

Town of North Canaan
Board of Finance
May 11, 2022
Budget Hearing via Zoom only

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

Chairwoman O'Connor called the hearing to order at 7:30pm

Chairwoman O'Connor explained the process for the evening, how she will go thru the budget items and that public comment at the end will be limited to a 5-minute maximum per person.

Education budget increase of \$39,458.35 (.89%)

Municipal budget increase \$179039.00 (6.27%)

Total budget including region 1 increase \$12994299.00 This is an increase of \$964587 (8.02%)

Public Comment:

Stephanie Grant questioned if there was a way to decrease the recreation directors' salary to be used for salary increase for the town crew workers. Ms. Grant also asked about cutting donations for things such as the senior center, scholarships, chore services and other items. She also inquired about the Union Station and requested clarification as to why it is still in our budget when it is a non-profit.

Selectman Perotti responded that the Union Station is still there because of the way the loan was done. The Association had nothing to with it. The loan had to go thru the town and the project did not get done on time and had several problems. Because of this there was a lien on the building which the town had to get removed by a loan. We are still waiting on the State to pay the town back. Selectman Perotti speaks with the state every few weeks to try and get this resolved. There were cutbacks on the donations, and they did not get what they requested. He did acknowledge her point. The town has no say in how the rec department spends their money so cannot just decrease a salary there.

Mike Reagan stated that he wanted to reiterate that pay increases for the town should be a priority as they are the biggest asset, and the current budget does not even allow for inflation.

Maribeth Marchi echoed what was already said and also stated that she is sad this meeting had to be via zoom, and it was a disservice to the town. Big component to wage increases for town crew and the town should look into rec department. Times are tough and as a business you have to make hard decisions. The town crew is down one person, where is that salary going? That should be going to the town crew, as well we should cut out the other services and use those funds for the town crew.

Hearing no further requests for public comment **Ms. Clayton made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Mr. Minacci seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Hearing adjourned at 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary