



Town of North Canaan

Board of Finance

January 14, 2026

Present: Chairman Doug Humes, Christian Allyn, John Jacquier, Chris Sorrell, Emily Bottum

Chairman Humes called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Mr. Allyn moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried

Ms. Bottum moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Jacquier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tax Collector's Report: The board received copies of the report. There were no questions. **Mr. Jacquier moved to accept the report. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report, Melanie Neely: The board received copies of the report. The treasurer reported that she included a listing of negative balance expenditures. The tax collector's salary funds were approved to be moved at the town meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any other accounts that might go over by a great deal. Ms. Neely does not believe there will be anything, but she cannot be 100% sure. There are no red flags currently, although town counsel continues to be a concern. First Selectman Bunce stated that they are hoping to wrap things up with town counsel soon and get back to normal spending for that. There was a discussion of overage. Chairman Humes thanked Ms. Neely for putting in extra hours and getting things organized without charging the town. Chairman Humes gave the history of the start of the capital non-recurring funds, that they were set up by Paul Allyn and Francis McCarthy. Ms. Neely is moving the general fund money market and fire company money market into an insured cash sweep which will hopefully produce more money for those funds. Selectman Bunce will be meeting with the fire company and will report back to the board. **Mr. Sorrell moved to accept the treasurer's report. Ms. Bottum seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Auditor Committee report: Mr. Allyn stated that 4 firms out of 7 potential for this area are interested in bidding. The committee believes it would be advantageous to go out to bid. Chairman Humes stated that there should be a letter that was used last year that could be sent out again. There was a question of whether the bid should be a public notice, but the chairman stated they have only ever sent letters as legal notices are expensive. **Mr. Allyn moved to accept the committee report and to send the letters out to those firms that were recommended. Mr. Jacquier seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Existing Auditor report: Chairman Humes spoke with them and they are done with the audit but could not attend tonight. The board agreed to have them come to next month's meeting. **Ms. Bottum moved to have the auditors attend next month's meeting. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Selectman's Time: First Selectman Bunce stated that the town meeting was successful and everything was approved. They are working on getting the new truck done. The town is starting to run low on salt so they are mixing in sand to hopefully make it go further. He questioned the town crew about mixing with limestone and they were hesitant. Chairman Humes explained that using limestone actually is less likely

to cause the environmental issues like sand does and it does not need to be swept up after winter. This led to a discussion of getting a sweeper. Selectman Bunce is going to reach out to some companies to do a cost analysis with renting one vs buying. He may go to a State auction as well. It would be beneficial to own one as they could use it after parades etc. to clean up. The pay loader/compactor at the transfer station is getting old and will eventually need to be replaced. Selectman Bunce talked about perhaps getting a backhoe instead. They will try not to buy anything new. They will hunt around see what they can get. This is not going to happen anytime soon.

Board member concerns: Mr. Allyn stated that there was a 250th anniversary celebration meeting yesterday that went well. He spoke with Jennifer Crane of the Events committee about their line item not getting an increase this year but this coming year they will need an increase. They receive some donations. The first event for the 250th is the George Washington Ball. Tickets are on sale.

Jennifer Crane Chair of the Events Committee spoke to board. Events are beginning in February and there are events planned throughout the summer. They are partnering with the Friends of the History Center and the History Center. They will all be looking for funds for the 250th celebrations. They are going to try and get grant money, but it will not cover all events. Chairman Humes asked if they will be coming back to ask for money. Ms. Crane stated they are hoping that it can be added to next year's budget line because it will not be needed before then. They recently became aware that our town carnival is the same weekend as Millerton's 250 celebration. They are having a carnival and fireworks as well. Ms. Crane is concerned because the fireworks, which she had to already sign the contract for, is \$25000 (\$1000 per minute) and the Event's committee line item is \$10,000. If the carnival does not bring in the money that they need they will be operating at a deficit. They do not receive a lot of appeal donations. They are coming out of a rough year where there were not as many events. Chairman Humes asked if local businesses donate. Ms. Crane stated that only a few do. Specialty minerals does, the local bank does, but businesses such as BD, Mountainside and Geer have not given anything in several years. Chairman Humes said he will give Ms. Crane some ideas.

Public comment: Penny Terry questioned if we could cut some time off of the fireworks (5 minutes = \$5000) to save some money?

Mr. Allyn moved to adjourn. Mr. Jacquier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary

Received for Record
11/8/26 11:00am
ZD, town clerk