

Town of North Canaan
Board of Finance
Budget Hearing
May 19, 2021

Present: Chairwoman Nancy O'Connor, Bryan Johnson, Bill Minacci, Brian Allyn Sr.

Call to order: 7:31pm

Chairwoman O'Connor began the meeting reviewing the NCES Education Budget totals: Page 1 – 100 series – wages total \$2823184 for a 1% increase from the prior year. Page 2 – 200 series – staff benefits \$725717.50 decrease of 5.7%. 300 series – purchase services \$122958 6% decrease. 400 series – purchased property services \$204364 .3% increase. 500 series -other purchase services \$338021.15 no increase. 600 Series- supplies \$168390 3.9% increase. 700 series – capital outlaying \$28927 no increase. Total budget \$4411561.65 .18% decrease. The Regional 1 Budget is passed at \$9174207.65 a 9.06% increase for all. Dr. Roy is looking to hopefully be able to give back to town about \$375000 for the future (not this budget). There were no questions or comments related to this budget.

Municipal Budget: Category A General Government \$909178 increase of \$16750. Category B Public Safety \$384704 decrease of \$23864. Category C Highway \$432200 decrease of \$11500. Category D Sanitation \$296550 increase of \$13700. Category E Conservation Health \$82565 increase of \$36803. Category F Social Services \$72721 decrease of \$9139. Category H recreation \$78000 decrease of \$2500. Category I miscellaneous expense (including but not limited to railroad days, childcare, beautification) \$72390 decrease \$3673. Category K interest expense \$21256 decrease of \$2280. Category L Redemption of Debt \$141200 decrease \$34815. Category M Capital improvements \$267000 increase \$129000. Total budget: \$2855504.00 increase of \$108487.

Questions/comments: Railroad days because money was not used last year so the \$5000 from last year was removed - still leaves money in for this year. A question was asked regarding the line item amount for the ambulance. Emily Minacci explained the reason for the increase is due to lack of volunteers and having to pay staff to handle the large volume of calls. Also many insurance companies send reimbursement checks to patients rather than the ambulance. People cash the checks but don't pay the ambulance. The only way to go after these individuals is in small claims court, which is not feasible. Currently the outside contract services provide 2 EMTs Monday – Friday 8am to 6pm. That cost is large. Emily has contracted with Anthem to be in network with them all but this causes a 10% hit with the contract. The rates for the ambulance are set by the State of CT. Billing is done by professionals in Killingworth. And due to COVID the fundraising for the ambulance did not occur as normal. PPP loans did help. Volunteer staff is down to a handful. We do have a paramedic on staff and the only other one is Dutchess County Medic. We also have mutual aid coverage.

There were no further questions/comments etc. Town Meeting has not been officially set. Tentative June 9.

Mr. Allyn made a motion to close the budget hearing. Mr. Minacci seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Hearing closed at 7:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary

Town of North Canaan
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
May 19, 2021

Present: Chairwoman Nancy O'Connor, Bryan Johnson, Bill Minacci, Brian Allyn Sr.

Call to order: 7:52pm

Chairwoman O'Connor began meeting with new business – the 2021/2022 proposed budget. There was no discussion among the members.

Mr. Allyn made a motion to send the budget to a town meeting on June 9 2021 at 7:30pm. Mr. Minacci seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Nothing further to come before the board.

Mr. Minacci made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary