

Town of North Canaan
Board of Selectmen
December 5, 2022
Regular meeting

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

Selectman Perotti called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

Selectman Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes from November 1 and November 15. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Public Comment: A reminder there will be a zoom meeting tomorrow for the Sharon Hospital maternity ward situation – will likely be all day. 5K road race this Saturday sponsored by Great Falls Brewing. Selectman Perotti will be meeting with the solar installers on Wednesday regarding the transfer station site. A problem with a neighbor's chickens continues on Lawrence Avenue as well as homes having blight issues. We are still working on the blight ordinance. Selectman Perotti stated that the chickens roam into neighboring properties and into the road which could have the potential to be dangerous. He suggests the selectmen write a letter to the owner of the chickens explaining that there is the potential for car accidents when the chickens are in the road which could result in liability issues. The letter should go certified. There was a discussion regarding livestock and fowl. Letter is the first course of action. Sue Boults read into record a brochure detailing sample ordinances that some other towns have developed for back yard poultry. She will send to the selectmen.

Property sale of Camp Brook – Geoff Drury - The property has been taken off the sale listings. He has drafted a letter to send. Mr. Drury explained what has happened with the property from the start. The one thing that has recently happened is that the DOT did not comply with a statute regarding publishing notice for public comment regarding environmental value. Because they did not comply DEEP pulled the plug on the auction. He explained that the DOT now has to publish the property information and allow for the comment. Deadline for comments is December 9. The letter he drafted is for the Selectmen to review and sign/send. Several people have already made comments to the DEEP. Each selectman should reach out individually as well. There is now the possibility the town could see the property be conveyed to them for minimal to nothing if the DEEP deems it an environmental value to the town. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to send the letter as written. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

1. Selectman Perotti read into record an official communication he received from a resident regarding the use of the American Rescue funds, the STEEP grant funding, and the Railroad Station. The American Rescue money has been reviewed a few times with a committee and they have selected projects to be approved. In addition to those projects there was some money moved around to allow for black topping of some roads this past summer, and part of the money was allocated to pay the 20% town responsibility for the STEEP grant for the Canaan Childcare. The grant was awarded back in September however, until the contract is signed no money can be spent of that. The director of the childcare is aware of all of this haven been informed by Selectman Perotti. The contract is slated to be signed December 15. In regard to

the Railroad Station there has been no official word of what is happening with it yet. The town does not own the station. The government did approve the sale of the station with a lot of conditions including that the town would not have to pay back the \$2.9million in funding. The town attorney was here to go over all of the information with the selectmen. The association has not responded. The state still owes the town money and we want to make sure that we get that back from this project. There was continued discussion regarding this project. Selectman Whiting responded back to the official communication email.

2. **Selectman Whiting moved to approve the dates for next year as given out. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.** Next meeting is January 3 2023.
3. NGR has been in town working on catch basins, fixing the area by the doughboy, and cleaning up the pavers. The fire district is still waiting on the meter by the doughboy. The State acceptance for the signage in town has been sent into the DOT sign making division and is on their schedule to be done.
4. Thank you to all who participated and helped with the Parade of Lights especially John Lannen. Parade was a success.
5. Thank you to Jeff Wood and his wife for refurbishing parts of the sleigh and the new packages.
6. Letter from Jesse Warner resigning from animal control read into record. **Selectman Whiting moved to accept the resignation. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion approved.** We will work on getting a back up if needed.
7. **Selectman Allyn moved to approve the recommendation of Meaghan Bain to the North Canaan Housing Authority. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
8. A letter from a resident to the Rec department was read into record thanking them for putting lines on the tennis court for pickleball.
9. Zoning workshop on the possibility of cannabis in town will be here Wednesday evening. Masks are mandatory.
10. Resident trooper report: 231 calls in November
11. Building official Dept report read into record
12. Fire Marshall no report
13. Social Services report: VERY busy. Fuel assistance will be coming from Warren Fuel this year as more local companies were not able to assist due to state reimbursement system.
14. ZEO report read into record. He has passed his first session to become certified.
15. Selectman Whiting report: Elections were held recently at the Fire Company naming a new chief Mike Foley. Selectman Whiting read the names of the officers into record. We thank Brian Allyn, Sr. for 7 years as Chief. We have received a lot of calls regarding property re-evals. Some taxes will go up and others won't as there is the potential for a lower mil rate. He is meeting this week with Dr. Roy and the childcare director to go over their contract. Selectman Whiting encouraged residents having a hard time with fuel bills to come and talk to the town/social services. Please do not risk a structure fire and harm by using alternative forms of heat (for example stoves). Thank you to John Lannen and the town businesses – the town looks very nice with all of the lights and decorations.
16. Selectman Allyn report: The blight ordinance was brought back by the town attorney with several suggestions. He will be working on this Wednesday in the town hall and encourages individuals to come and discuss thoughts with him. The Zoning board has lost one of it's alternates due to resignation and the democratic committee as voted to recommend Steve Allyn

as the replacement. The minutes from that meeting however are not complete so it is not official yet. Selectman Allyn recused himself from that vote. A friends group board is being created for the former masonic lodge property. They will be coming together to look at next steps and what needs to be done. They will likely become a 501(c)3. Selectman Whiting stated that he is not in favor of Steve Allyn being voted on as an alternate to the zoning board. The town voted not to elect him again to that board at the last election and he cannot turn around and put him back in that board. It would not look good for the town officials to do this. He will vote no. Selectman Perotti agreed. There are already 2 alternates that go to the zoning meetings and the Chairman of that board has assured them he is not in jeopardy without a third alternate. Selectman Allyn will bring this information back to the democratic committee.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary