

TOWN OF CANAAN  
Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting  
Thursday, February 8, 2007 @ 9:30 AM  
108 Main Street, Falls Village, Connecticut 06031

The Special Board of Selectmen's meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by first Selectman Patricia Mechare. Selectman Peter Lawson, Selectman Charles Lewis, Town Treasurer Linda Paviol and Town Crew Foreman Timothy Downs were also present.

In the first item of business on a motion by Lawson, seconded by Lewis it was moved to authorize First Selectman Mechare to warn a hearing on February 22, 2007 for the purpose of rate changes for the Canaan Water Department. Unanimous.

In the next item of business on a motion by Lawson, seconded by Lewis it was moved to appoint Stephen Koshland to the Northwestern Connecticut Regional Housing Council. Unanimous.

Town Crew Foreman Tim Downs requested high speed internet access at the Town Garage at 100 Railroad Street. Truck and Equipment manuals are on CD's with referrals to websites and he needs access to high speed internet for that purpose and for acquiring information needed about equipment, tools, parts, etc. Tim was able to request and receive a computer from Kellogg School that was available for sale at no cost. On a motion by Lewis it was moved to install high speed internet at 100 Railroad Street. Unanimous.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the treatment of the highways during snow and ice conditions. Town Crew Foreman Downs is not convinced that the treatment the State started using this winter is sufficient. He prefers a mixing of sand and salt, instead of sodium chloride in solid and liquid form and liquid calcium chloride. He felt that type of treatment wouldn't work well on our roads since most are not as well traveled as State roads. He also expressed concerns about the use of "Magic Salt" and other products of a similar nature. He felt it was too expensive. The Board decided to defer use of the above mentioned treatments for 2007-2008. However, it will conduct a cost analyse based on the savings that other towns experienced this season, as well as the success of the product and revisit the issue in November or December. There was discussion regarding the building of a salt shed. A rough drawing of the type and location was reviewed. It was not clear if the state was still requiring such a structure and if so what the specifications might be or if they were continuing to accept the covering of the material as sufficient. It was learned that the Salt Shed account had not any annual

contributions since the 1997-1998 budget year and stood in the mid-\$60,000 range. The Board by consensus decided to research what was required in the way of a Salt Shed and to take under advisement adding money to the Salt Shed account. Mr. Downs suggested that any unexpended funds in the de-icing line item at the end of the fiscal year be transferred to the Salt Shed Account and that any other unexpended funds in Account 3001 Road Maintenance be transferred to the Heavy Equipment account. The proposal will be considered at a future meeting.

Mr. Downs explained the need for replacing the 1989 GMC dump truck. He indicated that a broad estimate of its cost would be in the neighborhood of a \$130,000, with \$85,000 going for the cab and chaise and about \$45,000 for the plow and dump body. It was learned that the Truck Reserve Account had an amount of \$51,800 and the Heavy Equipment Reserve Account had an amount of \$51,000 and with the added contribution from the 2007-2008 budget that there would be about enough money to cover the cost. The Board, by concensus, told Mr. Downs to begin putting the specifications together. There was also discussion regarding the annual contribution to these reserve accounts and whether the amounts would have to be increased. Mr. Downs also indicated that within the next few years the tractor with the appropriate attachments would probably need replacement and that the estimated cost would be about \$50,000.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a budget workshop in which no actions were taken. On a motion by Lewis, seconded by Lawson the meeting unanimously adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Allyn Mechare  
First Selectman