

**Town of Canaan
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2008 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: G. Tracy Atwood, Denise Cohn, Andrea Downs, George Elling, Beckie Seney, Louis Timolat, Marshall Miles, Public Access *TV Channel 6* 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.

Without objection two items were added to the agenda: Old Business, Item G - Robert E. King & Co., P.C Contract and new Business, Item E. - Policy for Town Cemeteries.

Public Comment: Louis Timolat asked to make general comments about STEAP Grants and building/renovation projects from his experience as former First Selectman and work with the Warner Theater Renovation Project, without prejudice to either group currently interested in the STEAP application. He noted the STEAP Grant history, its funding source, how eligibility works, and the competitive element from his experience. He also addressed the complexity of renovation projects, the need for patience, and the benefit of doing renovations in phases over time. He noted that, figured in monetary terms, the volunteer man hours/yr. for the Town's emergency personnel, amounted in value to about \$1,500,000/year. Among other thoughts, he felt Town projects ought to be prioritized - public safety first, then public health, and then social issues. He was thanked for his comments.

Without objection New Business, Item D - STEAP Grant was addressed first.

As requested by the Selectmen, the Falls Village Cultural and Community Center Board for the Falls Village Children's Theater provided a written statement clarifying the amount they were seeking for their renovation project - \$500,000, as did the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Service for their Emergency Services Center - \$250,000 (both attached).

The BOS asked the FVVFD/FVAS to give an update on their project. Kent Allyn, FVVFD Board President, noted that a \$50,000 STEAP Grant had been awarded and \$225,000 in donations and other appropriate funds have been raised to date. Architectural plans, mechanicals, engineering for septic, clearing and removal of stumps on the Town-owned land are complete. Allyn noted that a STEAP Grant for the next phase would help reduce the amount inevitably needed from the Town to complete the project. "Bricks and mortar" grants available immediately after 9/11 have dried-up and Regional Public Safety funds cover new equipment, but not construction. The USDA has low-interest loans, but not grants for building. The cost estimate for the Center Project four years ago was \$1,500,000.

Mechare noted: OPM confirmed that a previous STEAP Grant award and extension does not affect a group's ability to apply for or be awarded another STEAP Grant for the next phase of their project. Selectman Lawson expects the Town could procure a bond for some of the needed funds to accomplish the project, as the Town has very little debt.

Discussion followed. C. Lewis proposed \$150,000 for the Theater group/ \$350,000 for the Fire Dept.; P. Lawson proposed a \$250,000/\$250,000 split; and Mechare proposed \$200,000 for the Theater group/ \$300,000 for the Fire Dept. She stressed the Town vested early in the Theater project with a \$25,000 grant to help purchase the Emerson building and in arranging an easement on Town land for the septic system to enable the purchase. **C. Lewis made a motion to have the FVVFD apply for \$300,000 and the FVC&CC/FVCT apply for \$200,000 through the Town of Canaan for the 2007/2008 FY STEAP Grant. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.** The organizations will write an application for those amounts and submit to the BOS before the deadline.

Approval of Pending Minutes:

C. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, December 10, 2007 Regular Meeting as presented. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

P. Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2008 Special Meeting as presented. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports:

The December 2007 Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports were distributed. Mechare noted collections were at 65.56% on the 2006 Grand List. **P. Lawson made a motion to receive The Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports through December 31, 2007. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Communications:

Written

- Bill and Kay Schrenk – A letter (attached) in response to a request for the Town trapper to go on their property to more aggressively trap the beavers, which contribute to high water levels of Wangum Brook's swamp over Cobble Road and prevent through traffic.
- Fred Palmer, Transfer Station Operations Manager – A letter (attached) regarding disposition of the CRRA settlement money received and possible use for a bulky waste storage structure. Discussion and a recommendation to put this on the agenda for the first budget planning session.
- Susan Bysiewicz, CT Secretary of State – A letter (attached) regarding Public Service Awards for WWII veterans, requesting a list of all living WWII vets from the Town.
- Ginger Betti, Chairman FVDCC Board of Directors – A letter (attached) requesting a Town-appointed contractor to evaluate a section of the Town-owned Day Care original building roof and a door for repair/replacement. Mechare will get a local roofer to evaluate.
- Jeffrey S. Jasmine – A letter (attached) of resignation from the ZBA. He was put on the November ballot in error. **A motion was made by P. Lawson to accept the resignation of Regular Member Jeffrey S. Jasmine from the Zoning Board of Appeals. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**
- P & Z Commission – A memo (attached) from the Chairman regarding Mountain Reserve and 4-acre Zoning and the currently taxable building lot size.
- Rick Kubarek – A letter of interest in an Alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. **P. Lawson made a motion to appoint Rick Kubarek as an Alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for one additional term. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Reports:

A. Town Board/Commission Vacancies – C. Lewis made a motion to appoint Dennis Jasmine as a Regular Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals till the next municipal election. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

B. Swimming Pool – The Saw Mill is beginning to erect the pool house frame and, weather permitting, fully up by March.

C. Public Safety Emergency Planning Council – Emergency personnel are having photos done for the new state badging system that will allow them to be “scanned-in” for emergencies anywhere in the state.

D. NWCCOG Meeting – A legislative breakfast has been scheduled at UConn Torrington. COG and LHCEO have put together a list of legislative priorities.

E. Johnson Road/Rt. 7 Feeder Grant Project – Still not settled with Cocchiola Paving. Mechare, Job Supervisor Roger Kane, DOT contacts, and a Cocchiola representative will meet to discuss the offer that has been made to Cocchiola.

F. STEAP Grant /FVVFD and 107 Main St. FVVFD – Mechare will contact Blumenthal’s office again to check on the status of the extension applied for the STEAP Grant for the Emergency Services Center project.

107 Main Street – Depending on the weather, Dave Adams will start the roofing, using 50 year architectural shingles next week. Windows on the third story will be restored, other windows replaced and all other work complete in spring.

G. NWCT Regional Planning Collaborative – Mechare reports that many people are using the website www.nwctplanning.org and all towns are onboard.

Old Business:

A. Cobble Road – Discussed under Written Communications.

B. Update Transfer Station – When the security fence and gate are finished, licensing work is complete.

C. CRRRA Settlement – Discussed under Written Communications.

D. DEP’s Asphalt Paving Regulations Update – A DEP amendment pertaining to asphalt paving and VOC reductions is in the Legislature’s Regulations Committee for consideration, following comments from NWCCOG, LHCEO, and area road supervisors.

E. Renewable Energy Resources – Tabled till next meeting for information gathering by the Selectmen.

F. Update on Town Bridge Report – DPW Manager Tim Downs has reviewed the State report from the DOT Bridge Division, and believes we can stay in budget on any work. This does not, however, include our half of the Iron Bridge at Water Street.

G. Robert E. King & Co., P.C. Contract – The revised contract indicates that the Town will be charged for travel at the regular hourly rate for the accountants sent to work at the Town Hall. It is an open-ended contract. Upon a recommendation motion tonight from the BOF, C. Lewis made a motion to accept the amended contract to hire Robert E. King & Co., P.C. to perform municipal accounting oversight services for the Town and authorizing the First Selectman to sign the contract. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

A.) Appointment of Dennis Jasmine as Regular Member to Zoning Board of Appeals and Richard Kubarek as Alternate – Addressed under Written Communications.

B.) Boiler Reports 107 Main Street – Perotti Plumbers cleaned the furnace and fixed valves.

C.) Refund of Taxes – Upon a request from the Tax Collector (attached), P. Lawson made a motion to refund \$544.28 to Honda Lease Trust on List #2006/400092. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.

D.) STEAP Grant – Addressed earlier, motion followed.

E.) Cemeteries Policy – Following a recent complaint about winter access to the Lower City Cemetery on Undermountain Rd., a written Town Cemeteries Policy was created and distributed (attached). Cemeteries Sexton Peter G. Lawson indicates that the gate to Lower City Cemetery will need to be replaced. **C. Lewis made a motion authorizing the Sexton to use available funds to replace the Lower City Cemetery gate. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Adjournment:

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary