



Town of North Canaan

Board of Selectman

May 4, 2026

Present: First Selectman Jesse Bunce, Selectperson Melissa Pinardi

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

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

Old Business:

Ruggles Landing: Selectman Bunce met with the State to begin discussions terms, responsibilities and talks will likely continue into early fall. Once an agreement is reached it will need to come before a town meeting to be approved.

New business:

Selectman Bunce read into record a draft check signing policy authorizing 3 or more signers. This will help when/if there are only 2 selectmen available. **Selectman Bunce moved to put the policy into effect immediately. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Selectman Bunce explained that they need to do a public hearing regarding the municipal and school budgets followed by a town meeting. The discussion stated that this will be held May 13. **Selectman Bunce moved to hold a public hearing May 13 at 7:00pm. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried. Selectman Bunce moved to hold a town meeting directly following the public hearing on May 13. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.** After the votes were taken it was brought to Selectman Bunce's attention that the 13th of May is the FFA open house and there could be a large population not in attendance at the hearing and meeting. **Selectman Bunce moved to cancel the public hearing and town meeting on May 3. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried. Selectman Bunce moved to hold the public hearing and town meeting on May 18 at 7:00pm. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Emergency Management: An Emergency Management team is being put together. **Selectman Bunce moved to appoint Brian Allyn as Manager, Tim Baldwin, Chris Sorrell, Kate Light as the Emergency Management Team with a term ending 05/04/2028. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Reports:

A couple of months ago there was a brief zoom bombing disturbance on zoom during the Board of Selectmen meeting. The interruption was caught as quickly as possible but it led to content on YouTube

being flagged and the account terminated. A new account was established. Resident Trooper Bronson has investigated this disturbance and it has been brought to the cybercrimes unit.

Hometown Heroes banners: we have ordered 52 banners and will do a second round once they are received. The hope is to have them hung by Memorial Day.

Town Cleanup day was a big success. Thank you to Jessica Serna for organizing this event.

Arbor Day celebration was a big success with lots of kids participating. Thank you to Tom Zettestrom and the Beautification Committee.

May 5 is the high school budget referendum. Please come and vote.

May 11 is the last day to switch to a specific political affiliation in order to vote during a primary. If you are unaffiliated you can switch the day before a primary. There is good indication that there will be a primary this year.

The town monthly newsletter – please sign up if you have not already.

Dog registration will be June 1 -June 30 at the town clerk's office. Altered dogs are \$8 and unaltered dogs are \$19. There is a penalty fee if not registered during those dates.

Selectman Bunce discussed working with CCM and selectman's office put forth testimony. There has been a big push across the state for this as towns have picked up large amounts of the educational burden and as of today \$172,000 was deposited into our general fund for FY 2027.

Department Reports:

Selectman Bunce read into record the building clerk report.

Selectman Bunce read into record the Resident Trooper report. The response time is exceptionally good.

Selectperson Pinardi read into record the Recreation Director report.

Selectperson Pinardi read into record the Social Services Department report.

Selectperson Pinardi read into record the Fire Marshal Report.

Selectperson Pinardi read into record the ZEO report.

Grants update: Now that the larger grants have been worked through, the concentration will be on smaller grants for such things as radar detector for the resident trooper, etc. These grants can be just as time consuming as the larger ones.

Events Committee: Jennifer Crane, Chair stated there are several events going on in May. This Saturday 2-4 is the Grooving at the Depot located in the former brewery taproom. Also Saturday is a fundraiser for AHA at the VFW. Tickets are \$15 and from 6-9. May 16 is the annual Douglas Library plant sale from 10-1. The Vendor Market will be on May 31st 10-3 at the Bunny McGuire park rain or shine. There is a link to sign up for volunteering and Selectman Bunce encouraged everyone that can help out to do so.

250th Anniversary Celebration: Kathy Keane stated the next big event will be Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Appleness on June 13 from 11-2 This will be a community picnic with a flag raising on the 75 ft liberty pole which is currently being created. This was a sign of revolution. The flag will be raised to the top. Children are being encouraged to participate in costume. Anyone wishing to participate should reach out to Kathy or the History Center. The picnic will be hotdogs and apple pie and is free to everyone. There will be music and games.

Selectperson Pinardi Report: The Rec Committee will be holding a sidewalk chalk event Sunday May 24th. The details are still being ironed out so watch for more information soon. The committee is also looking into the possibility of having a designated cell phone in the pool area to eliminate the need and price of the land line.

Selectman Bunce thanked Selectperson Pinardi for everything she has stepped up to do. They are currently working short staffed and he is very appreciative of her help.

Public Comment: Question about the Memorial Day parade times: Line up is at 10am, kick off at 10:30 and Doughboy celebration immediately following. A comment was made that the flags in town look nice.

Cheryl Duntz stated that May 7 5:30pm at the pavilion at Lawrence Field will be the gathering for the National Day of Prayer. Ms. Duntz also inquired about paying for the banners. Terri Aiken is overseeing the signups for everything (Jessie Lawrence is her backup). Checks can be made out to the town of North Canaan. Payment covers the brackets, banner, and small donation to the VFW.

Hearing no other public comment Selectman Bunce moved to adjourn. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary