

Town of North Canaan
Board of Selectman
October 3, 2022

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

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

Selectman Whiting made a motion to approve minutes from September meeting. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Public Comment: Brush pickup will hopefully be this week. Several roads were recently black topped. Selectman Perotti received an email regarding the downtown road project from Michael McCue stating they have not received an official date yet and there is still work to be done. The town will be closing Bragg St and Prospect St for Halloween night. Selectman Perotti asked about the status of the blight ordinance. Selectman Allyn stated it is waiting on final review from the town attorney.

Town resident and town crew employee, Mike Simmons, addressed the Select Board expressing his concern regarding recent rumors that the Board of Finance is considering requesting that the town adjust the employee's health insurance program to have a portion be paid by the employees. Mr. Simmons explained his disappointment with this due to the town crew having lost an employee from 5 to 4 and they are the lowest paid town crew in Litchfield County. He has alerted the board that he will be fighting this if it comes to fruition.

1. Selectman Perotti needs to set the town meeting for October 24, 2022, at 7:00pm for the bear ordinance and having to move funds around to balance a line item for the tipping fee at the transfer station.
2. Affordable housing plan was worked on for the last year by several committee members (names read into record) Plan has to be done per the State. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to approve the Affordable Housing Plan. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
3. Tim Abbott Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board addressed the Board of Selectman regarding the PZ boards inability to make the deadline for a referendum for recreational cannabis for this election cycle. No one on the Zoning Board wishes to decide the outcome of this without hearing from as many residents as possible. Mr. Abbott intends to hold a workshop for the planning/zoning board next month on what the regulations would look like if the residents were in favor of it. The 8-month moratorium ends in February but could be extended if needed. There's a limited number of things that the board could do if it is desired by the public and they will look at them next month. Mr. Abbott recognizes it would be an expense to hold another referendum, so he has a couple of alternative actions to suggest. Adding the item to the town meeting this month to see what people would like or alternately having it as an agenda item at an upcoming Selectman's meeting and have residents voice their opinions. We cannot indefinitely have a moratorium, there has to be a yes or no decision. Selectman's Perotti and Allyn were in favor of adding it to the town meeting. Selectman Whiting is concerned that there isn't enough prep time and suggested having another town meeting in November and

handing out information to give residents more time. There could also be an online survey. Cheryl Duntz will connect with Evan to see about doing that. We have to ensure it is North Canaan residents responding to a survey. There could be a public hearing and a separate meeting after it to vote on it. Chairman Abbott will raise all of these options to the planning and zoning board. If they decide to have a November meeting it was suggested to do it November 21 with a time limit to ensure enough time after for a vote.

4. Selectman Perotti read into record a resolution regarding the town's opposition to the elimination of the maternity services at Sharon Hospital. There will be a zoom public hearing October 18 at 10:00am. **Selectman Whiting made a motion to sign and accept the resolution as read. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.** There will be a rally Sunday October 16, 2:00pm at the Sharon Town Green.
5. Selectman Perotti received a letter regarding the bear ordinance fees not being high enough. It was suggested to start at \$1000. Selectman Perotti is suggesting adjustments from \$100 to \$250, \$250, \$450. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to approve the adjustment of the fees. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.** Bear Ordinance will be brought to the town meeting. It can be put online, and all ordinances will be in the clerk's office for review as well.
6. Covid 19 vaccine dates at Housatonic Regional High School: October 7, 3:00pm to 7:00pm, October 28 3:00 to 7:00pm, November 18 3:00pm to 7:00pm
7. Flu vaccine clinic here at town hall Friday October 28, 2022, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
8. Household hazardous waste day October 8, 2022, 9:00 to 2:00 in Torrington
9. Parking restriction information was sent to all of the selectmen. Selectman Allyn suggested the board not make any decisions until after meeting with the CT Main Street Center. Selectman agreed. Selectman Perotti explained to the public that the State intended to vastly restrict parking on Main Street and Railroad Street.
10. Selectman Perotti applied for a STEAP grant of \$104339.53 from the State of CT. The town was awarded \$83471.62 and has to come up with their portion of \$20867.91. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to approve bringing this grant to the Board of Finance. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
11. Zoning Enforcement Officer report read into record
12. Resident Trooper is leaving as of Thursday. For personal reasons he has to take a different position. We will have an interim trooper until they appoint someone. Officer Bronson has done a great job.
13. Social Service report: All renters rebates done. People coming in for fuel assistance. Trying to find an oil company that will work with them.
14. Building Official report: read into record
15. Fire Marshall report: inspected town hall, other public buildings, gas stations in town
16. Selectman Whiting report: He will be doing another candy drive this year to give candy out to residents on the closed streets if they want it to hand out. There is a meeting next week to discuss the plan that Sam Herrick is going to propose for Region 1, although Selectman Whiting is not hopeful the rest of the region will agree on it. He has been speaking with Maria Horn and still researching the other regional school districts and looking for towns that are in the same position as North Canaan and will continue to research this. He is in touch with the Speaker of the House to keep him informed of the issues. Ms. Horn believes it will be a 2–5-year process.

Selectman Whiting agrees that the Board of Finance researching the town insurance is not worthwhile and feels that once they realize there is only 8 employees, and the town crew is the lowest paid in the county they will get a ton of resistance. The biggest expense is the \$5.5 million Region 1 budget and instead of going after the employees that keep the town running, they should concentrate on helping to lower this item. Other towns not only pay their town crew more, but they also give stipends for work shoes, etc. which North Canaan does not do. There was a discussion regarding this item. The Selectmen have the final say. Selectman Whiting also stated that the transfer station continues to be in his report regarding improving it.

17. Selectman Allyn: Agreed with everything said about the town crew and employees and offered that we have the best town crew around. The Main Street Center meeting will be midday. He will get the blight ordinance to Attorney Dibella and have him finalize it.

Selectman Allyn moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary