

TOWN OF CANAAN - **BOARD OF FINANCE, REGULAR MEETING**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021 @ 6:30PM

108 MAIN STREET, FALLS VILLAGE, CT

Attendees: Dick Heinz, Joel Jones, Lou Timolat, Dan Silverman. Alternates: Daly Reville, Eric Carlson, Corinna Fleming. Board of Selectmen: Henry Todd, Dave Barger & residents of the community.

Call to order 6:30 by Co-chair Dick Heinz

AGENDA

Public Comment – Jandi Hanna(attached), Dan Silverman (attached), Kyle Wilkinson, Katie Keller-Rule, Denise Cohen and Kris Kinsella

MOTION by Timolat, seconded by Silverman, to seat Corinna Fleming in place of regular member, Steve Dean per his request; unanimous.

MOTION by Jones, seconded by Silverman to seat Eric Carlson in place of regular member John Allyn; unanimous.

Agenda Addition

MOTIN by Heinz seconded by Timolat to add to New Business, discussion BOE expenses.

MOTION by Heinz, seconded by Timolat, to add to the agenda, New Business, Clerk Resignation; unanimous.

Communications - none

Interdepartmental Informational Communications – none

Reports

Secretary's Report: **MOTION by Carlson, seconded by Timolat to accept the September meeting minutes; MOTION by Silverman, seconded by Jones to accept as revised to reflect that Silverman asked the First Selectman for the bill/cost of the Attorneys legal opinion on liability of the town regarding the grant, information was not available at the time; unanimous.**

Treasurer Reports: **MOTION by Timolat, seconded by Jones to accept the September Treasurers report; unanimous.**

Tax Collector's Report: **MOTION by Jones, seconded by Fleming to accept the September Tax Collectors report; unanimous.**

Board of Education's Report: MOTION by Timolat, seconded by Fleming to accept the BOE September report; unanimous. Cost for high school should not increase dramatically, presuming there is no increase in Reg.1 budget

First Selectman's Report

a. Additional 107 septic and improvement costs-discussion of ARPA use – expensed against the HARPA funds,

Expenses for dehumidifying, vent hood needs to be raised to eliminate smells

b. Need a sexton for town cemetèries. Looking for volunteers.

c. FOIA hearing cancelled because complainant did not make filing –cost the Town, \$750

d. Ian Strever comment in Republican American about lack of affordable housing

- e. Hats for constables on order
- f. Hamilton discussion – does not want the parking lot across street from Railroad St building that Town was going to allow Hamilton to use.
- g. Tracey Wilson is staying as coordinator of transfer station; Peter is working the TS during the week
- h. MIRA will close on July 1, 2022. Waste will be trucked to PA & OH. Will increase costs dramatically. Barger will be on call on 10/14.
- i. Opioid settlement
- j. Attorney discussion of public hearing law before leasing property; established much longer than 10 years. No Towns in the State observe the law – in the future, the town will have public hearing before town enters into lease.
- k. Revaluation bids received by Assessor – 27K Vision is going to be awarded the bid
- l. Linda Paviol request to be put on town health insurance; her husband is retiring
- n. Zoom camera for meetings – BOS are going to Purchase a zoom camera to have live meetings
- o. Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk job descriptions are done and advertising
- p. Preliminary enrollment and costs for town for Region One
- q. Survey posted online regarding use of the HARPA funds; to get input from the Town
- r. Ash tree that had limbs removed and the tree died. Trunk is in good condition and their will be an Art group doing carving
- s. Board & Committee members cannot deliberate in-between meetings

New Business – moved before Old Business; by consensus.

1. Report from the Committee to draft recommendation to be presented to the BOS an agreement with the Housing Trust that would provide for protection for the Town of Canaan. Dick Heinz has resigned from this committee. No grants have been given at this time, so will continue to research; **Heinz nominates Joel Jones as his replacement, Silverman Seconds; unanimous.**
2. School Projects – K1/2 heating system, 3 bids received; Perrotti's is low bidder. Also some electrical repairs needed, bids requested. Hope to have heaters by winter holidays; 70-75K(90K in reserve acct); East Wing door is old, has to be replaced, includes taking alarm system change on the doors;
Future: section of roof also needs to be replaced (140-150K); BOE will be requesting BOS to use some of the HARPA funds
3. Resignation of Secretary Rebecca Juchert-Derungs, BOF will need to find new Secretary

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 Heinz, seconded by Timolat...moves that whereas the State of Connecticut has assigned to the Boards of Finance the function to:

The general statutes give the Board of Finance specific responsibility for:

3.Approving deficiency and special appropriations and transfers between appropriations.

The Board of Finance directs that:

From July1 through September 30 of the fiscal year, no transfers between appropriations be made without prior approval from the Board of Finance and if necessary, Town Meeting.

**Further that for the period from October 1 through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, no transfers exceeding 10% of the deficient line appropriation or \$500, whichever is larger, can be made without prior approval from the Board of Finance and if necessary, Town Meeting, with the exception of emergency when waiting for a Board of Finance Meeting could endanger the Public or cause the Town to violate State law;
unanimous.**

Honoring Lou Timolat - he has been involved in Town boards and commissions since 1981, including, 1st Selectman for four years and finally to the Board of Finance in 2009

Heinz moves, Jones seconds that the BOF commend and remember Lou Timolat for his outstanding and longstanding service and devotion to the Town of Canaan, unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned – MOTION by Silverman, seconded by Heinz, meeting adjourned; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca luchert-Derungs, recording secretary

BoFComment: 10/18/21

First, I want to thank the Board of Finance members for their service to the Town, as well as expressing particular appreciation to those going off the Board.

Also, I must announce that we (Canaan/Falls Village and FVHT) did not receive an offer of Community Development Block Grant funding. The offers went to six recipients that are all cities with large existing affordable housing complexes in need of renovation. There was not any funding offered to small towns, so we know that our application was in no way deficient. Parenthetically, River Road Homes remains a robust project: our test well has been drilled, AND our architectural plan has recently been announced as the winner of a Home Building Industry (HOB) award for Outstanding Multi-family Design.

There will be forthcoming grant applications, so the Falls Village Housing Trust will look forward to opportunities to work with the Boards of Finance and Selectmen. Due to the experience of the previous few months, we will all be better equipped to avoid any "sturm and drang" in the future.

Jarvis Hanna

STATEMENT TO BOARD OF FINANCE OCTOBER 18, 2021

Plea for Civility

The dialogue around the issues involving the affordable housing project and other issues have become, in my opinion, unnecessarily vitriolic and mean spirited against individuals in our community attacking their good faith. While corrections have been made to positions taken, there was no intent that I can see that anyone is intentionally misstating facts. I recommend that we set aside these personal attacks and allow the processes to play out according to the established procedures. There is no problem in people disagreeing, the problem is in being disagreeable while doing so.

It is unknown whether the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be awarded to the Town of Canaan. But it is certain that the current dialogue around the issues around Town liability and affordable house are threatening to drive a wedge into the community that will last long past the final decisions on the project. Some residents have already expressed hesitancy to join Boards and Commission to avoid being personally attacked on social media.

We are a small community. As long as we are here we will have to find a way to resolve conflict in a mutually respectful manner. I suggest we can and should do so here.

I request that this statement be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Silverman