

**Town of Canaan Board of Finance**  
**Public Budget Hearing**  
**Friday, April 25, 2008, 7 p.m.**  
**107 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031**

**Present:** Chairman Charles Lemmen, Kent Allyn, Denise Cohn, George Elling  
**Others:** First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare, Selectmen Peter G. Lawson and Charles H. Lewis, BOE Chairman Andrea Downs and Members Mary Elling, Betsy Howie, and Beckie Seney, LHK Principal Maria Bulson, Transfer Station Manager Fred Palmer, E. Woods and Mary Lu Sinclair, Faye Lawson, Gail Allyn, Guy and Patty Rovezzi, Dave Seney, Larry Bulson, Susan Kozlowski, Margo Lewis, Noelle LaMunier, Tracy Wilson, and Terry Cowgill, *The Lakeville Journal*.

Chairman Lemmen called the Public Budget Hearing to order at 7:05 p.m. and stated that the purpose of the hearing was to present the Municipal and Board of Education Spending Plans for 2008-2009 and receive comments from the public to assist the Board of Finance in making recommendations about the final spending plans. In opening remarks, Lemmen noted that the Grand List went up by about 53% and with these proposed budgets he expects a drop to a 19.5% mill rate. Of note, based on current projections, it is expected that the LHK Region One tuition assessments will go up significantly over the next three years, due to the increased number of LHK children who will be entering the high school.

There was question about whether we would be voting to appropriate the Region One portion of the budget twice, having voted upon it separately at region-wide referendum, and then again as part of the Town's overall Education Budget vote. Mechare will research this with Town Counsel and have the appropriate wording for the question to come to vote.

BOE Chairman Andrea Downs highlighted various changes in the Canaan Board of Education 2008-2009 Budget (attached) leading to a spending plan for Lee H. Kellogg School of \$1,752,013.00, a 2.2% increase. The Town's Tuition Assessments from the Region One School Budget are \$952,651.00, a (-3.2%) increase, putting the overall Education Expenditure at \$2,704,664.00 or a 0.2% increase. Various questions were addressed about staffing changes, loss of summer school enrichment, and whether energy cost increases caused program cuts. Looking ahead, Downs notes that for future budgets, a considerable cost increase is expected with entering a new region-wide bus contract after the end of our comparatively low current bus contract costs.

First Selectman Mechare highlighted the proposed 2008-2009 Municipal Spending Plan (attached) and changes. The total government budget is \$1,545,037.00, a 1.89% increase. Various questions were addressed. B. Seney requested that Line 1016 Wage/Benefits - FVVFD/Rescue Squad Pension show a correction to indicate an award plan, not a pension plan.

Chairman Lemmen thanked both Downs and Mechare for their budget presentations and reminded the BOF Members that they will have a Special Meeting Monday, April 28, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. to recommend these budgets and any other appropriate items to Town Meeting for approval.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary