



RECEIVED FOR RECORD
NORTH CANAAN, CT
ON 4/16/26 AT 9:00
ATTEST: Y. SOX TOWN CLERK

Town of North Canaan
Board of Finance – budget workshop meeting
April 1, 2026

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

Chairman called the workshop to order at 6:00pm

NCES Principal Beth Johnson spoke before the board going line by line through the school budget. She spoke about the salaries in the budget. Regional sports had a large increase. There was a discussion regarding piece mail in regard to the sports similar to what Kent does. Building repairs are up. Principal Johnson explained where other things related to the budget have increased or not. There was a discussion regarding digital storage.

Chairman Humes explained the school budget is informative to the board.

Municipal Budget- First Selectman Jesse Bunce and Treasurer Melanie Neeley presented before the board and went through the budget. He explained where the increases were. There was a question related to the \$10,000 decrease in the assessor line. This is due to benefits. Clerk is part-time and not eligible for benefits. Town Council is going up \$15,000 because of the union contract renewal. Discussion of telephone line – should read \$11,000. Selectman Bunce will reach out to local fuel companies to try and lock in prices. There was a discussion on the amount paid to the burn officer being low. Chairman Humes suggested they look at that. Mr. Allyn questioned how many fire marshals are currently serving. 1 is a deputy out of Lakeville, 1 coming in just to do arson investigation and leaving 2 for everything else. They will look at it. There was a discussion regarding the resident trooper program and the hours he does for the town. Discussion regarding Opengov software for applying for building permits. Chairman Humes said there are other systems out there and the board suggests that they look at other ones and bring back to next Finance meeting. Mr. Allyn suggested that they get rid of this program line down to zero and then get a proposed contract with another vendor and then go to town meeting to approve it. There was a discussion of breaking a contract. May be able to break the contract if the finance board denies the money for the system otherwise have to wait a year. There was a discussion regarding the fire hydrant lines and psi rates. Repairs and maintenance moved money to vehicle equipment repairs. Sand Salt line up \$30,000 to stockpile salt. Going off of this year, the thought is we will not run out. Question of why transfer station salaries going up \$13000. It ends up being about 4% increase. The numbers are split at in other areas. The Treasurer and First Selectman will look into this to make sure the numbers are

all correct. First Selectman testified at the state regarding the transfer station. MIRA is done as of June 2026 instead of the original June 2027 contract end date, so we are still unsure about what the exact costs will be. A discussion ensued regarding the garbage and recycling. USA is an option as well. Social Worker line increased to go with helping community members. Discussion regarding the Inland Wetlands increase discretionary fund NW conservation district. Mr. Allyn stated that district used to have a separate line for them. Chairman Humes said it could be put into this budget. Treasurer can work on getting that back into the budget. Mr. Allyn would like to know what percentage of the library budget the town funds. They have money in their own capital improvement fund. Selectman Bunce asked that we not give them those funds this year due to other increases but revisit it every year. Mr. Sorrell would like a breakdown of what falls under the rec commission director's salary. They request that the breakdown be brought in. There is a leak in the pool. Beth Johnson spoke on AHA. They became their own 501c3. Housed in the school. She stated they are desperate for funding. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of money. This line will be \$10,000. There was a discussion regarding the boy scouts building. Events committee normally receives \$10,000 from the town, but because it is the 250th anniversary, they are requesting an increase to \$15,000. Discussion regarding adding money for holiday lights in town occurred and this will be added in. History center was given \$5000 grant out of the general funds. Chairman Humes said this does not need to go into the budget. Fire equipment going up \$40,000 due to needing new ladder truck. Mr. Johnson asked about the ios rating affecting homeowner insurance. Discussion of the ada ramp and access to the town hall. The town is looking at re-doing bridges on West Main, Bragg Street, and Reed Street. The Reed Street one will need to contact the State. Chairman Humes stated they need an engineer to look at this so that the water flow is not changed. The totals can be given at the Board of Finance regular meeting. Roughly 3.2% increase. Grand list is up.

Chairman stated once we get the figures everyone should be at the public hearing to give information.

Public Comment: There were 3 comments made on the zoom.

1. Please make sure that copies of both proposed budgets are available online as well as the AHA financials. Selectman Bunce stated these are draft budgets and would not be online.
2. There was a comment regarding AHA licensing fee. Selectman Bunce believes the licensing fee is already included in the budget.
3. Cheryl Duntz questioned when the proposed budgets would be available to the public online. There was a discussion regarding this and it was stated they would not

be available online, only in the town hall. Ms. Duntz questioned them not being online. The Chairman stated they would be available for pickup at the town clerk's office on April 13. The public hearing is set for April 20.

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

Workshop adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary