

Town of North Canaan
Board of Selectmen
Regular meeting
March 7, 2022

Present: First Selectman Charlie Perotti, Selectman Craig Whiting, Selectman Christian Allyn

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

Selectman Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2022. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Public comment: Discussion regarding dog licenses – town clerk report gave 201 done with 18 pending. Question what happens to people who don't get their dog licensed? The town clerk sent a list out to the animal control officers. Public would like an update each month as in her opinion there are many more dogs in town than 219. Selectman Perotti will keep getting report.

Selectman Perotti stated that he has received several complaints regarding potholes. The town crew is patching them as fast as they can, but the weather is not cooperative with keeping them filled. State road complaints need to go to the State.

1. Update on COVID 19 – the town hall is back to being open and mask requirements have been dropped. It is up to the departments discretion if they choose to wear masks or not. The town has several test kits and masks that can be given out to anyone who would like them. We continue to be in the red for the state, but the number of cases is dropping.
2. **Selectman Whiting made a motion to allow the First Selectman to bring the proposed purchase of the loader to the Board of Finance for approval. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was passed.**
3. The town received a letter from MIRA regarding recycling. Rates are going to be \$111 per ton instead of the \$116 per ton as previously noted. Transfer fees will be raised in order to keep up with some of the increasing costs. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of having every resident pay whether they pay for garbage collection or not. Selectman Whiting explained that there had been discussions of doing this thru tax collection, however, the tax collector thought there were certain legalities that would not allow it. It is a tricky situation. We do have to be stricter about bulky waste and Dinnie is working on getting a company to dispose of the refrigerators and freezers. Other towns simply do not accept them.
4. Budge workshop date is March 16 for the presentation of the municipal and education budgets at 7:30pm.
5. Affordable housing update – the town had a zoom forum on February 28. We have to put together a 5-year plan which is required by the State. After getting the survey results the biggest issue seems to be the lack of rentals.

6. Update on American Rescue Act – The next couple weeks we will be setting up initial meetings with the committee to begin talks. We have until 2024 to spend it. Some of the preliminary numbers would give the Fire dept, Ambulance and small businesses some of the funds. We are looking into how other towns are spending the money. Any non-profit wanting to be considered for funds should send in a letter. A survey is going to be done and sent out for input. There will eventually be public meetings.
7. Update from Housatonic River Commission – Selectman Allyn stated that the commission would like to set up a meeting with the Selectmen to focus on next steps for the former masonic lodge property. Tim Abbott first acknowledged that as he is also the chair of the planning and zoning commission he would step aside if needed so that there was not a conflict. Mr. Abbott spoke about the state of the property and how he envisioned it could possibly work. He stated that there is legislature in place for liability without fee for recreation so that should not be an issue. The town can ask for such things as the building being taken down, the well capped, etc. He believes the town holds a lot of cards in this. Discussion of who should be at the meeting. HVA can be a strong advocate for this. Otherwise, this property will just sit there unused. Selectman Whiting stated he does not feel like it is the towns problem to come up with a list for what should happen there. With a small-town crew and a small rec committee it isn't feasible for the town to maintain this. Further discussion about it being seasonal and perhaps doing a pass thru lease. The meeting should be open to the public as well. Selectman Perotti stated that the meeting can occur on April 4 at 6:00pm prior to our regular meeting.
8. Resident Trooper report read into record
9. Fire Marshall report read into record – **Selectman Allyn made a motion to deputize the three potential replacements to allow them to work with Robin. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was passed.** The three individuals will be interviewed.
10. Building Official report read into record
11. Social Services report read into record
12. ZEO report read into record. He is doing a great job.
13. Selectman Whiting report: The budget presentation will not be pretty we have a lot of things going on. We are working with transfer station to get that cleaned up. Please make sure you recycle. Charging to get rid of oil because it's been contaminated twice.
14. Selectman Allyn report: He received a complaint about Patty Lane and the next day it was patched. He is going to prune the tree in front of the library. March 29 at 6:00 pm at Geer there will be an exchange club dinner which is open to the public (dinner is \$10) for the purpose of learning about the new Community Health and Wellness Center that will be built on Rte. 44.
15. Selectman Perotti mentioned that the State has approved arrows at the stop light at the junction of 44 and 7. He will ask them to also do one turning left off of North Elm Street.

Selectman Whiting made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary