

Town of Canaan
Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 22, 2026 – 7:30 PM
Emergency Services Center – 188 Route 7 South, Falls Village, CT 06031

Attendance

Members Present

In Person: Chairman Ginger Betti; Members Martin Deeg, Andrea Downs, Thomas Wilson

Via Zoom: —

Absent: Amy Wynn, Karl Munson

Alternate Members Present

In Person: Hazel McGuire, Vanessa Pereira

Via Zoom: —

Absent: John Haddon

1. Call to Order

Chairman Betti called the meeting to order at **8:00 PM**.

2. Seating of Alternates

Motion: Wilson moved to seat **McGuire for Munson** and **Pereira for Wynn**.

Seconded: Downs

Vote: Unanimous

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Set the Mill Rate for FY 2026–2027

General Fund % Options Discussed

- Using **12.5%** fund balance would allow approximately **\$111,000**, resulting in a **1.5 mill increase to 23.94 mills**.
- A prior meeting discussed **11.5%**, which would allow approximately **\$178,000** to be used.
- A middle option of **12%** was proposed, allowing **\$144,800** to be used.
- Auditors recommend maintaining a **12–15%** fund balance.

Mill Rate Impact

- Using **12%** results in a **1.37 mill increase**, bringing the mill rate to **23.81 mills**.

Motion: Downs moved to maintain the General Fund balance at **12%** and to allocate **\$144,800** from the General Fund for the purpose of meeting combined municipal and education spending plans.

Seconded: Deeg

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Betti moved to set the **FY 2026–2027 mill rate at 23.81 mills**.

Vote: All in favor (no second recorded)

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Allocation From the General Fund

During discussion, members confirmed:

- The **\$25,000 STEAP Grant set-aside** is already excluded.
- The **Cardinal appropriation** is also already removed.
- The action approved under Item 4 serves as the allocation decision for FY 2026–2027.

6. Public Comment

A resident emphasized the need to increase income and cautioned that avoiding road work this year could create greater problems next year.

Additional discussion included:

- Importance of staying on top of **tax collections**.
- Anticipated impact of the upcoming **reevaluation**.
- Need for closer involvement with the **Regional Board of Education**.
- Desire for **capital spending outlooks** to better anticipate future needs.
- Agreement that **budget season should begin in January**.

7. Adjournment

Motion: Betti moved to adjourn at **8:08 PM**.

Seconded: Downs

Vote: Unanimous

Motion/Action

Item	Motion / Action	Mover	Secunder	Vote	Notes
Seating of Alternates	Seat McGuire for Munson; Pereira for Wynn	Wilson	Downs	Unanimous	—
FY 2026–2027 General Fund Use	Maintain General Fund balance at 12%; use \$144,800	Downs	Deeg	Unanimous	Aligns with auditor recommendation (12–15%)
FY 2026–2027 Mill Rate	Set mill rate at 23.81 mills	Betti	<i>No second recorded</i>	All in Favor	Based on 12% fund balance use
Adjournment	Adjourn meeting at 8:08 PM	Betti	Downs	Unanimous	—

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Fife, Recording Secretary