TOWN OF CANAAN – BOARD OF FINANCE, REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

108 MAIN STREET, FALLS VILLAGE, CT

Attendees: Dick Heinz, Joel Jones, Lou Timolat, Steve Dean, Dan Silverman Alternates: Corinna Fleming, Eric Carlson

 Absent: John Allyn, Daly Reville (Alternate)

Co-Chair Dick Heinz called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

**Motion by** Lou Timolat, seconded by Joel Jones to seat Corinna Fleming in place of regular member John Allyn; *motion passed by unanimous vote*.

**AGENDA**

Public comments:

* Resident Janet Hanna read aloud a letter she submitted to Co-Chair Dick Heinz prior to the meeting (attached) with regard to Item 4) on the published agenda (see below)
* Resident (and Attorney) Warren Whitaker, in reaction to item 4) on the published agenda, independently reached out to Miguel Rivera, Director, Housing and Community Development, Department of Housing to confirm that the Town of Canaan had no liability whatsoever with regard to the Agreements between the Falls Village Housing Trust and the Department of Housing referenced in item 4)
* Resident (and Member of Board of Finance) Dan Silverman distributed a document he authored dated July 12, 2021 (attached), citing relevant cases in the state of CT regarding the participation of nonvoting alternate members of the Board of Finance and the role they are allowed to play in discussions and deliberations of the Board

Communications: none

Interdepartmental Informational Communications: none

**Reports**

Secretary’s Report – **Motion by** Dick Heinz, seconded by Joel Jones, to accept as presented the Minutes of the June 14, 2021 regular meeting (attached); *motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Treasurer’s Report – none

Tax Collector’s Report – none

Board of Education’s Report – none

First Selectman’s Report –

1. Septic system installation has begun for 107 Main Street building, estimated to be completed by end of business on Thursday of this week (7/15/21); this installation will bring this Town-owned building into compliance with the Torrington Area Department of Health for business operation (“Furnace – Art on Paper” and the “Falls Village Café”)
2. Creative Kids Club hire is being made in the next month in association with the Recreation Commission
3. Town of Canaan Water Department sale to Aquarion is progressing and estimated to add approximately $190,000 to the Town’s General Fund

**Old Business**

1. Discuss and act on proposal by Selectmen and Treasurer on how the Board of Finance would like the Town of Canaan to handle recharacterization of amounts and purposes within Departmental sub-lines.

**Motion by** Lou Timolat, seconded by Dick Heinz to table Old Business until future Regular Meeting; *motion passed by unanimous vote.*

**Suspense Items**

New Business

1. Discuss and act on BOS recommendation to the Board of Finance for recommendation in turn to a Town Meeting that we take from the Heavy Equipment Reserve Account 1702301209 up to $45,000 and from the Truck Reserve Account 510001439 up to $5,000, for a total of up to $50,000 for the purchase of an aluminum dump body to replace a disintegrated truck body on our oldest truck with said truck body to be moved to the *next* oldest truck when the oldest truck is replaced in an estimated three years.

**Motion by** Lou Timolat, seconded by Joel Jones to recommend item to Town Meeting in accordance with the language above; *motion passed by unanimous vote*

1. Discuss and act on BOS recommendation to the Board of Finance for recommendation in turn to a Town Meeting that we take $27,500 from the Bridge Reserve Account 1702646689 for the purpose of funding the Cobble Road Study to be undertaken by Cardinal Engineering for the purpose of improving a portion of Cobble Road and the culvert prior to the replacement of the bridge on Cobble Road.

**Motion by** Lou Timolat, seconded by Corinna Fleming to recommend item to Town Meeting in accordance with the language above; during discussion multiple Board members suggested that in the future all contracts go through a *Request for Quotation* process in order to secure multiple competitive bids, which the First Selectman acknowledged; *motion passed by unanimous vote*

1. Discuss the septic system upgrade at 107 Main Street (see item a) in First Selectman Report above)
2. Discuss 2019 loan for $189,000 to FVHT which Town of Canaan was a party to.

**Motion by** Lou Timolat, seconded by Dick Heinz, as follows:

The Town of Canaan Board of Finance here-by instructs the Town of Canaan Board of Selectmen to engage Town Counsel to advise unequivocally as to whether or not the Town of Canaan is under any “General Obligation” as to the security or re-payment of any financial instrument of obligation assumed or assigned to the Falls Village Housing Trust or its “successors or assigns”; motion passed by majority vote (3 yay, 1 nay, 2 abstentions)

**Motion by** Lou Timolat, seconded by Steve Dean, to adjourn meeting; *motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:20 PM*