

TOWN OF CANAAN  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**(AMENDED 01/12/2026)**

Thursday, January 08, 2026 @ 8:30AM  
Town Hall  
108 Main St., Falls Village, CT 06031  
**IN PERSON**

**MEETING MINUTES**

- *In attendance:* First Selectman Dave Barger, Selectman Judy Jacobs, Selectman Chris Kinsella, **DPW Manager Tim Downs** and *Public Attendance:* Chea LaMedica
- 1. Meeting called to order at 8:32AM by First Selectman Dave Barger
- 2. Review and discussion of plans for the Town of Canaan's *250th USA Celebration*; brief overview given by Selectman Judy Jacobs who is coordinating a number of events with the Historical Society. A more detailed report to be given at the BOS Meeting on January 12, 2026.
- 3. DPW Manager Tim Downs provided information regarding *Winter Roadway Maintenance* relative to Sand Rd. and all other town roadways. Extra attention has been given to problem areas. Brief discussion on product mixtures for utilization on snowy/icy roadways and the control of speed with respect to the condition of the roadway (*CGS 14-218(a)*). A more detailed report to be given at the BOS Meeting on January 12, 2026.
- 4. Review and discussion of letter drafted to the Connecticut Secretary of State regarding *Concerns Regarding Early Voting Implementation in the Town of Canaan*. The letter (attached) referenced the *Financial Impact, Participation and Impact on the Registrar of Voters* in Canaan and other small municipalities. After review and discussion, a motion by Selectman Judy Jacobs was made to have the Board of Selectmen sign the letter and send it forward to the Secretary of State; seconded by Selectman Chris Kinsella; Vote Unanimous.
- 5. At 8:52AM, a motion was made by Selectman Chris Kinsella to move in to *Executive Session* for the purpose of discussing the vacancy at 107 Main St. (formerly Furnace Art Gallery); seconded by Selectman Judy Jacobs; Vote Unanimous. Motion by First Selectman Dave Barger to move out of *Executive Session* at 9:14AM; second by Selectman Chris Kinsella; Vote Unanimous. *No Action Taken in Executive Session.*

6. Selectman Judy Jacobs made a motion to adjourn at 9:23AM; second by Selectman Selectman Chris Kinsella; Vote Unanimous

Minutes respectfully submitted,

*David R. Banger*

TOWN of CANAAN  
Office of First Selectman  
108 Main Street  
PO Box 47  
Falls Village CT 06031-0047

Telephone 860-824-0707x23  
Fax 860-821-4506  
Website [canaanfallsvillage.org](http://canaanfallsvillage.org)



January 08, 2026

**RE: Concerns Regarding Early Voting Implementation in the Town of Canaan**

Dear Secretary Thomas,

We are writing to you as our Secretary of State to formally express our concerns regarding the implementation of *early voting* in our state, specifically as it pertains to its impact on the Town of Canaan. While we understand the legislative mandate, we believe there are significant issues that must be addressed with regards to smaller municipalities:

- **Financial Impact:** The state-mandated *early voting period* places an undue financial burden on small municipalities. The cost of staffing, as well as the difficulty in finding poll workers to cover and operate polling places for additional days often exceeds the benefit, especially when voter turnout during these periods remains low. In our town the cost for *early voting* was (\$8200.00) with each early vote costing (\$115.75).
- **Participation:** Historically, there has always been a lower voter turnout for a municipal election in our town. The Town of Canaan has (741) registered voters. Only (9.48%) of those voters voted early. From another perspective, (326) voters voted in this past municipal election. Early voters were (21% or 70 votes) of the total early votes cast.
- **Registrar of Voters:** The *early voting period* was also cause for the exponential growth in the responsibilities placed upon the Registrar of Voters. In a small municipality where the Registrar's role has been historically *part time*

employment, the increased responsibilities of scheduling and properly training poll workers as well as changing technology and increased hours has presented challenges for both the Registrars and their budgets.

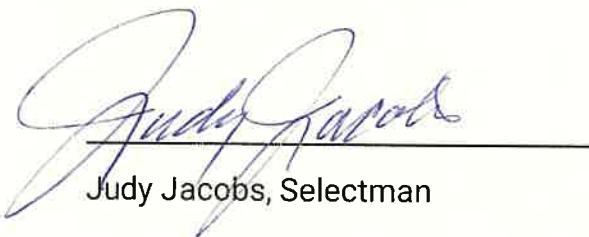
We urge you to review these concerns and consider measures to reduce the financial strain on our local budgets. Perhaps a graduated system of *early voting* days could be considered for the smaller municipalities. *Early voting* has been a very noble experiment, but with some serious and undue burdens for smaller municipalities. It is apparent that the *one size fits all* requirements do not work.

Sincerely,



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David R. Barger, First Selectman



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Judy Jacobs, Selectman



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Chris Kinsella, Selectman

cc: Governor Ned Lamont  
Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz  
Representative Maria Horn, 64th Assembly District  
Senator Stephen Harding, 30th Senate District