

Town of Canaan Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
Monday, April 14, 6:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT

Present: Chairman Charles J. Lemmen, Kent Allyn, Denise Cohn, George Elling, E. Frederick Petersen, and Alternate G. Tracy Atwood.
Absent: Regular Member Scott Macchi and Alternate Stephen Koshland.
Also Present: First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare, Selectman Peter G. Lawson, LHK Principal Maria Bulson, LHK BOE Chair Andrea Downs, LHK BOE members Mary Atwood, Mary Elling and Betsy Howie, and Terry Cowgill, *The Lakeville Journal*. Later Selectman Charles H. Lewis.

Chairman Lemmen called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 P.M. Alternate Atwood was seated for absent Regular Member Macchi.

Public Comment: None

Consensus was to re-order the agenda and address **Old Business:** Presentation by the Kellogg BOE revised 2008-2009 Spending Plan first.

Chairman Andrea Downs distributed a 4/14/08 revised Canaan BOE Budget for 2008-2009 (attached) and described all changes made by the BOE (lines #1, #57, #75, #76, #85, #91, #92, #95) since the presentations to the BOF on March 10th and March 17th. The request for the addition of a new one-year fulltime teacher has been revised to provide for increasing a current part-time teacher, Amy Lake, from 0.5 to a 0.8 position, in order to address the need in the grade 3-4 combined class, until the Long Range Planning Committee can make a more studied recommendation. The overall revisions make for a 2.2% increase in the 2008-2009 budget over the 2007-2008 budget, however taken with the (-3.2%) decrease for our portion of the Region One Budget, there is an overall total educational spending plan increase of 0.2% over last fiscal year. Principal Bulson noted that the projected enrollment of K-8 for September is anticipated at between 91 and 94 students.

Chairman Lemmen distributed an updated projected enrollment and tuition chart from Business Manager Sam Herrick (attached).

By consensus a date was set for the **Town Budget Hearing for BOE and BOS 2008-2009 Spending Plans on Friday, April 25, 2008, 7 P.M. at the Town Hall.**

Reports:

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by K. Allyn to approve the February 11, 2008 Regular Meeting minutes with the following changes: a.) In the heading, add "11" after "February" and b.) Communications: #5.) Change the word "new" to the word "increased" before "assessment". G. Elling seconded. Passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting March 10, 2008, Special Meeting March 17, 2008, and Special Meeting March 31, 2008 stand as published.

Treasurer's Reports

A motion was made to receive the February 2008 Treasurer's Report by D. Cohn, seconded by G. Elling, and passed unanimously.

A motion was made to receive the March 2008 Treasurer's Report by D. Cohn, seconded by T. Atwood, and passed unanimously.

Paviol reported that following up on the auditor's recommendation regarding under-collateralization, her attempts to obtain an agreement with TSB for protecting all our municipal funds held there (\$1,000,000 +/-), in excess of the FDIC-insured \$100,000 and coverage for public funds from all sources, have met with reluctance. Discussion followed. The recommendation was for her to contact the TSB President directly.

Tax Collector's Reports

A motion to receive the February and March 2008 Tax Collector's Reports was made by D. Cohn, seconded by G. Elling, and passed unanimously.

Board of Education Financial Report

A motion to receive the BOE February 2008 Financial Report was made by K. Allyn, seconded by G. Elling and passed unanimously.

The March 2008 Report was not forwarded by the BOE Clerk. Due to inconsistent receipt of the financial reports, BOF Clerk Allyn was instructed to write a letter to the BOE insisting upon a monthly financial report, preferably by e-mail, sent to the Board of Finance Chairman and Town Treasurer each month prior to the regularly scheduled BOF meetings, including a report of the month's expenditures.

Selectman's Report

- Johnson Road Project –Cocchiola Paving has yet to sign and return the warranty document approved by the State; the reserved final payment is still in abeyance.
- Wm. Surdam Building Roof – Mechare praised the new roof work done by Roy Wilcox and his workers on the Day Care Center's older section.
- Housatonic River Iron Bridge – According to DOT the aging Iron Bridge is eligible, after a lapse of 10 years since the last State grant, and the Town may consider State grant funds for repair/ upgrade. Mechare notes there is movement of the bridge with traffic, towards the Amesville side, requiring immediate attention. A meeting with Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand to discuss plans and engineering reports is set.
- Tree Trimming – CL&P has been doing a lot of tree removal and branch trimming around Town.
- 107 Main Street STEAP Grant Project – The shingles and gutters have been completed by Adams Roofing. Window replacement has begun.
- Road Sweeping – The DPW has been sweeping Town streets and roads of accumulated sand from winter.
- Town Water System Leak – There was a major water valve leak along the road in front of Kellogg School last Thursday. DPW Manager Tim Downs is credited with getting experts in quickly to handle the leak. The Canaan Water Company will pay for the repairs.

G. Elling sought a clarification: whether the BOS wanted a Selectmen's representative on the Children's Theater/Community Center Board, following-up on discussions at the time of the \$25,000 Town contribution toward purchase of the Emerson Building in 2006. Mechare's recollection was that if an annual operating grant was sought by the group, such as is given to the Library and some other non-profit organizations, then BOS representatives would be appointed, but agreed that a twice yearly update to the Selectmen meetings would be helpful for now.

New Business:

- 1.) By consensus, discussion of pay increases for Selectmen positions and Registrars of Voters was added to the agenda. Discussion of Canaan as the lowest or near lowest of like-sized northwest CT towns for the First Selectman's salary and Registrar of Voters' hourly wages and the need to "catch up".
G. Elling made a motion to increase the First Selectman's salary by 6%. D. Cohn seconded. Passed unanimously.
K. Allyn made a motion to increase the hourly rate for the Registrars of Voters by \$.50, thereby amounting to a rate of \$14.25/hr. T. Atwood seconded. Passed unanimously

- 2.) By consensus a BOF Special Meeting date was set (after the April 25th Town Budget Hearing) for Monday, April 28, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. to consider recommendation of the budgets to Town Meeting (likely May 12th or May 19th).

Chairman Lemmen distributed a sheet he prepared (attached) entitled *Region One Projections of Canaan's Share of the Region One Budget for the Next Six Years*.

Adjournment:

K. Allyn made a motion to adjourn, G. Elling seconded, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary