



Town of North Canaan

Board of Selectman

Public Hearing

May 18, 2026

Present: First Selectman Jesse Bunce, Selectman Brian Ohler (via zoom).

Selectman Bunce called the hearing to order at 7:00pm. Selectperson Pinardi could not be in attendance tonight due to a family emergency.

This is a public hearing of the Board of Selectmen to review items (numbers 3-5 on the ballot) for the town meeting immediately following the hearing.

1. Proposed ordinance of the Northwest Regional Recovery Authority as the town's resource recovery authority pursuant to Chapter 103B sections 7-273A through 7-27300 of the Connecticut General Statute. Selectman Bunce explained that this is in regard to the transfer station. The MIRA contract that we had in place was initially supposed to end June 2027 – unfortunately, it is being dissolved June 2026. So, towns have come together and fast track some things to establish the NRRRA. The HRRRA out of Danbury offered to help for the next year to make sure we get off the ground and up and running. Salisbury, Falls Village and Norfolk as well as other towns have already joined. This will allow us to have a public option so not locked into only one company. This will give us multiple hauler options. This is also going to be a 1 vote system, so each town will have 1 vote ensuring the smaller towns do not get voted down by larger towns. Selectman Ohler and Selectperson Pinardi are both supportive of this.

Public comment: question regarding the cost would be. Kate Light from the transfer station stated she had not seen the NRRRA rates, but USA's projected rates seem unaffordable for North Canaan residents with tipping fees going up to \$25,000 in the next 5 years. Ms. Light stated she is in support of joining this option. She thanked everyone that gave her an opportunity to speak with them one on one over the weekend and for showing up in support of the transfer station.

Selectman Bunce stated that this is a non-binding contract so if we want to get out of it we can. We are not locked into it. It gives us options. The Northwest COG formed the NRRRA and broke off this section. There will be a representative from each town, likely the First Selectman and all the towns have a vote. This will not have anything to do with the size of a town.

2. Proposed acceptance of the State of Connecticut of a 27.45 acre parcel of land known as the Camp Brook parcel authorization to pay the state \$1000 for administrative and transference expenses. This is the land behind the Caddie Shack that goes over to Granger Lane. There has been disc golf on this for quite some time. We used to have a lease with the State but that did not get renewed. Geoff Drury has been working on this deal for 35 years. \$1000 nominal fee is rather good for the land to fall back to the town. Gives people a place to walk. No public comment.
3. Proposed acceptance from the State of Connecticut with a 9.45 acre parcel of land known as the South Greenway parcel and authorize to pay the state \$1000 for administrative and transference

expenses. This piece of land is behind Dave's Tire and goes over to the RR tracks. Unfortunately, this land did not make it up for a vote at the session this year. Stephen Harding pushed hard to try and get it but it did not happen. Selectman Bunce spoke with Maria Horn and some democrats and it seems like it will get pushed through next time around. But in speaking with the town attorney Randy DiBella, he said it would be best if we grouped these two parcels together and let the town vote so at least things are in place when this does go through. Selectman Bunce cautioned that this is not a done deal. The other piece the deed is waiting for us to be signed over. This one could push through a short session in the fall if not it will wait until 2027.

Public Comment: Craig Whiting stated he is 100% for getting this piece of land. As a former member of the fire company for 35 years and now a veteran member he feels it should not even be on the call because it failed to go through the legislative session. It is being used as political fodder. He stated he had conversations with Maria Horn and Stephen Harding and there is no guarantee it will come up again. We have never passed something that has not already been approved. We do not know what the State will do. They could raise the fee to \$1200 or take it away in a year. Mr. Whiting referred to a recent Board of Finance meeting where the chairman stated the rec commission should not put a lot of money into Segalla Field as the State could take it back at any time. So, until this gets passed by the State legislature it should not be on the ticket. It also will not streamline the process for the Fire company. Selectman Bunce explained because he ran this by the town counsel he is going to abide by what he determined to be best practice and the best interest of the town to put both parcels on the call at the same time.

There were no further public comments Selectman Bunce closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary