

TOWN OF CANAAN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 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 and Selectman Chris Kinsella
- 1. Meeting called to order at 8:30AM by First Selectman Dave Barger
- 2. Review of the recommendation of the Recreation Commission regarding the candidate for the position of Recreation Director (Allycia Soule); after review and discussion Selectman Judy Jacobs made a motion to accept and act upon the recommendation of the Recreation Committee to hire Allycia Soule as Recreation Director; seconded by Selectman Chris Kinsella; Vote Unanimous
- 3. Review and discussion of *amended proposal* by Cardinal Engineering for a *Town Bridge Study*; motion made by Selectman Chris Kinsella to table the discussion until after a *Bridge and Infrastructure Committee Special Meeting* on April 15, 2026; seconded by Selectman Judy Jacobs; Vote Unanimous
- 4. Review and discussion of proposed ordinance regarding *Tax Abatement for Surviving Spouse Following a Line of Duty Death*; motion made by Selectman Judy Jacobs to bring the ordinance to a Town Meeting for a vote by town residents after review by Town Counsel; seconded by Selectman Chris Kinsella; Vote Unanimous
- 5. Selectman Judy Jacobs made a motion to adjourn at 8:49AM; seconded by Selectman Chris Kinsella; Vote Unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

David R. Barger

Recommendation For Hire

1 message

Melissa Lopes <mmlopes72@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 31, 2026 at 9:05 PM

To: First Selectman <FirstSelectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

I hope you are all doing well.

On behalf of the Recreation Commission, I am writing to submit our formal letter of recommendation regarding the hire of Allycia Soule as Recreation Director for the Town of Falls Village.

After a thorough review process, the Commission is confident in our recommendation and believes the candidate will be a strong asset to the community.

At your convenience, could you please confirm receipt of this email and the attached document? I am sure I sent this to you on March 30th, but I cannot find the email in my sent folder.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lopes - Chairman

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Falls Village Recreation Commission

Town of Canaan / Falls Village

Recreation Commission | Canaan / Falls Village, CT (canaanfallsvillage.org)

 **2026 - REC Director Recommendation (3).pdf**
73K

Dave Barger
First Selectmen, Town of Canaan (Falls Village)

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

The Recreation Commission is pleased to resubmit our recommendation to fill the Recreation Director position for the Town of Canaan (Falls Village).

After reviewing her resume and letter of interest, and conducting a thorough interview, the Commission recommends hiring **Allycia Soule** as Recreation Director. She was selected from a highly qualified pool of applicants.

Ms. Soule has a solid background in youth programs and community involvement. She has coached sports such as soccer, softball, basketball, and youth hockey, demonstrating her dedication to helping young people grow and get involved in recreation. She has worked with many age groups and skill levels and organized a regional kindergarten soccer program for about 70 children.

In addition to coaching, Ms. Soule has held leadership and administrative roles similar to those of a Recreation Director. As Registrar for a youth hockey group, she manages registrations, keeps records, and ensures rules are followed. She has also helped plan and run large fundraising events, which highlights her strong organizational and coordination skills.

Ms. Soule has worked as a special education paraeducator since 2009, demonstrating her ability to work well with children with diverse needs and support their growth. She has also held leadership roles in the EXTRAS childcare program, which shows her reliability and experience in planning and supervising programs.

Ms. Soule is closely connected to the local community. As a Northwest Corner resident, she knows the area well and understands what local families are looking for. Her letter of interest shows genuine enthusiasm for expanding recreation programs and making them welcoming for everyone.

Given her experience, organizational skills, and dedication to community recreation, the Commission believes Ms. Soule is very well qualified to serve as Recreation Director and will be a great asset to the Town.

At the Commission Special Meeting on March 26, 2026, Matthew Gallagher made a motion, seconded by Dan Carr, to recommend Allycia Soule for Recreation Director of the Town of Canaan (Falls Village). The motion passed unanimously.

The Recreation Commission fully supports hiring Allycia Soule as Recreation Director and looks forward to hearing your response to this recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lopes

Melissa Lopes
Chairman / On behalf of the Recreation Commission
Town of Canaan (Falls Village)

March 17, 2026

Mr. David Barger, First Selectman
Town of Canaan
108 Min Street
Falls Village, CT 06031

Re: On-Call Engineering – Town Owned Bridges

Dear Mr. Barger,

Re: Proposal Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program

Cardinal proposes to develop a comprehensive bridge rehabilitation and replacement program for the Town. This effort will begin with a thorough review of the bridge condition assessments completed in 2025. Upon completion of this review, Cardinal will prepare a long-term (10–20 year) bridge program based on the findings of the 2025 assessments.

The program will be documented in a spreadsheet-based final report that identifies, for each bridge, a priority ranking, estimated remaining service life, recommended year for rehabilitation or replacement, preliminary construction cost estimates, and potential funding opportunities.

This information will be presented in a clear and practical format to assist the Town in developing a capital improvement plan for its bridge infrastructure, addressing ongoing maintenance needs as well as planned rehabilitation and replacement projects.

TOTAL FEE

\$ 16,000.00

Very truly yours,

CARDINAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC.



Timothy M. Cermola, Vice President

APPROVED BY:

Mr. David Barger, First Selectman
Town of Canaan

Tax Abatement for Surviving Spouse Following a Line of Duty Death

A. PURPOSE

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) § 12-81X, the purpose of this section is to formally recognize and provide financial support to the surviving spouses of public servant residents of the Town of Canaan who have tragically lost their lives while performing their official duties as law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical service providers. This section hereby establishes a 100% abatement on all Town of Canaan real property taxes for eligible surviving spouses of public servants, as specified herein, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per fiscal year

B. DEFINITIONS *(for the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply)*

LINE OF DUTY DEATH

The demise of an active employee (paid or volunteer), resulting from felonious or accidental means, occurring during the course of performing official duties for one of the following public servant entities at the time of death:

- (1) Firefighter
- (2) Law Enforcement Officer (*federal, state or local*)
- (3) Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

REAL PROPERTY

Property that is owned and occupied by the surviving spouse as their principal residence and is subject to real estate taxation within the jurisdiction of the Town of Canaan

SURVIVING SPOUSE

The legal spouse of a Town of Canaan resident who was killed in the line of duty, as defined in Subsection **B**, and who satisfies the eligibility criteria outlined in Subsection **C**

C. ELIGIBILITY FOR TAX ABATEMENT

To qualify for this tax abatement, the following prerequisites must be fulfilled:

(1) LINE OF DUTY DEATH

The deceased public servant must have been a resident of the Town of Canaan at the time of their death, and their death must have occurred in the line of duty while executing their professional duties for one of the entities enumerated in the definition of "line-of-duty death" in Subsection B

(2) DATE OF DEATH

The public servant's line of duty death must have transpired on or subsequent to July 01, 2026

(3) SURVIVING SPOUSE RESIDENCY

The surviving spouse must have been a resident of Canaan at the time of their spouse's death and must maintain residency within Canaan for the entire duration of the abatement period

(4) PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

The surviving spouse must have owned, and must continue to own and occupy as their principal residence, real property within the Town of Canaan that is subject to local taxation

D. APPLICATION PROCESS

(1) INITIAL APPLICATION

Eligible surviving spouses are required to submit a formal request to the Town of Canaan's Tax Assessor's office, accompanied by requisite documentation verifying the line-of-duty death, proof of residency, and evidence of property ownership

(2) ANNUAL VERIFICATION

The surviving spouse shall file an annual affidavit with the Town of Canaan Tax Assessor's office, affirming continued residency and ownership of the property within the Town of Canaan to maintain eligibility for the abatement

(3) APPROVAL

Upon receipt of the application and confirmation of all eligibility requirements, the Tax Assessor is authorized to approve the abatement

E. SCOPE OF ABATEMENT

(1) The 100% tax abatement shall be applied to all Town of Canaan real estate taxes levied on the subject property owned by the surviving spouse within the Town of Canaan, not to exceed \$10,000 per annum

(2) This abatement shall not extend to taxes owed on any properties or assets situated outside the geographical limits of the Town of Canaan

F. EXPIRATION AND TERMINATION OF ABATEMENT

The tax abatement shall automatically cease upon the occurrence of the earliest of the following conditions:

(1) The completion of fifteen (15) consecutive grand list cycles from the date of the public servant's death;

(2) The surviving spouse ceases to occupy the subject real property as his or her primary residence;

(3) The surviving spouse no longer resides within the Town of Canaan;

(4) The surviving spouse divests ownership of all real property within the Town of Canaan; or

(5) The death of the surviving spouse

G. IMPLEMENTATION

The Town of Canaan Tax Assessor's Office and the Tax Collector's Office shall Implement the provisions of this section and ensure compliance with the eligibility criteria and the abatement process as outlined