

**Town of Canaan  
Board of Finance  
Special Meeting  
Monday, March 26, 2007 6:30 P.M.  
Town Hall  
108 Main Street  
Falls Village, CT 06031**

**Present:** Chairman Charles Lemmen, Kent Allyn, Tom Christian, George Elling, Fred Petersen, and Alternates Stephen Koshland (seated for Denise Cohn) and Patrick Hafner.

**Absent:** Denise Cohn and Alternate Scott Macchi.

**Also present:** First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare, Selectmen Peter G. Lawson and Charles H. Lewis, and Treasurer Linda Paviol.

Chairman Lemmen called the Special Meeting to order at 6:34 P.M for the purpose of hearing a presentation by the Board of Selectmen - 2007/2008 Proposed Municipal Spending Plan.

Copies of the Proposed Spending Plan (March 9, 2007) were distributed (attached). Lemmen thanked Mechare for the new format presentation with easy-reference item narratives above each budget page. Mechare spoke to each budget department, line by line, answering questions and providing explanations regarding changes. The BOF made some suggestions for clarifications in certain narrative items.

Some items noted by Mechare were:

- The Selectmen have included 3.6% COLA increases for most employees hired by the BOS. The Building Inspector and ZEO lines show increases based on competitive salaries; additional time has been required to do the jobs based on building, renovation, and subdivision activity.
- While the BOS has recommended a 3.6% increase for elected officials, excepting the BOS positions, i.e. the Tax Collector, Treasurer, Town Clerk, Registrars of Voters, it is the BOF that will make the final determination for elected official increases. Chairman Lemmen has received a request from the Town Clerk for a higher increase than that recommended by the BOS; the town Clerk has agreed to come to the next Regular BOF Meeting to present her request.
- Another item for BOF consideration is the amount of money to go in the budget Revaluation Fund line (reserve account), so that there will be an amount sufficient to meet the anticipated higher revaluation cost again in ten years. Mechare indicates that the BOF may want to go from the current \$3,000/yr. to as much as \$8,000-\$9,000/yr.

- The changeover from mechanical to computerized voting machines with paper ballot, as mandated by the State, will bring about an array of new expenses to that department. A memo from the Registrars was distributed (attached).
- We are in a 3-yr. contract with CIRMA (insurance), so there is no increase. 5 employees are covered for health insurance and one Town retiree.
- The need for a new fire truck in the near future is reflected by an increase in the Fire Truck Reserve line.
- The BOF will need to make a recommendation as to how the extra funds required for the Johnson Road/Feeder Road Grant Project will be made available, either as a surplus from the current budget or as an added amount in the new budget in Road Maintenance.
- The Recreation salaries should be used this year, with the new pool opening expected, reflected by an increase in that line.

Chairman Lemmen thanked the Board of Selectmen for their work on the Spending Plan and for First Selectman Mechare's presentation. The BOF will consider the BOE and BOS Spending Plans for discussion and action at the upcoming Regular Meeting, Monday, April 9, 2007.

T. Christian asked that the Treasurer provide projected revenue expectations and current budget expenditures for the next meeting.

**F. Petersen made a motion for adjournment, seconded by G. Elling and passed unanimously. The Special Meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary