

**Town of Canaan  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 10, 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: Denise Cohn, Fred and Mary Petersen

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Pending Minutes:**

**C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, August 13, 2007 Regular Meeting as presented. P. Mechare. Passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports:**

The August 2007 Treasurer's Report and Tax Collector's Report were distributed. **C. Lewis made a motion to receive The Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports through August 31, 2007. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Without objection, New Business, Item D - Request from FV Children's Theater Group Re: Halloween Display on Town Property was taken first. D. Cohn represented the group which will sponsor a scarecrow contest with entries displayed mainly on land near the Town center. The consensus was to support the contest and give permission for use of town land as requested.

Without objection, Old Business Item E – Presentation of an Ordinance RE: FV Children's Theater Group was taken next. The ordinance has been reviewed by Town Counsel Donna Brooks giving an abatement on installments of taxes due for the 2006 Grand List after the time the organization became a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. **C. Lewis made a motion to send the ordinance concerning tax exemption of property of the Falls Village Children's Theater Company to Town Meeting for a vote. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.** Mechare indicates that the Town Meeting is expected to be in mid-October.

**Communications:**

- A letter (attached) written by Fred and Mary Petersen – This regards a Town storm drain that runs through their property from Miner Street through the Congregational Church property and underground elsewhere into Town. They ask the Town to provide a cover for the drain to prevent debris build-up and keep a free flow of water and prevent liability. Mechare will consult with DPW Manager Tim Downs.
- A letter from Ed Arum of the Energy Consortium to clarify marketplace electric brokers' comments recently about the consortium. Mechare notes she will attend a meeting October 5<sup>th</sup> with Kent First Selectman Ruth Epstein sponsored by Constellation Energy.
- A letter from the State, concerning Municipal Property Tax Exemption for fuel efficient cars purchased after January 1, 2007. This is to be considered by individual towns for adoption. Mechare notes there was no objection from the Town Tax Assessor and Tax Collector to the idea. The BOS will consider the concept after researching the public act.

- A letter from Fire Chief Dave Seney to Camp Freedman (attached) regarding their dry hydrants installed too shallow, thus subject to freezing and ineffectiveness for fire emergencies during winter.
- A letter from Fire Chief Dave Seney to The Last Post (attached) following no access to the gate during a medical emergency response call, due to changed locks.
- A letter from Sylvia Wismar about a hole at the end of the transfer station drive and RT 63 and a hole at Yelping Hill Road junction. As State Roads, these repairs are out of the Town's jurisdiction, however, Mechare called to find that both are on DOT work orders for repair this week.
- A communication from the Senior Center that the dishwasher is not working properly. Director B.J. Christinat will get quotes from several local appliance dealers for a replacement.

### **Reports:**

**A. Town Board/Commission Vacancies** –A regular position on the Recreation Commission has two names put forward (see New Business). Need a regular member for the NWCT Convention and Visitors' Bureau to replace Cheryl Peccha.

**B. Swimming Pool** – Vernali will pour the remaining pool decking and pool house floor, then the Falls Village Saw Mill will be notified, with building to be erected before winter.

**C. Public Safety Emergency Planning Council** – There is new information about the “badging” system which Mechare passed on to Fire Chief Dave Seney.

**D. COG Meeting** – Met last week with information about the DEMHS Public Safety Task Force and how decisions about use of money will now need to be discussed by the Selectmen.

**E. Johnson Road/Rt. 7 Feeder Grant Project** – Some of the paving by Cocchiola did not meet compaction requirements and he will have to address that and provide some outstanding paperwork. Roger Kane, Project Coordinator, is waiting to hear from the State.

**F. STEAP Grant /FVVFD and 107 Main St. FVVFD** – Mechare has not had any communication, as yet, on the extension for the project spending for the Emergency Services Center. Possibility of sharing blasting costs with *Verizon*, for their tower going on site also.

107 Main – There were no bids, 3<sup>rd</sup> round of advertising for bids in progress. Bid opening set for October 4<sup>th</sup>. Mechare hopes a waiver on the three bid-minimum can be gotten. K. Allyn has called 11 local contractors to encourage bidding without much success. If no bids, C. Lewis suggests vinyl siding rather than painting, and going on to explore this idea with the State Historical guidelines.

### **Old Business:**

**A. FVVFD Pension Fund** – A meeting taking place this week and the point system is now in place.

**B. Rental 107 Main Street** – The first check has been received. There is an electric problem being checked by Electrician Ron Carpenter this week. The tenant has installed an alarm system and T. Downs has the code for the Fire Department and emergencies.

**C. Cobble Road** – A meeting is set for Thursday at 8 A.M. at the problem site with Jody Bronson, Selectmen, T. Downs, DPW Manager, and W. Sinclair, Inland Wetlands Commission.

**D. Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society Insurance Request** – Paperwork on ownership of the Falls Village Depot has been forwarded to CIRMA, as requested, currently awaiting response.

**E. FV Children's Theater Group Ordinance Request** – Previously addressed in meeting.

**F. Update Transfer Station** – Vernali will pour the propane tank storage pad at the same time he pours the pool decking and pool house floor.

With consensus, P. Mechare added three items to New Business.

**New Business:**

1.) Assessors Request Regarding 501 (c) (3) Evaluations for Re-val. - The Tax Assessor requests that an agreement with G & K Associates be signed to make evaluations of the non-profits Camp Freedman and Music Mountain personal properties, for the current revaluation process and determining payment in lieu of taxes agreements. **C. Lewis made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract with G & K Associates for certain personal property evaluations on the October 1, 2007 Grand List at a cost of \$3,000. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

2.) Assistant Treasurer Ordinance – A draft ordinance (attached) reviewed by Town Counsel, giving the Selectmen, in addition to the Town Treasurer, authority to appoint Assistant Treasurers as needed, in the Treasurer’s absence or incapacity. Mechare noted that the Treasurer’s Protocol presented last month did not comply with FOI requirements and will be changed to do so. **P. Lawson made a motion to move the Ordinance – Assistant Treasurer to Town Meeting vote. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

3.) Camp Freedman PILOT Negotiations – The Selectmen discussed the possibility of hiring a professional to help the Town negotiate our new payment in lieu of taxes for Camp Freedman as a result of the new revaluation process. Mechare will schedule a Special Selectman’s Meeting with an Executive Session, if needed, to negotiate terms regarding hiring a professional.

4.) Candidates for Regular Membership Recreation Commission – The Republican Town Committee put forward Vinnie Viscariello and the Democratic Town Committee has put forward Scott Mullen’s name. After some discussion, **a motion was made by C. Lewis, seconded by P. Lawson and passed unanimously, to appoint Scott Mullen as a Regular Member to the Recreation Commission.**

5.) Offer by COMCAST - COMCAST has offered to provide free Basic Cable hook-up for the Town’s new Emergency Operations Center in the Town Hall. Discussion followed about reconfiguring space to maximize for all needed offices and the Center. P. Lawson suggested use of his front room “cubby” for the ZEO and Building Inspector offices.

6.) Review of Interment Agreement for Town Cemeteries – There will be a rate increase from \$600 to \$625/full burial at Town cemeteries, this received from Billy Segalla, Excavator. **C. Lewis made a motion to authorize First Selectman Mechare and Selectman and Town Cemetery Superintendent Lawson to sign a new contract with Segalla Construction for burials at all Town Cemeteries. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

7.) Request from FV Theater Group Re: Halloween Contest – Addressed previously in the meeting.

8.) Requests for Tax Refunds – Upon request of the Town Tax Collector (attached), **C. Lewis made a motion to refund \$1,451.40 in taxes to Beckie and Dave Seney for list#2206/100626, \$59.30 in motor vehicle taxes on list #2005/300755 to David Matheson, and \$3,871.88 in taxes to Stefan and Claudia Wessel on list #2006/1000727. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

9.) Non-Discrimination Certification for State Contractor HDP Grant - In order to complete the historical preservation records grant paperwork by the Town Clerk for the State and upon the request of the Grants and Contracts Manager, **P. Lawson made a motion authorizing the First Selectman to sign a Nondiscrimination Certification for State Contractors HDP Grant #021-OI-08. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

10.) Registrars – Space Requirements for Primary Election – The February primaries will take place in the upstairs Senior Center at 107 Main Street. 3 weeks access to a dedicated phone line is required and a second cabinet to secure equipment is needed, to be stored at the Town Hall when elections are over. Kent will be disposing of their old voting machines for scrap on September 5<sup>th</sup>; Mechare will look into this also.

**Other Business:** None

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary