

**Town of Canaan
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting**

Monday, January 8, 2007 at 7:30 P.M.

Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031

Present: First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare. Selectmen Peter G. Lawson and Charles H. Lewis
Also Present: Geri Nebor and Ellery W. Sinclair, Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission. David Smith, *The Torrington Register* and Terry Cowgill, *The Lakeville Journal*.

First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare called the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

No public comments

Approval of Pending Minutes:

C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2006 Regular Meeting as presented. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.
P. Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2006 Special Meeting as presented. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.
C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2006 Special Meeting as presented. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports:

Mechare noted that both reports seem to be on target for the halfway point in the fiscal year.
P. Lawson moved to receive the Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.

By consensus, **New Business, Item G - Beebe Hill Storm Water/Erosion Project – Phase 1** was taken first.

Litchfield Conservation District received a request from the BOS a number of years ago asking for a comprehensive study of the longstanding Beebe Hill water flow erosion effect on Amy and Deer Roads and a plan to address the problems there. Mechare presented the engineer-designed system to collect and drain water away, sent by LCD's technical person Sean Hayden, with profiles, cross-sections, catch basins, specifications, and bid schedule. Mechare notes that the specifications are complicated and likely very expensive. To carry out the plan, permission from abutting private landowners would need to be gained. She asks that the Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission review the plans in detail and comment back to the next BOS meeting. They may wish to have Sean Hayden conduct an onsite walkthrough.

By consensus, **Old Business, Item E – Cobble Road Water Problem** was addressed next. The Selectman demonstrated the *GeoWeb* material from Jody Bronson and gave a synopsis of his presentation from the December Regular Meeting regarding Cobble Road flooding and road erosion. CIWC Chairman Sinclair requested that the Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission accompany the BOS and Bronson when the installed *GeoWeb* is viewed in place on Meeker Town Rd. at Great Mountain Forest, Canaan Mountain.

Communications:

Written:

- Notification from Elizabeth Schultz, Director of Real Estate at Aquarion Water regarding 4+ acres at 33 Wangum Road that will be available for sale by 2011. Mechare will call for more information.
- A letter from Lisa Low, a grant writer for various towns and non-profits in CT. Will be kept on file.
- Letter from the American Heart Association describing a day set aside for promotion of women's cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention. To show the town's support, **a motion by P. Lawson for a proclamation designating February 2, 2006 as AHA "Go Red for Women Day" for the Town of Canaan. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Oral:

Mechare reported that DEMHS requires the Town to pass a disaster emergency ordinance to be put on the call for the upcoming Town Meeting.

Reports:

A. Town Board/Commission Vacancies – Two regular member positions are open on the Recreation Commission as a result of two longtime members retiring.

B. Swimming Pool – There has been good progress because of the warmer than expected weather. Cement footings and walls poured for the pool house. Engineer Ed Fenn inspected and was pleased. Septic system was approved and installed by Certified Septic Installer Robert Quinion. Next, cut lumber is needed for the pool house; the Pool Committee meets this Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. to plan a timeframe for further work.

C. Public Safety Emergency Planning Council – No meeting in December.

D. COG Meeting – Met last Thursday. Mechare is the Secretary and on the Nominating and Kingsmark Committees. Affordable housing is a recurring topic of interest in the towns.

E. Johnson Road/Rt. 7 Feeder Grant Project – The specifications and drawings are at Town Hall for review. Some bid packets have been picked up. Sealed bids need to be in no later than 3 P.M. Thursday, February 8, 2006 for consideration and will be opened at 3:15 P.M.

F. Survey 35 Railroad St. (firehouse) – Completed and Mechare reviewed it with the Selectmen pointing out a 4" and an 8" encroachment that will need to be addressed and a 0.039 acre strip about 9 feet wide, where a boundary line agreement is needed with the abutting landowner. There was consensus to discuss this with Town attorney on how to proceed. Let the record note that Faye Lawson did an enormous amount of research in the land records that proved invaluable to the completion of the survey.

Old Business:

A. STEAP Grant/FVVFD/107 Main Street – Mechare working to have more money released into the Reich and Tang for the Fire Dept. Project. There will be a meeting Saturday, January 13th at 9:00 A.M. for 107 Main with Fred Laser to work on specifications for the project.

B. Generator Service Agreement – A company suggested by the electrician quoted a higher price than another quote received. Consensus was for the First Selectman to go with Richard Lee, who put the generator in.

C. Update on State Requirements for Transfer Station – The Transfer Station has to be surveyed again. Matt Kiefer will work with Engineer Ed Fenn. An aerial survey will be required to view topography changes. The Engineer will apply for an extension, since the work is planned, but cannot be completed by the State deadline at the end of January.

D. Water Street Iron Bridge over the Housatonic R. – Nothing new to report.

E. Covered previously.

New Business:

A. Tax Refund Request – On a request from the Tax Collector (attached), **a motion by C. Lewis to refund a combined credit of \$667.70 to Volvo Finance NA, Inc. on Acct. #'s 2004/301220 and 301221. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

B. Use of Forfeiture Funds to pay Penalties for Pension Money Transfer - There is money available created by pension funds contributed by the Town on behalf of employees, who then did not work long enough to become vested. **A motion by P. Lawson to use \$3,500 of forfeiture funds in order to pay penalties, as a result of changing pension funds from IXIS to The American Fund, for the greater benefit of our employees. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

C. Appointments for Water Commission – E. Frederick Petersen, Michael DeMazza, and Greg Carlson completed 3-year terms on the Water Commission ending December 2006. Petersen and DeMazza have agreed to serve another term. Carlson resigned due to a change in residency. **P. Lawson moved to accept Carlson's resignation with regret. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

C. Lewis moved to reappoint E. Frederick Petersen and Michael De Mazza for another 3-year term each on the Town of Canaan Water Commission, ending in December 2009. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Upon a recommendation from the First Selectman, **C. Lewis moved to appoint Faye Lawson to a 3-year term on the Town of Canaan Water Commission, ending December 2009. P. Mechare seconded. Passed. P. Lawson abstained from the vote.**

D. Easement to Falls Village Theatre Group for Septic System - Percolation tests and an engineering study have been completed. Town Sanitarian Tom Stansfield is seeking approval through the State for the plan. Town Counsel Donna Brooks is working with the group's attorney on the language for the easement, to protect the Town. **A motion was made by C. Lewis to move forward with a written easement agreement between the Town of Canaan and the Falls Village Children's Theatre Group. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.** The P&Z Commission will consider the easement at a special meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

E. Ratification/Rejection of Contract Between the Town BOE and LHK Faculty Assoc. – There is a Town Ordinance currently on the books that requires a Town Meeting for approval or rejection of the contract and therefore this item needs to be included on the call for the upcoming Town Meeting.

F. Set Date Town Meeting – **C. Lewis made a motion to set the date for a Town Meeting for Tuesday, January 23, 2007, tentative time and place 7 P.M. at Kellogg School, for the purpose of acting on the BOE/Faculty Contract for 07/08, the Town Septic Easement for the Theatre Group, and the DEMHS disaster/emergency Town Ordinance requirement. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

G. Covered previously.

C. Lewis made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:40 P.M. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 9 P.M. No action taken. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary