



Town of North Canaan

Board of Selectmen

Special Meeting

April 14, 2026

Present: First Selectman Jesse Bunce, Selectperson Melissa Pinardi

Selectman Bunce called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Selectman Bunce moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Executive session for town clerk settlement. **Selectman Bunce moved to add an executive session to the end of the agenda following public comment. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Ruggles Landing: There is a meeting scheduled April 23 with the State to clarify what they will pay for and what they are offering to the town. There were discussions in the past and need to review that. Once that is all settled it will be brought to a town meeting to allow the residents to hear about it and vote on it. It would be a lease agreement and should not cost additional money from the town.

New business:

Opioid Settlement: Over the past several years the town has received \$6940.55 in incremental disbursements to support activities in town that address the impact of opioid use in the community. Those funds need to be allocated. **Selectman Bunce moved to give \$2000 to Greenwoods Consulting and the remaining \$4940.55 to the town social worker. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

ACH Transactions document: The bank needs the town to adopt a policy regarding ACH Transaction risk. Selectman Bunce read some of the policy into record and there will be a copy attached to the minutes. **Selectman Bunce moved to adopt this policy as written. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Housing Authority: The select board received a letter from the housing authority nominating Dave Strekas as the new Tenant Commissioner. **Selectman Bunce moved to appoint Dave Strekas as the new Tenant Commissioner of the housing authority with a term ending 12/31/2026. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

First Selectman Report:

- In an effort to get some savings for the town there was a change to amazon business prime, there were unused phone lines to cancel and save money, the town switched auditors saving \$12,500

annually for 3 years with an additional \$2000 for federal audit savings. The cable tv at the town garage was cancelled.

- The town is working with the Northwest COG and other towns on transfer station needs. In 1987 the State confiscated land in Torrington and MIRA was created. MIRA recently disbanded and the state took over. The town received notice that the contract originally slated to end in June 2027 would be ending June 2026 instead. Selectman Bunce testified in front of the oversight committee recently. The thought is that we would like have more than 1 option for the town. USA being one and the possibility of a facility NRRRA. HRRRA is in Danbury and the thought is to have their leadership help put together the NRRRA for us and the other towns. At the next town meeting there will be an option to vote on joining the NRRRA. This would be non-committal but opens the door for the town to collaborate with them to try and keep the public option open.
- Town Meeting will be in May possibly the 13th.
- Canaan Union Station sold March 23 for approximately \$800,000. The town was still owed \$76,000. After discussions regarding use of the parking lot, electricity there, etc. the town was able to recover just over \$61,000.00. Selectman Bunce thanked the treasurer for finding this, and also thanked the town, the state and the Housatonic RR Association being in unison on this deal. There will be a 99 year lease for the parking for the town.
- 2 projects for local veterans - 1. Is names for the doughboy monument and the 2nd is hometown heroes. Families can have their veteran's picture and name displayed on banners and hung in town. The families would pay for this. It will not come out of tax dollars.
- 06/20 hazardous waste day. The transfer station is in charge of sign up.
- Grants Committee – has been working overtime on this and submitted about \$14 million in grant requests. The biggest are federal build grant for town resilience at \$8million, \$1.5 million grant for a middle school roof, Recreation campus for \$2.4 million which would include things like the town pool, pool house, upgrading for ADA access and up to code, the athletic fields and tennis courts. \$1.85 million for resurfacing Pease/Bragg/West main streets – the focus is to upgrade all avenues that bring people to schools, townhall and public works department. Also repaving the townhall parking lot and looking at water flows which ends at the bottom of Reed Street. They are also working on other smaller community grants. If anyone has a grant idea please let the town know.
- Thank you to Tom Zettstrom and the Beautification Committee for all of the tree trimming work. Mr. Zettstrom spoke and showed a photo of a tree. The 36th annual arbor day celebration at the school will be 1 week from Friday (April 24) at 2pm.

Selectman Bunce read into record the social worker's monthly report into record.

Selectman Bunce read into record the building clerk report into record.

Selectman Bunce read into record the ZEO report into record.

Selectman Bunce read into record the Resident Trooper report into record.

Event's committee: Jennifer Crane, Chair spoke: Springfest is May 31. Other activities are coming up and flyers are out.

250th Anniversary: Kathy Keane spoke and thanked everyone who came out and/or helped with the George Washing Ball. June 13 is the next event which will include a liberty pole which is being erected on the corner green by Tom Zettestrom, Christian Allyn, and Jesse Bunce. The Flag and Liberty pole will be sponsored by the Exchange Club. There will be a community wide picnic as well and cemetery tours. Businesses and Individuals can get décor at Lindells. On July 4 there will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence and a ringing of the bells. The annual parade this year will be a 250th theme/red/white/blue. Fireworks will be July 18. The History Center during RR days will have talks August 8 and 9 and tours. There will also be self-guided tours for places outside the center of town.

Selectman Bunce acknowledged Selectman Brian Ohler's recent medical issues and wants everyone to keep him in their thoughts and prayers for a good recovery. He also congratulated Selectperson Pinardi on the recent birth of her child.

There was a project suggestion to look into Railroad crossing quiet zones. Joe Sebben who works for the railroad stated that this is governed by the federal government so it would be difficult to change the stated decibel level that needs to be blown.

Selectperson Pinardi report: The town pool is scheduled to be open no later than June 16 and weather permitting possibly earlier. There is a full staff of guards. She thanked Cheryl Duntz for her 20 years of service with the town. Her hard work will be greatly missed and we congratulate her on her new job.

Tom Zettestrom spoke and thanked Matt Freund for all of his decades of work for the town as well. Mr. Freund recently stepped down as the chairman of the wetlands commission.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Crane: The resident trooper still does not have a land line at the town and she has been hearing a lot of feedback about the lack of speeding tickets but he has no radar gun. This has to be provided to him by the town.

Ian Edwards stated that while the RR crossings are governed by the federal government quiet zones can be established if the town wants to pursue looking into it.

The board entered into Executive Session at 7:53pm.

Selectman Bunce moved to return to the regular meeting at 8:11pm. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary