



Town of North Canaan

Board of Finance

April 10, 2024 7:00pm

Regular Meeting

Present: Chairman Doug Humes, Bryan Johnson, Chris Sorrell, Brian Allyn Sr.

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

Chairman Humes asked the selectmen about the request from the Housatonic River Commission for \$400.00. Selectman Whiting stated that they would take care of putting it into the budget. It does not have to be put on the agenda.

Mr. Allyn made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous 2 meetings. Mr. Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Monthly financials – the board did not receive it.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the monthly tax collectors' report. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item 10-248A by Dr. Roy. Chairman Humes did some research on it. He received a letter from the town treasurer opposing it. He spoke with Falls Village town and they use 10-222 which is the older version. He did not hear back from Salisbury. He would like to investigate this further. Dr. Roy explained that it is a law which was established to allow Boards of Education to have a non-lapsing account for things other than budgeted expenditures. She saw it as things such as if the school needed a new roof or it could have been used for the air conditioning units. This version of the law gives the Board of Education final say regarding how the funds are spent. Other versions leave the power of determining how the funds are spent to the town. The chairman will do further research and come back next month with more information.

Selectman's Time: Selectman Ohler stated that he feels the town can go forward with the budget as it is now knowing that the town crew salaries is an on-going discussion and may need to be adjusted later. They did receive more detail today regarding the Housatonic River commission and he will be reinstating that into the budget as well.

The Treasurer is not in attendance.

There was a discussion regarding setting a date for the public hearing for the budget. **Mr. Allyn made a motion to set the public hearing date for May 15, 2024 at 7:00pm. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Discussion and possible action on vacancy. There are 2 applicants and Chairman Humes recommended that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sorrell interview the 2 applicants and come back to the next meeting with their recommendation to the board. **Mr. Johnson made a motion to interview the 2 applicants. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

Public Comment: Christian Allyn spoke about the Housatonic River Commission and the work that they do.

Lynne Fowler asked about the individuals that are interviewing the candidates for the vacancy and feels strongly that the individual the democratic committee is supporting would be the best candidate.

Chairman Humes explained that the Board of Finance has never been political. The people that sit on the board do not see themselves as one party or the other, but as individuals doing what is best for the residents of the town.

Stacy Dodge asked if the Board of Finance sets goals for the departments. Chairman Humes explained that the Board of Finance does not set the goals. The entities with the requests have to justify the budget. If the board doesn't agree with a budget, it can be sent back to the selectmen. This has been done in the past.

Kathy Ducillo – stated that the line item for Women's Emergency Services was zeroed out in the budget and reason given was that it was Susan B Anthony which is not accurate. She stated that it is actually Sage and that is not in the budget. Chairman Humes explained that the group can send a letter to the Selectmen or the Board of Finance to be put in budget. Ms. Ducillo commented that maybe having all male boards was why they did not know about Sage. Chairman Humes stated that he does know about women's services and that a group who feels they were left out unjustly needs to plead their case with the selectmen and/or the board of finance. Normally groups should send in requests yearly.

Selectman Ohler stated that he takes offense to the all-male board comments. He is fiscally accountable to the town and has to account for every penny. Organizations need to send in requests. He has an obligation to the taxpayers to know where the money is going. He does not remember getting anything from Sage. He will look into previous years for project sage and if a change needs to be made, he will make it.

Christian Allyn requested that his letter be attached to the minutes.

Mr. Allyn made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary

4/10/2024

Douglas E. Humes
Board of Finance, Chair
Town of North Canaan
100 Pease Street
Canaan, CT. 06018

Chairman Humes,

I, Christian Allyn, resident of North Canaan, accept the request of the North Canaan Democratic Party to be appointed to the North Canaan Board of Finance.

Susan Clayton, registered Democrat, and long public servant in North Canaan, recommended myself as her replacement when she resigned from the Board of Finance. The North Canaan Democratic Town Committee voted to honor her request.

My qualifications to serve on the North Canaan Board of Finance include experience within the Town of North Canaan include serving as,

A member of the Friends of Beckley Furnace, the non-profit responsible for stewarding the Beckley Furnace for 12 years

A Housatonic River Commissioner for 10 years

A member of the Greenway Committee since 2014

A member of the Beautification Committee since 2015

A member of the Events Committee since its founding in 2016

A member of the Economic Development Committee for 2 years, starting in 2016 thereafter Liaison of the Board of Selectmen to the Economic Development Committee for 5 years and 9 months.

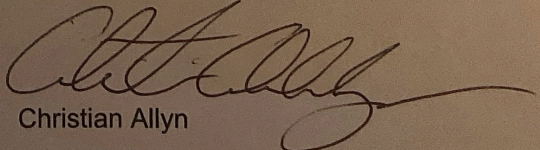
A member of the Board of Selectman for six years, 2017-2023

Author of the 2018 North Canaan Plan of Conservation and Development saving North Canaan Taxpayers at least \$50,000

Outside of experience within the Town of North Canaan I run Invasive Plant Solutions, a tax paying business in the Town of North Canaan employing a staff of 7 working across Connecticut. I am a director, and member of the Finance Committee, of the Foundation of Community Health, the largest non-profit in the 6 towns that make up the Region 1 School District which has invested assets in excess of \$38 Million. It was a joy to be able to second the motion which authorized the \$2.1 million grant which, in conjunction with state bonding, allowed for the construction of the Community Health and Wellness Center on East Main Street.

I ask that this letter be read into the record at your regular meeting on April 10th, 2024 at 7pm.

Signed,



Christian Allyn