

**Town of Canaan  
Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.  
Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031**

Present: First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare and Selectmen Peter G. Lawson and Charles H. Lewis

First Selectman Patricia Allyn Mechare called the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Robert E. King & Co. Contract – The Town auditor indicated again in his annual comments that we need to hire a qualified municipal accountant (as mandated by federal GASPE regulations) to provide periodic oversight for the Town Treasurer/ Bookkeeper. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, **C. Lewis made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract (attached) engaging Robert E. King & Company, P.C. to perform mandated municipal accounting oversight services for the Town of Canaan, to begin immediately. P. Lawson seconded. Passed unanimously.**

CT Coalition to Eradicate Lyme Disease – The Vice-Chair of this organization made a presentation to COG about deer and the deer tick lifecycle, related to the spread of Lyme Disease. COG is writing a letter in support of the measures for controlling deer in CT, based on statistics showing lower incidence of Lyme Disease cases where deer populations are kept in check. **P. Lawson made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to write a letter of support for the CT Coalition to Eradicate Lyme Disease proposal for deer herd reduction. C. Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously.**

CL&P Renewable Energy Resources Promotion/Town Ordinance – We have an ordinance in place (1977) for a home solar heating and cooling tax exemption. As reference for further discussion at Monday's Regular BOS Meeting, Mechare directs the Selectmen to an article on Dan Shaw's *The Falls Village Blog* regarding CL&P's Green Power initiative.

Policy Regarding Town-Owned Cemeteries – Mechare reports that over many years, our five Town-owned cemeteries have had an unwritten policy for the Sexton to close the cemeteries during cold months of winter when the ground is frozen. There are no burials then and no snow removal, there being no entrance driveways. Mechare received an e-mail from an Undermountain Road resident, Cindy Kilmer, regarding her inability to access the Lower City Cemetery recently. Two problems she discussed were the gate not working and snow build-up at the entrance. The Sexton, Peter Lawson, noted that the gate needs to be replaced and will provide an appropriate written policy for wintertime activity at the cemeteries. Mechare will draft a letter for BOS review, responding to Ms. Kilmer's concerns.

Update on STEAP Grant Application Information – Mechare reported that the State OPM finally put the revised STEAP Grant application online on January 1<sup>st</sup> and she advised the two groups that had previously expressed interest in the Grant through request letters received by the BOS back in March of 2007, the FVVFD and the FVCT/ FVC&CC.

Mechare has written to George Elling of the Falls Village Cultural and Community Center Directors seeking a clarification on the amount for which the group is asking. Elling has reported his group meets Sunday; he will have the information to Mechare by Monday.

The Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department met last night and will have a letter to Mechare by the end of the week with their specific request.

Mechare contacted Linda DuBois, State of CT OPM, and found that the Fire Department's request for extension of the 2004 STEAP Grant for phase one of their project, does not affect their ability to apply for or be awarded a STEAP Grant for the next phase of their project. Also, DuBois verified that there is no private match requirement for any type of project eligible to apply. The Town can apply for the entire \$500,000 amount with the BOS recommending how the money should be split-up. But the OPM makes a final decision about the split of money on projects and the total amount awarded. There will be an item on the Monday, January 14, 2008 BOS Regular Meeting Agenda considering STEAP Grant applicants.

**Adjournment:**

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

The Special Meeting adjourned at 10:37 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo B. Lewis, Recording Secretary