

**Town of Canaan
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Monday, July 16, 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: Main Street resident Ann Bidou and Terry Cowgill, *The Lakeville Journal*.

First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare called the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting (replacing the duly postponed July 9, 2007 Regular Meeting) to order at 7:00 P.M.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Pending Minutes:

C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, June 11, 2007 Regular Meeting with the following correction under New Business, Item A - to add the motion made at that meeting and inadvertently omitted from the minutes as follows: "Upon a request by the Tax Collector, C. Lewis made a motion to refund \$9019.63 to Sharon Love for Property Tax List #2005/100406 for an overpayment, due to loan refinancing. P. Lawson seconded the motion. Passed unanimously." P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports:

There was no June 2007 Treasurer's report. The Treasurer is closing out the FY 2006/2007 books. The Tax Collector's report for June 2007 indicated that the one remaining large amount of delinquent tax was paid in full.

By consensus Old Business, Item D – Main Street Action Committee was taken first to accommodate Main Street resident Ann Bidou, representing the Main Street Action Committee. Ms Bidou, as a property/business owner on Main Street, shared some ideas to promote more activity and involvement on Main Street during Halloween and the Christmas holidays, in particular. With interest from other Main Street residents, she expects to coordinate planning with the Historical Society and Recreation Commission and seeks the Selectmen's support for future plans. The Selectmen were positive in their support and she will forward ideas to them by e-mail for input and help.

Communications:

Written

A letter of resignation from Ann Cofone, MSW, due to a full-time position taken elsewhere (attached). Her last day as Town Social Worker/Municipal Agent/Senior Services Coordinator was June 28, 2007. Upon Ann's recommendation, B.J. Christinat the Social Worker/Municipal Agent in North Canaan has agreed to act as interim in this position.

Oral

None

Reports:

A. Town Board/Commission Vacancies – One Regular Member position (See Old Business, Item H) is open on the Recreation Commission and one Alternate position.

B. Swimming Pool –Tim Downs has the pool house floor ready to be poured. Mechare notes she responded with a detailed letter to resident Dan Shaw’s July 4th blog about progress on the pool.

C. Public Safety Emergency Planning Council – The next meeting is Wednesday, July 25th and they are still working on a “badging” system.

D. COG Meeting – No August meeting. Last meeting centered around discussion of legislative issues. Following proposed cuts in State Aid, Mechare noted that Representative Wilber was able to get the Town of Canaan’s share reinstated. Dan McGuiness, COG Executive Director, is studying how new PA–0756 will work for us. It provides for a broader range of mutual aid across the State.

E. Johnson Road/Rt. 7 Feeder Grant Project – The project is essentially finished. Some drainage issues arose after recent heavy rain and those are being addressed. Line painting and guardrails are still to be done. Estimated costs seem to be on target.

Old Business:

A. STEAP Grant /FVVFD and 107 Main St.

FVVFD - Curt Mechare succeeds Beckie Seney as Building Committee Chairman. Application is being made for a project time extension and plan amendment. Some Phase 3 site-work will be eliminated and replaced with Phase 1 work in order to use the state funds within the STEAP project timeframe.

107 Main – The specification booklet is complete – invitation to bid has gone out - bid opening is Wednesday, August 8th at 2 p.m.

Other bid openings: Town Fire Truck – Wednesday, August 15th at 1 p.m. and Town Truck plow hitch and sander body – Wednesday, July 25th at 1 p.m.

B. Update on State Requirements for Transfer Station – Town crew hopes to pour the foundation for the propane tank collection area in August.

C. Update Regional Planning Collaborative – The pilot project website should be up in two weeks. Governor Rell wrote a letter indicating that application can be made through OPM to help fund the Collaborative’s plans.

D. Main Street Action Committee – Previously addressed.

E. FVVFD Pension Fund – The Fire Department gave input to the final wording. The Selectmen by consensus gave Mechare authorization to speak with Jim Josephson to move forward on the investment of funds and sign, if needed, to initiate activity.

F. Rental 107 Main Street – John Harney is listing the rental *pro bono* and there is an interested party. Mechare will meet with them tomorrow.

G. Cobble Road – Town DPW has filled the worst area with big and smaller rock. Beavers continue to be a problem. Mechare encourages the Selectmen to view this work. DPW is trying this first before deciding on the expandable holding system Jody Bronson presented.

H. Recreation Committee Regular Member - Mechare notes that Beth Grayson, recommended by Chairman Darin Dodge, has been a resident for 5 – 6 years, has a child at LHK School, and believes that she would make a good addition to the Recreation Commission. **P. Lawson made a motion to appoint Beth Grayson as a Regular Member on the Recreation Commission. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.** Mechare will write Grayson about the appointment.

New Business:

A. FV/Canaan Historical Society Request – The Historical Society is seeking property insurance coverage for the Depot on Rail Road Street under the Town’s CIRMA umbrella plan. The South Canaan Meeting House, owned by the Historical Society is already covered in this way. There was a consensus to accommodate the Historical Society on this matter and have Mechare contact the CIRMA representative.

B. VNA Northwest, Inc. Annual Contract Agreement - There are no changes for the coming year with the amount at \$10,045. **A motion was made by C. Lewis authorizing the First Selectman**

to sign the proposed contract agreement for the Town of Canaan with VNA Northwest, Inc. for the Public Health Budget. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Interim Municipal Agent – Upon invitation to serve as interim, B. J. Christinat sent a letter proposing a 10 hr. week at a rate of \$20/hr and on October 1, 2007 increasing the hours to 15/wk. maximum. She will work Mon., Tues., and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. **P. Lawson made a motion to appoint B. J. Christinat as Interim Municipal Agent/Social Worker for the Town of Canaan, with an evaluation in October to consider appointment to the regular position. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

D. Ordinance Request from Falls Village Children’s Theater – The organization got approval as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit retroactive to June 2, 2006, however because the Main Street property purchase for the group was made in April 2007, they are currently liable for taxes from the October 1, 2006 Grand Tax List on the new property. The group is requesting a Town Ordinance allowing exemption from the taxes due, considering their tax-exempt status. There was consensus to have Mechare contact Town Counsel Judith Dixon to review this request. Approval of the ordinance would have to go to Town Meeting.

Other Business:

P. Lawson asked about the status of some threatened elm trees that resident Woods Sinclair had asked to have checked, one in particular with a CL&P wire embedded in it on Main Street. Mechare indicated that she would have Tim Downs address this when he is back.

Adjournment:

C. Lewis made a motion to adjourn. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary