

**Town of Canaan
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 14, 2007 at 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031**

Present: First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare and Selectman Charles H. Lewis
Excused Absence: Selectman Peter G. Lawson
Also Present: Tim Downs, DPW Manager, Kent Allyn, 107 Main Street Project
Manager, and Terry Cowgill, *Lakeville Journal*.

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

Without objection, update reports from Kent Allyn and Tim Downs were taken first.

- Kent Allyn, Job Manager for the 107 Main Street Project, noted the State-required project sign is up, done by Ghi Signs for \$425, less than expected. There are some potential contractors showing interest, however the specifications need to be assembled as a package before the bid is publicized. Allyn will prepare a newspaper ad. One paper needs to target minority populations. A \$10 - \$15 deposit will be collected for the specification package, but returned to bidders after return of package in 10 – 14 days.
- Tim Downs, FVVFD volunteer, showed the specification drawings for the new fire truck to be purchased by the Fire Department, replacing their 1985 Chevy Engine #7. It will have a *Spartan* chassis, engine based on the hp desired and pump, a 4-man cab with room for air packs and other equipment, and a custom-size stainless steel rear section, with roll-up side doors for equipment. The engine, made to fit into the current firehouse, should last 20 years with regular maintenance. Gowans & Knight of Watertown did the drawing. Fire Chief Dave Seney, working with HVRHS students, is providing the bound bid package.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Pending Minutes:

C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, April 2, 2007 Special Meeting as presented. Passed unanimously.

C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, April 3, 2007 Special Meeting with the following correction: Change "Monday" to "Tuesday" in the heading. Passed unanimously.

C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, April 9, 2007 Special Meeting as presented. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports:

C. Lewis moved to receive the April 2007 Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports. Passed unanimously.

Communications:

Written

- E-mail from Adam Berman, Director Camp Isabella Freedman – Offering use of their pool to Falls Village residents at certain times of the week during the summer months. For availability the contact person is Sandy Gomez.

- E-mail from Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority regarding the “Bottle Bill” and encouraging contact with the legislators.

Oral

- The Ethics Bill being considered in the legislature is not good for small towns. The Litchfield County Elected Officials and NWCCOG have written to legislators about the likely new unfunded mandates the bill’s proposed changes would bring.
- David Kelsey and Tim Downs put together a bid package for the new Town truck with the help of Faye Lawson. It is for the cab and chassis only. Bids will be opened on **June 11th, 1 P.M. at the Town Hall.**
- Advertising in a variety of papers was done for rental of the first floor of 107 Main Street, resulting in one inquiry. Due to the high cost of advertising, C. Lewis suggested we have a realtor list the rental. Mechare will look into the cost and report back.
- There has been a report of land clearing on Rt. 126 and dumping of off-site materials that does not comply with P & Z regulations. Mike O’Neil, ZEO, will be asked to inspect.

Reports:

A. Town Board/Commission Vacancies – Two Regular Member positions are still open on the Recreation Commission and one on the Board of Assessment Appeals (see New Business).

B. Swimming Pool –Tim Downs has been coordinating work with Perotti Plumbing, Drakely Pools, Chris Crane - excavating, and Vernali – cement work. The donor of the wood for the pool house will meet with our Building Official this week to review the plan and seek a permit. An early summer pool opening is not expected at this time.

C. Public Safety Emergency Planning Council – Mechare was unable to attend the most recent meeting due to a conflict; the next meeting is May 23rd. Mechare will meet with Principal Gretchen Foster to confer on wording for HVRHS as a shelter for Homeland Security purposes.

D. COG Meeting – Neither the legislature nor the Governor’s view of the ethics bill being contemplated looks good for our small town. The Town of Canaan will host the **Regional Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, June 9th at the Town of Canaan Town Garage.**

E. Johnson Road/Rt. 7 Feeder Grant Project – Mechare will meet this Wednesday for a pre-construction meeting with Cocchiola Paving, Engineer Pat Hacket, DOT representatives, the Town Treasurer, DPW Manager, and Project Manager Roger Kane.

F. 107 Main Street/FVVFD STEAP Grant Projects – 107 Main Street was covered with K. Allyn’s report. There were people to scope out the clearing and grubbing at the Emergency Services Center site recently. A 1-year extension to the June 30, 2007 deadline use of the \$250,000 grant has been sought, with a 6-month review; Mechare has not heard back from State contact Rosemary Solerno on this yet.

Old Business:

A. Update on State Requirements for Transfer Station – A propane tank collection area has to be excavated, requiring a 10 X 10 cement pad with chain link fence and locked gate.

B. Update Regional Planning Collaborative – Regional Planner Tom McGowan is working on the pilot project.

C. DeLuca Property – Mechare heard from Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway that the DeLuca Trust has contacted the State indicating willingness for the State to look at the land (70 +/- Canaan, 230+/- Cornwall) for possible bid.

New Business:

A. Nominations Recreation Committee and Board of Assessment Appeals - The Republican Town Committee sent a letter recommending Trevor Soule for a regular member opening on the Recreation Commission. No names were received from the Democratic Town Committee. **C.**

Lewis made a motion to appoint Trevor Soule as a regular Member on the recreation Commission. P. Mechare seconded. Passed unanimously.

The Republican Town Committee sent a letter recommending Jeff Jasmine for the opening on the Board of Assessment Appeals created by Patricia Rovezzi's resignation. No names were received from the Democratic Town Committee. **C. Lewis made a motion to appoint Jeff Jasmine to the Board of Assessment Appeals until the next municipal election. P. Mechare seconded. Passed unanimously.**

B. Historic Documents Grant - C. Lewis moved a resolution to authorize the Town Clerk to sign a contract on behalf of the Town of Canaan with the Ct State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant. P. Mechare seconded. Passed unanimously.

C. Request regarding Employment Status with Building Inspector - Building Inspector Ernie Sinclair has requested that his status be changed from independent contractor to employee of the Town. Mechare states there is sufficient in the budget to cover the social security tax that would require of the Town as employer. C. Lewis made a motion for an employment agreement with Building Inspector Ernie Sinclair to be a Town employee with a signed contract, similar to the agreement the Town had with former Building Inspector Bill Conrad, until terminated by mutual agreement. P. Mechare seconded. Passed unanimously.

D. Code of Conduct and Procedure – Mechare sought verification of whether the current Selectmen had signed the Town of Canaan Code of Conduct and Procedures, in lieu of an Ethics Agreement. Lewis believes they did at the beginning of their terms. Mechare will check for a copy of the signed document.

Other Business:

Parking Lot Items - Mechare will contact Main Street resident Ann Bidou about any planned activity for the Main Street Action Committee and report back.

Adjournment:

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary