Town of Canaan

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, Connecticut

In Person and via Zoom

Attendance

Members Present

- In Person: First Selectman David Barger; Selectman Christopher Kinsella; Selectman Judy Jacobs
- Via Zoom: None

Members Absent

- None

Also Present Treasurer Michelle Hansen and members of the public.

1. Call to Order

First Selectman David Barger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Agenda /Amendments to Agenda

The Board added Holiday Lights as Item 7(k).

Motion: Add Holiday Lights as Item 7(k) on the agenda.

Moved by: Kinsella

Seconded by: Jacobs

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

Residents discussed plans for holiday decorations on Main Street, including installation of lights in town trees and a potential partnership with the Recreation Commission. Suggestions were made for a community tree decorating program involving local businesses and residents.

An update was provided regarding Autumn at the Town Farm. Attendance totaled 252 individuals, representing visitors from 23 towns and three states.

Veterans Day Recognition

First Selectman Barger recognized local veterans and expressed appreciation for their service. A moment of silence was observed.

4. Approval of Minutes

October 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the October 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Kinsella

Seconded by: Jacobs

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

October 22, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the October 22, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Jacobs

Seconded by: Kinsella

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

November 6, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the November 6, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Jacobs

Seconded by: Kinsella

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer and Tax Collector Reports

a. August 2026 Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

Motion: Receive the August 2026 Treasurer's Report.

Moved by: Jacobs

Seconded by: Kinsella

Vote: Barger and Jacobs in favor; Kinsella opposed. Motion carried.

b. October 2026 Tax Collector's Report

Motion: Receive the October 2026 Tax Collector's Report.

Moved by: Jacobs

Seconded by: Kinsella

Vote: Barger and Jacobs in favor; Kinsella opposed. Motion carried.

6. Communications

Written Communications

The Board received an invitation from Amy Wynn to participate in "The Game of Rent, Northwest Connecticut," a housing affordability educational program scheduled for November 18, 2026, at the David M. Hunt Library.

Oral Communications

None.

7. First Selectman's Report

a. STEAP Grant Update

The First Selectman reported that installation of the transfer station compactor is expected to be completed by December. Updates regarding the salt shed project remain pending. A coordination meeting among contractors working on the Senior Center project is anticipated.

b. Blue Ribbon Committee on Economic Development

The Committee continues to meet regularly and is nearing completion of its recommendations. A presentation to the Board is expected following the Committee's next meeting.

c. Recognitions- see attached

Recognition letters were presented to Falls Village Sawmill for donated materials, Tom Brushears for design and craftsmanship of the Recreation Building cupolas, and North Canaan First Selectman Jesse Buntz for crane assistance.

Additional recognition letters were presented to Denny Jacobs and Bill Beebe for their work on the Town Sign Restoration project.

Election officials who assisted with the November 2026 election were also recognized.

d. Monthly Building Official's Report- see attached

e. Transfer Station Report- see attached

f. Recreation Commission

The Board reviewed updates regarding Autumn at the Town Farm and Trunk or Treat. Appreciation was expressed to volunteers and constables who contributed to the events.

g. CTDOT Project #T01740473CN - Route 126

Temporary roadway resurfacing has been completed. Full roadway milling, paving, and culvert work is expected within the next one and one-half to two years.

h. Public Act 25-18 Firearm Permit Changes

The Board reviewed statutory changes affecting firearm permitting procedures. Discussion focused on the repeal of local permitting provisions and the potential transfer of responsibilities to the Connecticut State Police. The First Selectman recommended retaining local involvement pending further review of the legislation.

i. Veterans Tax Exemptions

The Board reviewed provisions of CGS §§12-81(83) and 12-81(pp) relating to veterans' tax exemptions. Additional research and consultation with the Assessor are planned before any action is considered.

j. FY 2027-2028 Proposed Spending Plans- see attached

The annual budget planning letter has been distributed to all boards and commissions.

k. Holiday Preparation on Main Street

Discussion focused on holiday decorations, lighted garlands, and coordination with All Falls Village.

8. Selectmen's Reports

Board members discussed progress on the salt shed design, anticipated installation of the transfer station compactor, the Cobble Road bridge and culvert project, Main Street beautification activities, holiday decorations, and library banner installations.

9. Old Business

35 Railroad Street

No updates were reported.

Affordable Housing Plan Task Force

No updates were reported.

Cobble Road Culvert and Bridge Project

DOT survey work and wetland activities have been completed. A geotechnical report has been received, and the project remains in the design phase.

10. New Business

a. 2027 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule- see attached

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 meeting calendar, including regular meetings on the second Monday of each month and workshop meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Motion: Approve the 2027 Regular Meeting Schedule.

Moved by: Kinsella

Seconded by: Jacobs

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Approve the 2027 Workshop Meeting Schedule.

Moved by: Jacobs

Seconded by: Kinsella

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

b. Board of Selectmen Meeting with Town Employees Regarding Health Care Coverage

Discussion of a meeting with Town employees regarding health care coverage was tabled due to scheduling conflicts. The meeting will be scheduled and announced at a future date.

Motion: Table Town employee meeting date.

Moved by: Kinsella

Seconded by: Jacobs

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried

11. Other Business

No additional business was presented.

12. Public Comment

Concern was expressed regarding speeding on Route 126 and the use of radar feedback signs.

Questions were also raised regarding Freedom of Information Act compliance by the Blue Ribbon Committee. Recommendations included improved public notice procedures, agendas, and meeting minutes. The Board acknowledged the comments.

Additional announcements included a Veterans Day ceremony at Lee H. Kellogg School and appreciation for community volunteers. Election turnout was reported at approximately 72 percent.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Jacobs

Seconded by: Kinsella

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Attachments

- Recognition Letters
- Building Official's Report
- Transfer Station Report
- Annual Budget Planning Letter
- 2027 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedules
- Communication from Amy Wynn regarding "The Game of Rent"

Respectfully submitted, Board of Selectmen Secretary, Patti Fife

Motion / Action Log

Motion	Moved By	Seconded By	Result
Add Holiday Lights as Item 7(k) to agenda	Kinsella	Jacobs	Unanimous - Carried
Approve October 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes	Kinsella	Jacobs	Unanimous - Carried
Approve October 22, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes	Jacobs	Kinsella	Unanimous - Carried
Approve November 6, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes	Jacobs	Kinsella	Unanimous - Carried
Receive August 2026 Treasurer's Report	Jacobs	Kinsella	Carried (Barger & Jacobs yes; Kinsella opposed)
Receive October 2026 Tax Collector's Report	Jacobs	Kinsella	Carried (Barger & Jacobs yes; Kinsella opposed)
Approve 2027 Regular Meeting Schedule	Kinsella	Jacobs	Unanimous - Carried
Approve 2027 Workshop Meeting Schedule	Jacobs	Kinsella	Unanimous - Carried
Table Town Employee Meeting Date	Kinsella	Jacobs	Unanimous - Carried
Adjourn Meeting	Jacobs	Kinsella	Unanimous - Carried

Tabled Items

Item	Reason	Next Step
Meeting with Town Employees Regarding Health Care Coverage	Scheduling conflicts	Meeting to be scheduled and publicly announced at a future date

Follow-Up Items

Topic	Follow-Up Required
STEAP Grant / Salt Shed Project	Await project updates and contractor coordination meeting
Blue Ribbon Committee on Economic Development	Committee presentation expected after next meeting

Topic	Follow-Up Required
Firearm Permit Law Changes (Public Act 25-18)	Further review of legislation and state implementation
Veterans Tax Exemptions	Additional research and consultation with Assessor
FY 2027-2028 Budget Planning	Boards and commissions to prepare spending plans
Health Care Coverage Meeting	Reschedule employee meeting
Affordable Housing Plan Task Force	Await updates
Cobble Road Culvert & Bridge Project	Continue design phase and project development
FOIA Concerns Regarding Blue Ribbon Committee	Consider public notice, agenda, and minutes improvements

November 9, 2026

To: Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning Board

I invite **you and your board or committee colleagues,** to come play a new board game:

The Game of Rent, Northwest Connecticut
Wednesday, November 18 from 5:30-6:45pm
at David M. Hunt Library
Free; *Registration Required at GameOfRentNov18.eventbrite.com*

Please RSVP and mark your calendars and spread the word.

Anyone, ages 15 and up, is invited to play the new board game that was customized by creator, Kelsey Oestman, for our region. The game challenges players, who take on randomly selected occupations and household types, to find an affordable rental home as close to their work location as possible. Each player must roll the dice and be dealt a hand, then make the most of their situation in a race to find an apartment they can afford.

I will be facilitating the game play for the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity (LCCHO), who is co-hosting the event with the Falls Village Housing Trust.

I can arrange for kid-friendly activities to run simultaneously if a player needs to bring their children (age 3-11), upon request (awstrategic@gmail.com).

I hope you will join me for this 75 minute session.
Please spread the word and RSVP at GameOfRentNov18.eventbrite.com .

Best,

Amy Wynn



This evening as we prepare for our monthly Board of Selectmen meeting, we should note that Veterans' Day is this week. Veterans Day is our time to recognize the brave men and women right here in our community, and across the nation, who have worn the uniform.

Our veterans are the backbone of this community. They are our neighbors, coworkers, teachers, and friends. When our country called, they answered—leaving behind the comforts of home to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. We enjoy our peace and security because of their immense sacrifice.

Saying 'thank you' today is a vital first step, but our gratitude cannot end this evening. As a community, it is our duty to support, respect, and stand by our veterans every single day of the year.

To all the veterans here with us this evening, and to your families who stood by you—this community thanks you, we honor you, and we are forever grateful for your service.

TOWN OF CANAAN
First Selectman's Office
108 Main Street, PO Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031-0047

Telephone 860-824-0707 x23
Fax 860-824-4506
firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org
canaanfallsvillage.org

November 09, 2026

Dear Registrars of Voters and Election Officials,

On behalf of the Town of Canaan, we are writing to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your outstanding work during the recent November 2026 elections. Managing an election is always a monumental task, but your efforts to ensure a smooth, secure, and accessible voting process for our community did not go unnoticed by us or our residents.

Our democracy relies on the dedication of local officials like you who work tirelessly behind the scenes. From managing early voting and absentee ballots to navigating new guidelines, equipment, and long days, your professionalism and commitment provided our town with a seamless voting experience. You handled the turnout and complex logistics with grace, precision, and unwavering integrity.

Please extend the Board of Selectmen's heartfelt thanks to your entire staff, the Town Clerk, and the volunteers who stepped up to run the polling places. The State of Connecticut and the Town of Canaan are fortunate to have public servants who care so deeply about protecting our right to vote and serving their community.

Thank you again for your hard work, your long hours, and your dedication.

Sincerely,

David R. Barger
First Selectman

Judy Jacobs
Selectman

Chris Kinsella
Selectman

TOWN OF CANAAN
First Selectman's Office
108 Main Street, PO Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031-0047

Telephone 860-824-0707 x23
Fax 860-824-4506
firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org
canaanfallsvillage.org

November 09, 2026

Dear Bill,

On behalf of the Town of Canaan, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your outstanding work in repairing and painting our Town of Canaan Historical Marker on the Town Green.

The Historical Marker is the one of the first things that both residents and visitors see when they enter our community, and your hard work has truly revitalized its appearance. Your attention to detail in restoring the lettering and applying a fresh coat of paint has brought back a sense of civic pride to Falls Village.

We are incredibly grateful for your time, skill, and dedication to preserving this local landmark. Thank you for your valuable contribution to the beautification of our community.

Sincerely,

David R. Barger
First Selectman

Judy Jacobs
Selectman

Chris Kinsella
Selectman

TOWN OF CANAAN
First Selectman's Office
108 Main Street, PO Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031-0047

Telephone 860-824-0707 x23
Fax 860-824-4506
firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org
canaanfallsvillage.org

November 09, 2026

Dear Denny,

On behalf of the Town of Canaan, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your outstanding work in repairing our Town of Canaan Historical Marker on the Town Green.

The Historical Marker is the one of the first things that both residents and visitors see when they enter our community, and your hard work has truly revitalized its appearance. The work has brought back a sense of civic pride to Falls Village.

We are incredibly grateful for your time, skill, and dedication to preserving this local landmark. Thank you for your valuable contribution to the beautification of our community.

Sincerely,

David R. Barger
First Selectman

Judy Jacobs
Selectman

Chris Kinsella
Selectman

TOWN OF CANAAN
First Selectman's Office
108 Main Street, PO Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031-0047

Telephone 860-824-0707 x23
Fax 860-824-4506
firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org
canaanfallsvillage.org

November 09, 2026

Dear Jesse,

On behalf of the Town of Canaan, the Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen, we are writing to express our deepest gratitude for your outstanding generosity and assistance assisting us in erecting the new cupolas on our Town Recreation building. Bringing your own crane and taking the time out of your busy schedule to hoist them into place was a tremendous help to our community.

As fellow Selectmen, we know firsthand how demanding this job can be and how precious your time is. Your willingness to step up, operate the heavy equipment yourself, and ensure the job was done safely saved our town valuable resources and kept this important project moving forward. The new cupolas look fantastic and serve as a beautiful finishing touch to a facility that will serve our residents for generations.

Projects like this remind me how fortunate we are to have such wonderful neighbors. Your civic spirit, expertise, and peer-to-peer support mean a great deal to me and the entire community here in Falls Village.

Please know that the door is always open, and if there is ever a time when we or the Town of Canaan can return the favor or assist you with a project in North Canaan, you only need to ask.

Thank you once again for your remarkable generosity, your time, and your friendship.

Warmest regards,

David R. Barger
First Selectman

Judy Jacobs
Selectman

Chris Kinsella
Selectman

TOWN OF CANAAN
First Selectman's Office
108 Main Street, PO Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031-0047

Telephone 860-824-0707 x23
Fax 860-824-4506
firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org
canaanfallsvillage.org

November 09, 2026

Dear Tom,

On behalf of the Town of Canaan, the Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen, we want to send you our deepest, most heartfelt thanks for the stunning cupolas you designed, crafted, and installed on our recreation building at the Town Farm.

We often discuss projects in terms of budgets and timelines, but what you brought to our Town cannot be measured on a spreadsheet. You brought true artistry. The cupolas fit the building flawlessly, completely transforming it into a landmark our community can be proud of for generations to come.

The custom copper finials are absolutely spectacular. They catch the Connecticut sunlight beautifully, and we love knowing that as the years go on, that copper will gracefully age and weave its own history into the fabric of our town. It is a striking, elegant addition that honors our local New England character perfectly.

Beyond your incredible talent, we are so grateful for the warmth, passion, and care you and the team brought to Town Farm. You treated this project—and our community—with such genuine respect, making the entire process an absolute joy. It is rare to work with someone who puts as much heart into their relationships as they do into their trade.

Thank you for leaving such a beautiful piece of your legacy with us. Our town is a better, more beautiful place because of your work and dedication.

With our warmest regards and deepest gratitude,

David R. Barger
First Selectman

Judy Jacobs
Selectman

Chris Kinsella
Selectman

TOWN OF CANAAN
First Selectman's Office
108 Main Street, PO Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031-0047

Telephone 860-824-0707 x23
Fax 860-824-4506
firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org
canaanfallsvillage.org

November 09, 2026

Dear Lou & Eric ~~Falls Village Sawmill~~,

On behalf of the Town of Canaan, the Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of materials to construct the new cupolas on our Town Farm Recreation Building.

When our community first envisioned the Recreation Center, the goal was to build a space that was not only functional but also a beautiful, welcoming landmark for everyone who stepped onto Town Farm. Cupolas are so much more than a decorative finishing touch — they bring character, architectural beauty, and vital natural ventilation to the entire structure.

Because of your specific and thoughtful gift of lumber, roofing materials and hardware, we were able to bring this beautiful design feature to life. It is truly inspiring to see the physical pieces of your donation come together at the highest point of the building, serving as a lasting testament to your investment in our community.

The recreation building is quickly becoming a vibrant hub for a number of community events, and every person who visits will benefit from the bright, airy atmosphere that these cupolas help provide.

Again, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable role in building this space.

With highest regards and appreciation,

David R. Barger
First Selectman

Judy Jacobs
Selectman

Chris Kinsella
Selectman

Town of Canaan (Falls Village)

Building Department Monthly Report

October 2026

Department Activity

October was another active month for the Building Department, with continued permitting, inspections, and construction activity throughout the town.

During the month, the Building Department recorded the following activity:

- Permits Issued: 15
- Total Permit Fees Collected: $6,069.43
- In-Person Inspections Completed: 10

The department continues to process permit applications and conduct inspections in a timely manner while working with property owners and contractors to ensure compliance with the Connecticut State Building Code.

Code Enforcement and Compliance

50 River Road

The ongoing compliance matter at 50 River Road remains unresolved as of the end of October.

The department continues to work toward addressing the outstanding issues associated with the property. However, the necessary corrective actions and documentation have not yet been completed to bring the project into full compliance.

This matter will remain open until the outstanding deficiencies have been satisfactorily addressed and all applicable code and permitting requirements have been met.

The department will continue to monitor the situation and work with the involved parties toward a resolution.

Department Operations and Communication

Office Hours and Inspection Availability

One ongoing issue we are experiencing involves confusion regarding the Building Department's scheduled office hours. There appears to be a misunderstanding among

some residents and contractors that the posted office hours represent the only times the Building Official is available for inspections or consultations.

This is not unique to Falls Village, as we are experiencing the same confusion in each of the towns we serve.

I would like to clarify that the scheduled office hours are intended to provide residents, contractors, and property owners with a designated time to meet with the Building Official in person, without the need for an appointment, to discuss permits, construction projects, code questions, or other building-related matters.

These office hours do not represent the department's inspection schedule or limit our availability.

Inspections are conducted throughout the week based on scheduling needs and requests. We are also available outside of the posted office hours for consultations, meetings, and other matters as needed.

I am not entirely sure of the best way to communicate this distinction to the public, but I believe it is important that residents and contractors understand that our availability extends well beyond the scheduled office hours.

I would welcome any suggestions on how we can better communicate this information, whether through the town website, permitting materials, Town Hall staff, or another means of public outreach.

Our goal is to remain accessible and responsive while maintaining the flexibility necessary to serve multiple communities efficiently.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Papp
Building Official
Town of Canaan (Falls Village)

TO: All Boards/Commissions/Departments
FROM: Michelle Hansen, Treasurer and
Dave Barger, First Selectman For the Board of Selectmen
RE: 2027 - 2028 Proposed Spending Plans
DATE: November 02, 2026

It's time to begin our Annual Budget Process. We know that you all realize that we are under the usual budgetary restraints that we can expect as well as not knowing what the Town of Canaan will receive from the State of Connecticut. Further, we have to educate our children and that is an expensive proposition given the size of its student body. Additionally, the Town will continue to have future annual costs for capital projects which will have to be factored into any Proposed Spending Plan. Consequently, as always, fiscal conservatism should be our byword in approaching this upcoming year.

Please let's keep in mind that we would like to propose a lean spending plan. We ask each of you to analyze every line item in your Proposed Spending Plan and adjust them appropriately. Our goal is to have a budget that comes as close to a zero percent increase as possible and this can only occur if each of us eliminates any expenses that are not necessary.

A summary printout of your current (2026 - 2027) budget will be placed in your mailbox by the end of the week. If you need a detailed printout for your budget, please contact Michelle as soon as possible. A detailed report will show dates, check numbers, payee and a brief description of the expense, if necessary. We also ask that you continue to utilize the *Capital Project Request Form* that has been distributed for those requests/projects that you wish to see come to fruition in the next 5 - 10 years.

The Board of Selectmen will have its first workshop for budget planning in late December. **The final date for submission of your Proposed Spending Plan is Thursday, December 03, 2026**. It is critical that it be submitted by that date so that there can be proper review of all submissions and the Board of Selectmen can have a completed Proposed Spending Plan for the 2027 - 2028 fiscal year well in advance of our presentation to the Board of Finance sometime in early February. **Should any Board/Commission/Department fail to submit their Proposed Spending Plan by December 03, 2026, the budget for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year will be put in place for the 2027 - 2028 fiscal year. Completed Proposed Spending Plans and Capital Project Request Forms should be directed to Michelle and would be very much welcomed prior to the December 03, 2026 deadline.**

Putting our timeline in perspective, our budget hearing will likely be scheduled for sometime in early April and the Town Meeting and vote on the Proposed Spending Plan for the 2027 - 2028 fiscal year will likely be planned for sometime in late March or early April. Should you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact either Michelle or me. Thank you very much for being part of the process. It is very much appreciated.

TOWN OF CANAAN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING DATES FOR 2027

TOWN HALL

108 Main St, Falls Village, CT 06031

Meetings are convened at 6:00PM and are In Person and via Zoom

January 11th

February 8th

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th

June 14th

July 12th

August 9th

September 13th

October 12th

November 8th

December 13th

Town of Canaan Falls Village

- *BOS meetings are the second Monday of each month except for October 2027 due to the Columbus Day Holiday*
- Approved by the Board of Selectmen on Monday, November 09, 2026

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING DATES FOR 2027

Board of Selectmen will regularly meet IN PERSON ONLY on Wednesdays at 8:30AM

Meetings are held at the Town of Canaan, Town Hall, 108 Main St., Falls Village, CT 06031

(unless otherwise noted)

January 27th

February 24th

March 24th

April 28th

May 26th

June 23th

July 28th

August 25th

September 29th

October 27th

November 24th

December 29th

Town of Canaan Falls Village
Liberty and Property

- Approved by the Board of Selectmen on Monday, November 09, 2026