



*Town of North Canaan*

*Board of Finance*

*Regular Meeting*

*February 11, 2026*

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

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

**Mr. Allyn moved to amend the agenda to add an executive session for the audit proposal discussion and pending legal settlement. Chairman Humes questioned the need to discuss the audit proposal in executive session. No second – motion died on the floor. Mr. Allyn moved to amend the agenda to add a discussion of the audit proposal and an executive session to discuss the pending legal settlement. Chairman stated the audit discussion is already on the agenda. Mr. Allyn amended his motion to just add executive session. Ms. Bottum seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Sorrell moved to approve the minutes from last month. Ms. Bottum seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Allyn moved to accept the monthly financial report. Ms. Bottum seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Ms. Bottum moved to accept the monthly tax collector's report. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Auditor report: Chris King of King and King and Marshall Dean presented before the board on the audit. He explained there are five people from their company that work on the audit, dividing up the tasks. Mr. King went through the audit, explaining that if there was a real issue they would be in touch with the board of finance in real time and not wait until the audit was finished. He explained how they reach their conclusions and findings.

Mr. Allyn asked what other towns do with large reserve funds. Mr. King stated that it could be used to finance next year's audit, or a large capital project, or into road maintenance reserve, or into the non-recurring account for things such as new fire trucks, roads and bridges, etc. Dispensing funds would have to go through a town meeting. There was a discussion of surpluses and taxes. Discussion of the Union Station Funds. A large portion of the State reimbursement came back and they believe there will be no more reimbursement. The rest needs to come out of the general fund. The Tobey Hill bridge

project has some non-reimbursable expenses still left. Mr. Allyn stated that the town needs to keep an eye on the uptick in owed taxes.

Audit Proposal: The committee met and had 4 firms interested but only 3 bids as of tonight. Claremont Associates bid was for: 26/27 year \$42300, 27/28 year \$42500, 28/29 year \$42800. King and King big was for: 26/27 year \$49875, 27/28 year \$ 52365, 28/29 year \$54985. Sinnamon & Associates sent an email this evening with a flat rate of \$35000 for 3 years. Mr. Sorrell explained they do other neighboring towns. There was a discussion regarding the fact that the committee did not review their proposal as it just came in prior to the meeting. Chairman Humes does not feel that it should be allowed as a bid because the committee didn't discuss it. He feels he is satisfied with the current auditors even though they are more expensive. The treasurer stated the current auditors wanted to charge her for asking questions. Mr. Allyn stated he was impressed with Claremont as well, but that Sinnamon has done a good job on other town audits. **Mr. Allyn moved to approve Sinnamon and Associates as the auditor. Chairman Humes feels this is an illegal motion. Mr. Allyn stated there are no procurement rules. Mr. Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion was carried in a 3yes to 1no vote.**

Treasurer's time: Melanie Neeley sent out her report. There were no questions regarding it. The bank got the paperwork ready today to start moving money in the sweep account. This should bring in about \$5000 extra a month. There are a couple of old accounts that are still open and probably need to be closed. Chairman Humes suggested that Ms. Neeley create a list and bring it to the finance board next month and then it will need to go to a town meeting to close them. 1 is a cemetery fund.

Selectman's time: Mr. Allyn stated that the ceiling tiles have come in so they can be replaced in the town hall. He questioned Selectman Bunce about the town truck being purchased. The purchase order for the dump body is out he is working with someone else closer in getting the truck as the original place was further away and less convenient. There is a statewide shortage of salt. The towns are working with COG to come up with a solution. We have about enough salt for two storms. Mike put in an order in January currently they are mixing salt to make it go further. The town crew has done a great job on the roads this year.

Board members' concerns: Mr. Allyn stated he was approached by the social worker regarding funding for her office. Currently she receives a \$2500 discretionary fund yearly. This should be increased due to rising costs. Mr. Allyn has realized that the town's digital mapping system in the assessor's office is incorrect and needs to be updated. This will be an expense that should be put in the budget.

Public comment: Penny Terry asked if it was possible to put in a bathroom at the transfer station in the office building so that the attendant does not have to go outside and walk across the station to use the bathroom in the swap shop. There was a brief discussion as part of the issue is regarding the septic system.

**Mr. Allyn made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Executive session was entered into at 8:11pm.

**Mr. Allyn moved to reenter regular session. Ms. Bottum seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Regular session resumed at 8:25 PM.

Jennifer Crane stated the appeals letter for the events committee is ready to get mailed out but they are looking for additional places to solicit from. Gear, Mountainside and BD have all changed contacts and she has no one to get in touch with. There was a brief discussion Mr. Allyn will try to get her in touch with someone at mountainside. She has confirmed that fireworks are \$1000 per minute and we are already locked into 25 minutes for this year. Currently the town gives \$10,000. She has requested the paperwork so that she can increase their budget going forward. Because this year is the 250th there are even more events. Mr. Sorrell questioned if she knew approximately how much money they needed but miss crane explained there are too many unknowns. There was a discussion regarding porta potties for the big events. There was a discussion regarding doing away with the dog park as the softball teams no longer want to play at the field. Chairman Humes stated that the board will help Miss Crane.

**Mr. Allyn moved to adjourn. Mr. Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Aryslea A Odell

Recording Secretary