

Town of North Canaan

Office of the Town Clerk

Special Town Meeting

August 3, 2026

Attendees:

Krystian Segalla, Town Clerk

Jesse Bunce, First Selectman

Melissa Pinardi-Brown, Selectman

Elected Moderator: Brian Allyn (nominated and elected at meeting).

Town Clerk Krystian Segalla called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

- Moderator selection:
 - Nomination: Brian Allyn (nominated, seconded by Chris Jacques)
 - Nominations closed by voice vote.
 - Brian Allyn elected Moderator by voice vote.

Moderator announced that electors and citizens are warned of the Special Town Meeting to consider the following items (read aloud in full initially; then items considered individually):

1. Amend 2025–26 budget line item 001-40A00-0-799 (Town Council) — transfer funds within the 2025–26 budget to cover \$40,281.42 over budget.
2. Amend 2025–26 budget line item 001-40C003-0000-00-801 (Sand/Salt) — transfer funds within the 2025–26 budget to cover \$42,145.42 over budget.
3. Authorize tax exemption eligibility for veterans with service-connected, permanent and total disability based on individual unemployability, for primary residence, per Connecticut Public Act 24-26 (Section 240 of HB 7287).
4. Exempt from taxation any real or personal property in town leased to charitable/religious/nonprofit organizations (CGS 12-81(58) as amended), with related requirements (assessor information, written leases recorded with Town Clerk).
5. Approve purchase of a backhoe and tires for the transfer station up to \$60,000.
6. Capital improvement project: replace front concrete steps at Town Hall and relocate Town stock park; funded from LOCIP funds; approximate cost \$40,000.
7. Any other business proper to come before the Town Meeting.

Item 1- Budget transfer (Town Council) — \$40,281.42

- Motion to amend budget/transfer funds was made by Brian Allyn and seconded.
- Discussion / Point of Clarification: Nancy O'Connor raised procedural concerns:
 - Stated the Board of Finance had not approved the transfers nor were the transfers in the June minutes.
 - Noted the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026 and questioned voting on transfers before year end.
 - Cited in June minutes the treasurer would present transfers at the September Board of Finance meeting.
 - Raised statutory/procedural concerns under Connecticut General Statutes regarding Board of Finance approval preceding Town Meeting.
- Jesse Bunce stated the Town Attorney had reviewed the agenda but apparently did not confirm Board of Finance approval in the minutes.
- Determination by meeting leadership/board members: Items 1 and 2 should be tabled pending proper process/Board of Finance review.
- Motion to amend the original motion to table items 1 and 2 was moved from the floor (Christian Allyn indicated as the person who originally moved;) and seconded.
- Vote: Motion to table items 1 and 2 — carried by voice vote. (All those in favor said "aye"; none recorded opposed.)

Item 2 — Budget transfer (Sand/Salt) — \$42,145.42

- Consideration paused/tabled along with Item 1 as above.
- No further action taken on Item 2 at this meeting.

Item 3 - Veteran tax exemption ordinance (per PA 24-26 / HB 7287 §240)

- Motion to authorize the tax exemption was made and seconded by Marty McKay.
- Vote: Motion carried by voice vote. Item approved.

Item 4- Property tax exemption ordinance for leased property to exempt organizations (CGS 12-81(58) as amended)

- Motion to authorize property tax exemption was made and seconded.
- Vote: Motion carried by voice vote. Item approved

Item 5 – Backhoe Purchase for the Transfer Station

A motion was made and seconded to purchase a backhoe for the Transfer Station in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Discussion:

A resident commented that \$60,000 might not be sufficient to purchase a backhoe. Nancy O'Connor questioned whether the purchase, the specific amount, and the proposed funding source had been presented to the Board of Finance. She stated that the only related action she found in prior minutes was a motion to obtain three bids and suggested that the matter be tabled.

Another resident stated that the Transfer Station was in urgent need of a backhoe because the existing equipment was inadequate. Michael O'Connor clarified that the concern was not the need for the equipment, but whether the proper procedure had been followed.

Michael O'Connor moved to table the item. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote, with one opposed. Motion carried.

Item 6 – Capital Improvement Projects

The meeting considered taking action on capital improvement projects consisting of the relocation of the dog park and repairs to the concrete steps at Town Hall, with a total amount of \$40,000.

Melissa Pinardi Brown clarified that the two projects would be considered separately. She moved to divide Item 6 into the following two line items:

Item 6A: Relocation of the dog park

Item 6B: Repair of the concrete steps at Town Hall

The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Motion carried.

Item 6A – Relocation of the Dog Park

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the use of Local Capital Improvement Program funds for the relocation of the Town's dog park, at an approximate cost of \$6,800.

Discussion:

Heather Zucco asked why the funds could not instead be used for the Town pool or the Recreation Commission. It was stated that Ben Wohlfert had emailed First Selectman Jesse Bunce and volunteered to pay for the dog park to be moved because of the carnival.

Comments were made regarding the potential loss of the field for softball leagues and tournaments. Residents of Foote Avenue expressed concerns about increased vehicle traffic and the safety of neighborhood children if the dog park were relocated to the municipal property in that area. A resident also commented that the proposed location was wet during much of the year.

First Selectman Jesse Bunce displayed potential relocation areas on a projector and reiterated that the vote concerned the authorization of funds only and not the selection of a final location. He stated that four potential locations were being considered, including an area near Sam Eddy Field.

Following a comment from Rob Fife regarding possible tree clearing, Jesse Bunce clarified that no trees would need to be removed because cleared land was available. Discussion followed regarding whether land near Sam Eddy Field had previously been given or designated for use by the Boy Scouts.

Christian Wohlfert expressed concerns about locating the dog park on the municipal property on Foote Avenue because of the safety of neighborhood children. Michael O'Connor questioned why the Town was voting on the funding without knowing the final location. Additional discussion followed.

Jesse Bunce stated that three bids had been obtained for moving the fence and that the LOCIP funding had been approved. Discussion also occurred regarding the proper procedure under Robert's Rules of Order.

Michael O'Connor moved to proceed with a voice vote on the authorization of LOCIP funds. The motion was seconded. The voice vote was too close for the moderator to determine the result.

Brian Allyn moved that Items 6A and 6B be decided by official paper ballot. The motion was seconded.

Item 6B – Town Hall Concrete Steps

Discussion:

Maribeth Marchi, participating by Zoom, stated that funding for the Town Hall concrete steps had previously been allocated at a Board of Selectmen meeting in June 2024 through the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds. The minutes of that meeting were read aloud in full.

Discussion followed regarding the prior allocation and proposed use of ARPA funds.

Maribeth Marchi moved to table Item 6B. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Motion carried.

The moderator explained that the paper ballot would therefore include only Item 6A concerning the use of LOCIP funds to relocate the dog park.

Town Clerk Krystian Segalla and Registrars of Voters Rosemary Keilty and Patricia Keilty proceeded to a secure location to count the ballots. The ballots were counted twice, and the total number of ballots cast matched the number of recorded votes.

Paper Ballot Results

Item 6A – To authorize the use of LOCIP funds to relocate the Town's dog park to an alternative location

Total ballots cast: 113

Yes: 46

No: 65

Blank: 2

The motion failed.

Item 7 – Other Business

No action was taken.

Brian Allyn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krystian Segalla

Town Clerk-North Canaan

Received for Record 8/4/2026

3 p.m.

Krystian Segalla

Town Clerk