

Town Of North Canaan
Board of Finance
September 14, 2022
Regular Meeting

Present: Chairwoman Nancy O'Connor, Bill Minacci, Brian Allyn Sr., Bryan Johnson (via zoom) and Susie Clayton (via zoom)

Chairwoman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:40pm

Mr. Allyn made a motion to accept the minutes from the 3 meetings on 5/11/2022, the meeting on 06/11/2022 and the meeting on 6/16/2022 as presented. Mr. Minacci seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Tax Collector Jenn Jacquier present to discuss outstanding taxes and procedures. The report that was given out does not have the 2021 taxes in it. The report for real estate tax is approx. \$83,000. Much better than it was. For 2021 there are a few small amounts and some payment plans. Chairwoman O'Connor acknowledged that the current list shows some of the same people that were late previously and got caught up. Ms. Jacquier stated there are none at the auction level at this point. Other things are being attempted to get the payments before going that route. If they are unsuccessful, they will take the next steps. Some of the uncollectable items include personal car taxes and property for people who have moved out of town, some motor homes, and other items. Ms. Jacquier stated the one issue that they are working on now is land owned by one person and then condos owned by someone else and the land taxes have not been paid. Not sure how that will be fixed. It may have to go to the town attorney. No further questions from the board.

Mr. Minacci made a motion to accept the monthly tax reports. Ms. Clayton seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the monthly financial reports. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Selectman's Time: First Selectman Perotti stated that we are facing a possible large increase for next year from MIRA the trash company. They are closing the Hartford Plant and it is having to be hauled out west somewhere. Our contract runs out in June. Hoping to have firmer numbers by budget season. Paving will soon be starting on Old Turnpike North, Carlson Road to New Street. Patty Lane will not be black topped this year as they are getting a new water main next year, so it did not make sense to do that and rip it out. The crew is also doing a lot of patch work.

Treasurer's Time: Emily Minacci – gave reports regarding account transfers in order to balance the budget. Residential tipping fees are the largest. This will need to be sent to a town meeting as it is over the threshold. **Mr. Minacci made a motion to send the entire report to a town meeting. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Ms. Clayton abstained from the vote.**

Audit update: The auditors came out and did the preliminary audit but due to lack of staff they are behind and unlikely to have it done by the end of the calendar year. The State of CT has also changed

some items for auditing which the auditor is arguing. This entails the childcare grant and other items. Ms. Minacci recommended that if we are forced to do the additional audit due to the childcare grant we should push back for them to pay for it. The audit process is becoming more complicated and more costly.

Chairwoman O'Connor would like to start addressing issues regarding employee pay and benefits that came up in the last budget season. Health benefits (medical, dental, vision) are for employees with a minimum of 30 hours a week. This is for employees NOT elected officials. Elected officials do not get benefits. Life Insurance benefits are only for 30-hour eligible staff as well. Retirement is for anyone that works 1000 hours and have been with the town for a minimum of a year. 7% of their gross pay is put into retirement. Pay is done every 2 weeks. Ms. Minacci uses last years hours with new rates of pay to do the projected numbers. The only variable one is the town crew due to their overtime.

Chairwoman O'Connor wants to make sure the board is all educated about the benefits which are 100% paid by the town. Currently health insurance costs are hitting the double digits. Ms. Minacci feels that with the size of the group it should stay more manageable. There was a discussion of how much the board needs to be involved and how much the Selectmen need to be able to come up with doable numbers. When looking at the numbers we have to look at the entire cost not just hourly pay rates. Mr. Allyn suggested that this be tabled to the next meeting in order for the board to have some time to review the information.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary