

Town of North Canaan

Board of Selectmen

July 7, 2025

Present: First Selectman Brian Ohler, Selectman Craig Whiting, Selectman Jesse Bunce

Selectman Ohler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Selectman Whiting moved to approve the agenda as presented. Selectman Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Selectman Bunce moved to approve the minutes of the previous regular board meeting. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Positive news: Jennifer Crane Chairwoman of Events Committee thanked everyone for participating in the town-wide tag sale. There was more than double the sellers from last year and people appreciated the map. Summer Nights in Canaan is coming in July. There are many businesses on board. Some events will be the parade, carnival, the annual chicken dinner, the fly-in, the library gala, the annual boot drive, fire truck rides. There was a mistake in the Lakeville Journal – Railroad Days will be August 7-10.

First Selectman's report: Selectman Ohler met with DOT rail division. The crossings have been a sore spot in town and it needs to be fixed. There is a temporary patch currently on the Ashley Falls road crossing but it will be fixed along with the Orchard street crossing and the Barracks Rd crossing. There will be detours during construction which should only be for a day or two each crossing. The Barracks Rd will be a secondary road built as a detour.

Canaan Valley power outages. There were 5 in the last few weeks. 1 due to a large fallen tree, 1 because of a squirrel. It was found that the fuses that were replaced in the transformer were not sufficient. Lewis Tree and Eversource have been reviewing the area and have identified 50 trees that they would like to take down. Some are private trees and they will reach out to property owners for permission to take them down. All of Canaan Valley is reliant on 1 power source and the town has requested that Eversource look into connecting power to Canaan Valley Rd and/or Burton Lane so it is not solely reliant on power of Old Turnpike Road South. They will send out an engineer to review.

July 19 will be a busy Saturday in town. The road will be closed for the parade and fireworks.

250th celebration of the nation. Towns across Connecticut and the nation will be celebrating with events. The events committee and the historical committee are coming together to do some events here in town starting now through next year. Funds raised will go to the local history center. Surrounding towns will also have events.

Melissa Pinardi requested to become a member of the Rec Board. **Selectman Bunce moved to appoint her to the Recreation Board. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Kirt Mayland has requested that the selectmen vote on the draft RFP so that he can finalize it and send it in as the incentives will soon go away. He wants to make sure the town gets it in as soon as possible. **Selectman Whiting moved to approve the RFP as presented. Selectman Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Following up on the June 23 town meeting. The turnout was amazing. The Resident Trooper contract passed. Selectman Ohler explained after listening to both sides and differing viewpoints he made the decision to table the issue and allow everyone more time. He spoke with some people who had misinformation. The State I NOT coming

in to make the appointments and he would NOT be making appointments alone; it would be the entire board. Selectman Ohler is suggesting to open the ordinance up to a vote in November but not combine all 3 positions. Instead ask 3 separate questions on the ballot, giving residents several options. Selectman Ohler read the questions to the board to discuss. Residents can vote yes to all, yes to some, no to all, no to some – however they want to vote. But there is a time limit of 90 days to get it on the ballot. If the residents vote yes the ordinance would then have to be written. The suggestion is to have the chair of the democratic and republic committees join the selectmen as a 5-person panel to write the ordinance(s). Nothing would be in effect until after the terms were met. Selectman Bunce questioned having a meeting with Geoff Drury, Attorney Randy DiBella, and perhaps Cramer & Anderson as a neutral party to discuss the questions. Selectman Ohler explained the questions read are neutral questions given by Attorney DiBella. He will not have anything else different and time constraints are approaching. **Selectman Whiting moved to put these 3 questions on the November Ballot. Selectman Ohler seconded the motion.** Selectman Bunce wants to hear from the attorneys before voting. This is not the ordinance, this is just questions to see what the residents want. If they are voted down then nothing happens. The ordinance is only written IF the questions pass. **Selectman Bunce abstained from the vote. Motion passed by majority vote.**

Resident Trooper report – Selectman Ohler read report in record.

Fire Marshal report - Selectman Ohler read report in record.

Building Inspector report - Selectman Ohler read report in record.

ZEO report -nothing to report. Mr. Martin suffered a medical episode. He is recovering at home. P/Z chair and building department working together to make sure nothing slips through.

Social Services report - Selectman Ohler read report in record.

Selectman Whiting report: He will meet with Mike of the highway department and update the equipment spreadsheet as it was not done last year. Dog licenses and transfer stickers are due now. The crew at the transfer station is doing a great job. Selectman Ohler stated that collections so far this year are great with over 700 stickers having been sold so far. We are waiting for results of the end of the year budget but it should come in under and that is thanks to all of the departments. 2 years ago, the town sent out 30 bulky waste containers, this year it has only been 15 so the transfer station is saving thousands of dollars doing such a great job. The swap shop is a huge hit as well.

Selectman Bunce report: the playgrounds are looking like an August installation. He suggested a special meeting with the DTC and RTC and see if they know anyone that is interested in the tax collector role to cut costs as the company contract is month to month. Selectman Ohler explained it did not have to be a special meeting. If either chair know someone that is interested they just need to have them send them into town to apply.

Public Comment: Jeanne Jacquier read a letter from her into record which she stated was given to Selectman Ohler. She requested to have it attached to minutes.

Kathy Keane asked about the solar project time constraints. It is because the tax incentives are expiring. She questions what happens once the residents vote on the ballot and an ordinance is drafted. Selectman Ohler explained there will still be a public hearing. Ms. Keane shared and encouraged people to take advantage of the Canaan Kids Art Space opening at the theater. She is spearheading some of the events for the 250th committee. We will be partnering with other towns (back then North Canaan and Falls Village were one). There will be events for kids and adults. Ms. Keane will work with the school. There is a statewide fundraising effort from July 1-11. North Canaan has a page on the site. <https://give250ct.org>

There was a comment online that it was difficult to hear Selectman Bunce. Paul will look into different speaker systems.

Selectman Whiting moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary



Office of Selectmen

TOWN HALL • 100 PEASE STREET • CANAAN, CONNECTICUT 06018-0876
TELEPHONE (860) 824-7313 FAX (860) 824-3139

TO WHOM IT MAY CONERN:

The Board of Selectmen hereby appoint Melissa Pinardi, to the North Canaan Recreation Committee.

This appointment was made at the Selectmen's meeting on July 7, 2025.

Dated at North Canaan this 7th day of July, 2025.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Brian Ohler, First Selectman

Craig Whiting, Second Selectman

Jesse Bunce, Third Selectman

North Canaan Resident Trooper
Calls for Service - Monthly Report

Month

June 2025

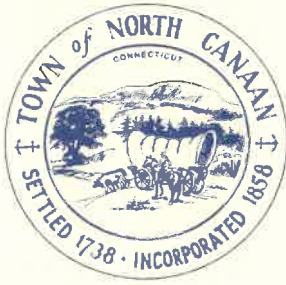
Calls for Service

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Troop B</u>
Administrative Services (i.e. Car/Deer, Other)	1	0
Alarms	0	6
Assaults	0	0
Assist Citizen	2	12
Burglary	0	0
Commercial Motor Vehicle Stops	2	0
Community Engagements	2	0
Criminal Mischief	0	0
Disturbances	0	1
Domestics	0	2
Driving Under the Influence	0	0
Enhanced Security Checks	2	6
Fraud	0	1
Larceny / Burglary	0	1
Medial Assists	1	6
Missing Persons	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	7
Narcotic Arrests	0	0
Operating Under the Influence	0	0
Pistol Permits	1	0
Parking Violations	0	0
Suspicious Incidents (i.e. Threats, People, Vehicles, Packages)	2	8
Traffic Services	2	1
Traffic Stops	8	18
Untimely Death	0	1
Total	24	70

Respectfully Submitted,



Resident Trooper Bronson #532



Town of North Canaan Office of the Fire Marshal

100 PEASE STREET • NORTH CANAAN, CONNECTICUT 06018

TELEPHONE (860) 824-7313, ext. 193 FAX (860) 824-3139

EMAIL firemarshal@northcanaan.org

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Timothy Baldwin, Fire Marshal

Date: July 7, 2025

Re: Fire Marshal Activity Report

Fire Investigations: The office has investigated two significant fires in June, a kitchen event at a commercial kitchen and a major truck fire with multiple vehicles involved. The kitchen fire has been restored as we worked to assist in getting the business back in operation rapidly with the assistance of multiple agencies to assist. The vehicle fire remains under investigation.

Inspections: We continue to have difficulty in obtaining compliance with three mixed use (business/residential) properties. (separate property owners- two buildings with one owner, and a single building with the other)

Plan Reviews: we continue to work with the building department in completing the reviews as they come in. There have been some delays for approval due to a need for more information. Work continues with plan preparation for the Canaan Summer Days Fireworks emergency planning.

Fire Investigations: This month we were required to investigate two fires. The first was in a commercial kitchen which resulted in a need for repairs to fire protection systems. The second was a multi vehicle fire. This fire remains under investigation

Inspections:

Construction related:	3
Initial annually required inspections:	5
Follow up Inspections from previous months:	9
Resident Assistance with questions:	2

NOTE: One building violations has been sent to the state for their interpretation to confirm our findings

*North Canaan Building Office
100 Pease Street #3, Town Hall
860-824-7313 X191*

July 7, 2025

Building is still strong in North Canaan and this month a noticeable increase in fees is due in part by a large project finalizing and completing a Cost of Accounting. Each month has a couple but some are more significant than others.

*Permits: 17
↙Total \$15,990.00*

*Respectfully
Cheryl*

To: First Selectman Brian Ohler
Town of North Canaan
From: Sharon Kelly-Levesque
Director of Social Services
RE: Monthly Report for June 2025

Services Provided:

- Renters Rebate June - 46 applications completed (Program April 1st-Oct) Total – 84 Total
- Applications for Snap Benefits: 7 (includes Husky Healthcare benefits or Access Health)
- Follow up with people who are waiting on housing lists for Station Place/Wangum Village
- 1- Senior housed for the month of June (Wangum Village)
- 2- Senior Couple housed at Station Place for June moving back to North Canaan from temporary placement apartment in Winsted.
- Stop and Shop (gift cards) 3 single mothers, 4 elderly/adults
- Food Vouchers- 5 (Ford Farm/Fruends)
- BTCF: Monitor balances/funds for Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Jane Lloyd Fund recipients.
- Submitted receipts for reimbursement for 5 women and 3 men approved for Jane Lloyd funds, while undergoing cancer treatment. Awarded funds \$5,000 grant for each recipient. (Continuous monitoring)
- JANE LLOYD for 8 recipients- Month of June -Mortgage/rental costs paid, medication costs paid, electric bills paid, past due bills and bills in collection paid, Car repairs paid.
- Sage Program- Followed up on single mother's support program progress.
- Energy assistance and Eversource programs- Accessing their financial need, seeking relief from past and present bills. Eligibility for New Start Program, Hardship Relief Program. NEW 5-tier Low Income Discount Rate program started in June to assist low-income residents further. Assistance given by Utilizing Eversource portal for agency use. (Continuous multiple people)
- Multiple phone calls asking for guidance and assistance regarding housing issues, programs or legal aid information. (Serious Housing Issues) This is continuous.
- June follow up -Further assisted elderly gentleman providing supportive assistance, signed lease for Wangum Village apartment moving July. Set up assistance with 2 workers to move his belongings.
- Utilizing grant and donation funds for food- Voucher Ford Farm, Fruends Market. Stop and Shop gift cards- to assist low-income residents, after using Fishes and Loaves/food pantries to provide food for entire month. Primarily single mothers and our elderly.
- Neighbor to Neighbor Program-June- 5 – Applications approved – Rent, high Utility bills, Summer daycare
- Submitted an application for the Wellner Family Trust Grant/Berkshire Bank \$5000. Receive grant in July.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Kelly-Levesque", written in a cursive style.

Jean A. Jacquier
378 Norfolk Rd
E Canaan, CT 06024

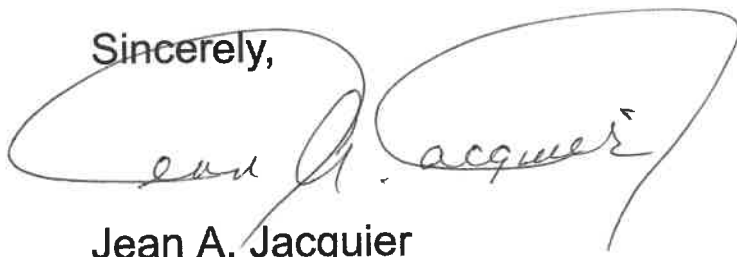
My lack of office hours are a direct result of the hostile work environment present at the Town Hall. The work conditions were not good prior to the notice of the filing with the Attorney General, but following this action became intolerable to the point of making me physically and emotionally ill.

During this time, my office has been covered by the Assistant Clerk which I appointed. In addition, other matters that required attention were quickly and efficiently handled off premises by me personally as needed, a service that I have gladly provided throughout all of my years of service.

The amount of money that I have been paid during the time that I have not been actually reporting to the office was grossly overestimated at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting where your intention was to continue to portray me as unfit for my position while supporting your underlying agenda to move all of the positions to appointed.

As noted by Selectman Whiting in the meeting, as an elected official you have no control over the actual time that my office is open and no legal way to alter my salary. I will continue to handle matters off premises when necessary and called upon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean A. Jacquier", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Jean A. Jacquier