

Town of North Canaan
Board of Selectmen
March 6, 2023
Regular Meeting

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

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

Amendment to the February 6, 2023, minutes – should read the regional sports program is based on school enrollment in 7th and 8th grade, not the high school. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendment. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Public Comment: Welcome Riley Klein new reporter for the Lakeville Journal.

Question will we pave the entrance to the transfer station. It is on the list to be done when we are financially able to do so. There is a grant writer to look at things including paving.

Selectman Perotti met this morning regarding the transfer station solar panels. They are submitting new request March 14th. They had to redesign the project because the DEEP regs changed on how many can go on the cell. If the plan is approved, we will receive \$28,000 per year for 20 years. This would go into the general fund.

Proposed ordinance for free range poultry. Add to the agenda as #10.

North Canaan Fire Department Mike Foley and Steve Hutchins present to discuss their request for additional budget amount. Steve stated that they are looking for an increase of \$50,000 to bring the total up to \$130,000. Costs have gone up. Truck maintenance and rebuild of the pump truck looking at at least \$56,000 this year. New equipment needs to be purchased – some items such as PPE/air packs have expiration dates on them. The expenditures will still be over \$130,000 but hoping that with fundraising etc. they will be ok. Physicals, although a separate line item, have gone up. They are required by OSHA for every person in the department to be done yearly. Replacement of the ladder truck (in about 7-8 years) current cost is \$1.3mil and will probably be around \$1.7mil when it comes due in a few years. Refurbishing trucks to bring them up to standards is approximately 75%-80% of a new truck. The fire department has a grant writing program established and they are working on obtaining a 501 (c) 3 in order to pinch pennies where they can. A discussion regarding the pension program vs tax program ensued. Mr. Hutchins will send Charlie the information they have regarding the proposed tax program for members. This would reduce the pension amount. The department is also starting to think about the facility which is not big enough for a new ladder truck. A decision will have to be made within the next 8 years or so. Selectman Whiting suggested that they come to the budget workshops to answer any questions regarding funding.

Reminder: March 22, 2023, at 7:30 will be the presentation of the municipal budget as well as the school budgets. This is just the presentations.

Social Services report read into record by Selectman Perotti

Resident Trooper report read into record by Selectman Perotti

Building Official report read into record by Selectman Perotti

Zoning Enforcement Officer report read into record by Selectman Perotti

Fire Marshall no report

Selectman Whiting report: updated the calendar and put the page link on the North Canaan Facebook page. The promotional town video done by Ted Perotti is posted now and has had positive response. The State picked up trash on

Route 44 so we can have our trash clean up date in April or May. Regarding the tree budget there are a bunch of trees that need to be looked at on Emmons Lane and a lot of other dying trees on other roads. Eversource will be working on trees in Green Acres. Selectman Perotti sent today to Eversource a list of trees that need to be looked at for possible work. We are looking into borrowing some equipment to do hybrid meetings. Currently the EDC is the only committee doing hybrid meetings.

Selectman Allyn report: The selectmen recently were at the ground breaking at the Community Health and Wellness site. The blight ordinance is ready, just waiting on a response from the town attorney regarding posting. The Exchange club is meeting again March 28, 6:00pm at the Great Falls event space. They will show the Ted Perotti video and ask him to attend and speak. Friends of the Canaan History Center want to launch a fundraiser using go-fund me for purchasing flags to be mounted on poles in town. Individuals could sponsor a flag similar to the way the small holiday trees are sponsored. They are looking to launch within the next couple weeks and close at the end of April in order for the flags to be up before Memorial Day. The flags would be \$40. Is the town crew capable of mounting them? Paul Ramuni is interested in hosting a unity part at the museum for a get together and maybe we could coordinate it with trash collection date. The Democratic Town Committee has not written the letter regarding support of Steven Allyn as a Zoning Board alternate as the chairperson has been ill. Letter will likely come in April. In regard to the promotional video Selectman Allyn would be interested in creating a town you-tube channel. Would like to include the Robin Hood Radio/tv videos if there is a way to add them to a you-tube channel. There was a discussion regarding the ability to do this. Selectman Whiting will find out if this is possible. There was a discussion of the Ruggles landing and organizing a conservation commission in town. Selectman Allyn read into record a letter regarding herbicide spraying along the railroad tracks. Selectman Allyn recommends a no spray zone for shrub only and we cannot regulate on the tracks. He will bring the maps to the selectmen to review and come up with a no spray zone. This has been an ongoing issue for year. Brian Ohler was involved in this issue back in 2017.

Selectman Perotti read into record the proposed ordinance for Limitations on Free Ranging Poultry. Animal control would likely be enforcement on that. **Selectman Whiting moved to accept the ordinance. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary