



Town of North Canaan

Board of Selectman

Special Meeting held at the North Canaan Transfer Station, West Main St, North Canaan

October 9, 2026

Present: First Selectman Jesse Bunce, Selectperson Melissa Pinardi, Selectman Chris Sorrell, Transfer Station attendant Kate Light

Selectman Bunce called the meeting to order at 4:36pm.

Selectperson Pinardi moved to enter into executive session at 4:37pm to discuss commercial hauler fees, inviting Kate Light and Ayrlea Odell to session. Selectman Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Selectman Bunce moved to come out of executive session at 5:15pm. Selectman Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Rick Ralph appeared before the board upon their return.

The select board explained that they discussed several options during executive session and have 2 possible options they would like to offer Mr. Ralph.

The list that Mr. Ralph gave the town of his clients has approximately 102 names on it and there are approximately 80 that do not have stickers. It is being suggested that Mr. Ralph put a note on or a letter with his next bill that includes the sticker price and explaining they need to buy a sticker. After 30 days if they have not purchased a sticker he will discontinue their garbage pickup. One other option would be for him to pay that total up front and then recoup the expense from his customers. Mr. Ralph indicated he does not have the funds to do that. The board explicitly reiterated to Mr. Ralph that the client list MUST be accurate and he should verify what he has given the town.

Ms. Light explained that they would eventually like to open the station up to other commercial haulers but have to have a solid plan in place.

Selectman Bunce gave the other option of weighing the truck over a specific time period and then averaging those out. Mr. Ralph feels that this would upset taxpayers.

Ms. Light stated that the list needs to include Mr. Ralph and his son as well as anyone else that he may have left off. Mr. Ralph has to enforce this with everyone and the suggestion was made that he give a list of pickups to his drivers to review, delete or add any customers to ensure more accuracy. There will be a reassessment by the town in January to see what has happened and if this has been successful.

There was a discussion of how other surrounding towns deal with their haulers and a discussion of how USA is picking up and where they are hauling to.

Ms. Light will check in with Mr. Ralph regularly and will ensure he has the increase letter prior to July 1.

Selectman Bunce moved to have all trash haulers in North Canaan be responsible for providing the town with a list of customers and having their customers purchase transfer station stickers. If it is found that the list is not accurate the town can terminate this process and begin charging all trucks set fees. The customer list must be made available to town to verify accuracy January 2027. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Railroad Street parking lot for new business discussion. Selectman Bunce has been working with the Zoning Enforcement Officer, looking at regulations and grant information that was used to build the municipal lot. Doug Humes did not produce literature but did state we cannot have a right of way to the lot; it would have to come from the road itself. Attorney Randy DiBella has looked into it and reminded the town that places like Industry rely on municipal parking for their business. Selectman Bunce read aloud the letter from Attorney DiBella indicating that he reviewed it and did not find an issue. The next zoning meeting is Tuesday. Consensus of the board is to wait until after the zoning meeting to make a decision. If they are allowed to use the municipal lot for parking they cannot put up signs specifically for their business. Selectperson Pinardi did see several of the spots being used this week. Zoning regulations state parking has to be within 300ft of the structure, which would include quite a large amount of spaces to the side and back. Selectman Sorrell suggested tabling this item until next board of selectman meeting.

Selectman Bunce received a letter from Tony Viscarello interested in joining the Rec Commission. This board cannot appoint him. Selectman Sorrell moved to recommend Tony to the Rec Commission for membership. Selectperson Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Light thanked the board for meeting and doing all of this work for the transfer station as this has been an issue that they have been trying to fix for a long time.

With nothing further to come before the board Selectman Bunce moved to adjourn. Selectman Sorrell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary