

Town of North Canaan
Board of Finance
April 10, 2019

Present: Nancy O'Connor, Brian Ohler, Chris Sorrell, Frank Ghi, Bill Minacci, Brian Allyn

Call to order: 7:30 pm

Minutes: Brian O made a motion to approve the minutes from March as presented. Chris seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Financial report: Bill made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Brian O seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Tax collector report: Frank made a motion to accept the Tax Collector Report as presented. Bill seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Auditor selection: Nancy sent out one page of proposals to everyone last month via email of King, King and Associates, Sinnamon & Associates and Clermont & Associates. **Brian Ohler made a motion to accept King, King and Associates proposal. Frank seconded the motion.** There is only a span of a few thousand dollars of highest to lowest bids. Total for the King proposal is \$22,670.00. If a single Federal audit is necessary, it would be an additional \$1,500.00. **Motion approved unanimously.**

2019-2020 Budget was received from the First Selectman, Charlie Perotti. Charlie stated it is the same bottom line, they just moved some items around. The board reviewed the budget numbers and asked some questions including telephone upgrade (which is a onetime thing) and about fuel oil. Jeff Drury from Canaan introduced himself to the board and stated he was in attendance on behalf of Chore. He stated their line item was dropped from the budget. He went on to explain that they serve 51 clients in Canaan. He introduced Pat Wright, who said they have been getting money each year from Canaan. Nancy questioned it not being a line item. Charlie stated there wasn't anything in the budget last year either. Ms. Wright went on to explain about Chore. Brian O requested information to be given to the board for the past 5/10 year time span to review. Pat will get that to the board. The board discussed this and it was revealed that the money was not a line item; it comes out of the discretionary fund. There was a discussion regarding the discretionary fund and what should come out of that. It was decided that specific items that the town gives to every year should have their own line item. There may be other items that should have their own line, Emily and Charlie will review. Craig Whiting discussed Geer and Dial-A-Ride and their numbers. The board went on to discuss town road work that needs to be done. Charlie is waiting on an estimate of how much it is going to cost. He believes it will be over \$300,000. They have not budgeted for that and other work that is not in there. He is thinking of maybe doing a small USDA load. Nancy stated that for 5 years the town has been able to keep the mil rate the same. Emily Minacci updated the board on what Chore has been receiving the last couple years. Also the Susan B Anthony and Litchfield Nutrition get money. It was decided that for next year these should all be given their own line items. Frank spoke about people he has been in contact with leaving Canaan due to the high taxes and questioned if there was anything we could do. Canaan's portion of the education budget is very large. We keep cutting the town hall budget, but some things absolutely need to be done. There was discussion of getting a grant writer. Christian Allyn stated that he got the hub grant, but it was a lot of work. A skilled grant writer might be a good solution. Charlie

will start looking into that. Frank made a motion to send the budget to a public hearing Monday, April 29, 2019 at 7:30pm. Brian A seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Brian A made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary