

TOWN OF CANAAN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN — REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 12, 2026 — 6:00 PM
Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031
In Person and via Zoom

Members Present

In Person: First Selectman David Barger, Selectman Christopher Kinsella, Selectman Judy Jacobs

Via Zoom: None

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by First Selectman David Barger.

2. Additions to the Agenda

The First Selectman noted several late additions and requested they be taken as a group for a single vote. The following items were added:

- 7I / 9.4 – Letters to Ted Moy and Guy Rovezzi
- 7J / 9.5 – Correspondence from Stan McMillan
- 7K – Discussion of 107 Main Street
- 7L – Transfer Station Report
- 7M / 9.6 – Opening of three accounts at Litchfield Savings Bank.

Barger called for a motion to add items to the agenda; Kinsella moved; Jacobs seconded; Unanimous.

3. Public Comment

A resident objected to holding BOS Special meetings at 8:30 a.m. without Zoom or recording, saying it restricts public access and participation. They asked the Board to reconsider the time or add remote options. The First Selectman acknowledged the concern, noting the morning schedule reflects Selectmen's availability and that Zoom and recording could be added. He also explained that many of these brief meetings may be canceled. The resident emphasized that

recordings alone don't allow public input, and the First Selectman agreed that participation matters, noting that the meetings are posted and open to the public.

4. Approval of Minutes

December 17, 2025 – Special Meeting

Corrections:

- “DPW” should be spelled correctly in two locations.
- Under the November 25 Tax Collector’s Report:
Jacobs voted in favor; Kinsella opposed (these were reversed)

Barger called for a motion to approve as corrected; Jacobs moved; Kinsella seconded. Unanimous.

January 8, 2026 – Regular Meeting

Correction:

- Attendance should include DPW Manager Tim Downs.

Barger called for a motion to approve as corrected; Jacobs moved; Kinsella seconded. Unanimous.

5. Treasurer and Tax Collector Reports-see attached

- **Motion to receive the November 2025 Treasurer’s Report by Barger.**
Vote: 1–1 (Jacobs in favor; Kinsella opposed). **Outcome:** *Motion did not carry.*
- **Motion to receive the December 2025 Tax Collector’s Report by Barger.**
Vote: 1–1 (Jacobs in favor; Kinsella opposed). **Outcome:** *Motion did not carry.*

6. Communications

Written: none

Oral: First Selectman David Barger reported correspondence from a resident who slipped and fell on the sidewalk in front of Toymakers. The area had been salted earlier that morning and may have refrozen. The Town will continue monitoring known trouble spots.

He also noted that this would be the last meeting using the current agenda format; a revised format will be developed to reduce repetition and improve clarity.

7. Selectmen’s Updates

a.) STEAP Grant- Selectman Kinsella reported that members of the STEAP Implementation Committee met with John Jacquier to review a proposal for the Town's trash compactor project.

In addition, documentation related to the bear-proof food waste containment area has been submitted to the State.

b.) Roadway Conditions & DPW Update

The First Selectman reviewed roadway safety concerns, particularly on Sand Road and Johnson Road, which have the highest number of non-state-route accidents.

DPW Manager Tim Downs provided updates:

- The salt shed holds 75 tons; the Town has gone through two full loads this season.
- Delivery delays of up to two weeks have occurred.
- A new sand shed next winter should improve storage capacity.
- The Town will request traffic and speed counters from UConn for Sand Road and Johnson Road.
- December required 55 hours of overtime per crew member, with 14 weather events.

c.) Fire Commission

- The resignation of Kim Mahoney
- The appointment of Roxanne Steinberg-Whittaker to replace Kim Mahoney
- The reappointment of Dave Seney

d.) Falls Village Ambulance – EMS Update

EMS Captain Michelle Hansen provided an update:

- NDP secured a new hospital sponsor on December 30, preventing service disruption.
- Sharon Hospital maintains coverage has not diminished, but this is only due to NDP's new sponsor.
- Falls Village continues to rely on North Canaan, Hartford Healthcare, and NDP for coverage.

e.) Capital Plan

The First Selectman will meet with the Board of Finance Chair to schedule sessions with department heads and commission chairs to begin budget planning.

f.) America 250

Selectman Jacobs reported extensive planning underway, including:

- George Washington Ball at the Colonial Theater

- Revolutionary War cemetery tours in June
- Historical Society First Tuesday Talks focused on the Revolutionary era
- July 4th on the Green with parade, music, Declaration reading, and cannon firing
- Patriotic community dinner in North Canaan
- August historical festival with reenactors, cannon demonstrations, horse rides, and music.

g.) Letter to Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas

The First Selectman read a draft letter expressing concerns about early voting implementation, including:

- Financial burden on small towns
- Low participation rates
- Increased registrar workload
- Cost of \$8,200, or \$115.75 per early voter

The letter requests consideration of a graduated early-voting schedule for small municipalities.

The Board reviewed, approved, and executed the letter.

h.) Town Meeting Scheduling

The Board discussed holding a Town Meeting during the last week of January.

Items expected on the call:

1. Funding for AEA Cobble Road Bridge Study
2. Amendment/rescission of the Annual Report Ordinance
3. 107 Main Street lease authorization

j.) Correspondence – Fire Department-*see attached*

A letter from Stan McMillan reported that:

- Chief Robert Carberry and Firefighter Elizabeth Klippel completed the State Fire Investigation Class and Youth Fire Setter Course.
- Both passed and are now certified Fire Investigators.
- Stan requested they be officially listed as Fire Investigators for the Town.
- Both will begin the Fire Marshal code-enforcement coursework (Jan–May 2026).

k.) 107 Main Street

- The Board discussed selecting a tenant that would “layer” well with other local businesses.

The Board is awaiting one final response before making a decision.

l.) Transfer Station Report- see attached

m.) Opening of New Town Accounts

Three new accounts will be opened at Litchfield Savings Bank:

1. STEAP Grant Account
2. Bridge Account
3. Analysis/ACH Account (money-market style; lower fees, higher interest)

8. Old Business

- 35 Railroad Street: no updates.
- Economic Development: no updates.
- Affordable Housing Task Force: No updates.
- CEN: No updates.
- Cobble Road Culvert & Bridge:
A joint meeting with the Board of Finance will be held in February with Cardinal Engineering presenting.

9. New Business

1.) Tax Rebates and suspension List- none presented

2.) Fire Commission-*see attached*

a.) Barger called for a motion to accept the resignation of Kim Mahoney; Jacobs moved; Kinsella seconded. Unanimous.

b.) Barger called for a motion to reappoint Dave Seney to the Fire Commission; Jacobs moved; Kinsella seconded. Unanimous.

c.) Barger called for a motion to appoint Roxanne Steinberg-Whittaker to the Fire Commission; Jacobs moved; Kinsella seconded. Unanimous.

3.) Date for Town Meeting: The meeting date was set for **January 29, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.**

4.) Thank you letters to Ted Moy and Guy Rovezzi

The Board reviewed, approved, and executed the letters.

5.) Barger called for a motion to appoint Chief Robert Carberry and Firefighter Elizabeth Klippel as Fire Investigators; Kinsella moved; Jacobs seconded. Unanimous.

6.) Barger called for a motion to approve the opening of three accounts at Litchfield Savings Bank; Jacobs moved; Kinsella seconded. Unanimous.

10.) Discussion

1.) Bridge/Infrastructure Committee- Selectman Kinsella has met with Cardinal Engineering

2.) Solar Project Committee- no updates

11.) Other Business to properly come before the Committee- none

12.) Public Comment

DPW Manager Tim Downs addressed sidewalk-clearing procedures:

- DPW maintains six plow routes with four staff members.
- Roads are cleared first; sidewalks are addressed afterward.
- Sidewalks are cleared as early as possible before businesses and the school open.
- Some areas are prone to refreezing due to drainage issues.
- Dog walkers and early pedestrians often use sidewalks before they can be cleared.

A resident emphasized that the Town is ultimately responsible for sidewalk safety and may need to consider additional support for DPW. The First Selectman agreed that policy review is appropriate.

13. Adjournment

First Selectman Barger called to adjourn the meeting at 6:55; Jacobs moved; Kinsella seconded. Unanimous.

Attachments:

Treasurer and Tax Collector Reports

Appointments of Fire Commission Members

Memorandum from Fire Marshall, Stanley MacMillan

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Fife, Recording Secretary