



Town of North Canaan

Board of Selectmen

January 5, 2026

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NORTH CANAAN, CT

ON 1/5/2026

ATTEST: *[Signature]* TOWN CLERK

Present: First Selectman Jesse Bunce, Selectperson Melissa Pinardi, Selectman Brian Ohler (via zoom)

Selectman Bunce called the meeting to order at 7:19pm

**Selectman Ohler moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Discussion regarding an executive session meeting. The board decided on January 15, 6:30pm

Ruggles Landing: Selectman Bunce received an email from Tim Abbott referring to an email he sent to the DEEP letting them know that Selectman Bunce is in a position to work on any lease agreements. Selectman Ohler stated that at this time they are not close to looking at lease agreements. There is a lot that has to happen before that including public hearings.

Transition process: The process is ongoing. Some issues have been resolved. A newsletter will be going out in February and there is a new Facebook account. Selectman Bunce thanked Town Clerk Krysti Segalla for retrieving the YouTube page information. He also thanked Jeanne Jacquier for her service to the town and community.

There have been over 93 applicants for the secretarial position. Several interviews have occurred and Selectman Bunce is hoping to announce a decision in about 2 weeks' time. Selectman Bunce went on to thank Terri Aiken and Christian Allyn for the help with the office. Mr. Allyn has been volunteering his time as he is also a member of the Board of Finance and cannot be on the board and be a paid employee.

Transfer Station improvements. Signs will be ordered this week. The signs will be the green, blue, red to try and explain to residents where the most money is lost and try to keep our costs down. There will also be an open/close sign installed for the gate, to help eliminate confusion when the gate is open, but the transfer station is actually closed. Heating equipment will be hooked up this Thursday.

Grant Committee: Ian Edwards, Chair spoke regarding grant opportunities. One is for the Camp Brook corridor for drainage issues. **Selectperson Pinardi moved to allow the grant committee to pursue this opportunity.**

**Selectman Ohler seconded the motion. Motion carried.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity involves a project drainage issue at Old Turnpike South which would involve the Army Core of Engineers. This is just to get into the pipeline for future funding. **Selectman Ohler moved to allow the grant committee to submit paperwork. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Plan of Conservation: Christian Allyn and Tim Abbott have scheduled a date to meet regarding this. Penny Terry has also agreed to join the board. The meeting will be January 15 at 1:30pm at the town hall.

Town meeting – this evening's town meeting all agenda items passed. There is no actions needed from the board.

Appointment of Cody Luminati as fire investigator. Mr. Luminati will join others in sharing this role for the town.

**Selectman Ohler moved to appoint Mr. Luminati to the Fire Investigator role. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

ATT will be adding new cell phone apparatus to the tower in order to boost service. According to the ZEO there is no need for this to go through zoning.

ZEO report: Selectman Bunce read this report into record.

Selectman Bunce read into record a letter from Principal Beth Johnson to the social worker Sharon Kelly-Levesque thanking her for everything she has done for the families. Ms. Levesque has taken a leave of absence from her role for personal reasons and MaryBeth Wabrek has been able to step in and help out.

Selectman Bunce acknowledged Christopher Crane, who reached out to the town hall with an offer of Christmas Trees for anyone in need of them during the holidays. Mr. Crane volunteers for the FFA.

Building Department report: Selectman Bunce read into record.

Selectman Ohler report: Selectman Ohler expressed his hope that everyone had a nice holiday. He gave kudos to the town crew for putting in the hours during the holidays and beyond to ensure the safety on our roads.

Selectperson Pinardi report: There is nothing new to report.

Events Committee: Jen Crane, Chair stated that January 13, 6-8pm, will be a roundtable planning session at the community music room, formerly the art bar, which Paul Ramuni has graciously offered. This is open to the public, but please RSVP to the events committee. There will not be a zoom for this. In the same space on January 18, Mr. Ramuni will hold a community music gathering from 2-4pm. These gatherings are ongoing every 3 weeks and are free to the public.

The Events committee's quarterly meeting will be at the town hall on January 26 at 7pm.

Public Comment:

Christian Allyn thanked the selectmen for allowing him to help. Beginning tomorrow the schedule will start being different as he will be decreasing his time and Terri Aiken will be taking on more. They will continue working through the transition when a new secretary is in place and will be available as needed.

Kathy Keane stated there will be the return of the George Washington Ball event on February 21, 7:30pm at the Colonial Theater, hosted by the Friends of the Canaan History Center. There will be food, dancing, local celebrities. Norbrook Brewery will be brewing George Washington's beer. More to come.

Penny Terry asked about Eversource putting a second line from Route 44 to Canaan Valley Road. Selectman Bunce stated he has been speaking with them about it. They will be working on this in the near future.

There was a question regarding constant contact sign-ups - the link is on the website.

**Selectman Bunce moved to adjourn. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Aryslea A Odell

Recording Secretary