions at the meeting of the medical emergency fund and the amount of funds in the CIP for acquiring an ambulance in 2024. The Emergency Management program has a non-lapsing account that also had amounts for acquiring an ambulance.

There was additional discussion about Article 6 and the backhoe replacement and the intentions of the highway department to acquire a similar piece of equipment and it was suggested that the word "replacement" should be removed from the Warrant Articles 6 and 7 (on the backhoe and bulldozer).

There was a discussion about Article 4 and the ramifications to the water system projects and grants for them if the article was defeated. The final discussion referred to the water/sewer system non-lapsing operating fund and if funds should come from the town budget's Unreserved Fund for a water system that is used by a limited number of residents in the downtown area. It was stated that the downtown area is valued and used by most of Canaan residents, whether they reside there or not.

The public hearing was then closed by Chair Dave McAlister at 9:25 PM.

### 3. Next Canaan Budget Committee Meeting

The next Canaan Budget Committee meeting is at the Town of Canaan Deliberative Session which is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2023 at about 1:00 PM at the Mascoma High School Auditorium.

### 4. Adjournment

**Sadie Wells made a motion which was seconded by Nate Deleault to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.**