Present: First Selectman Brian Ohler, Craig Whiting, Jesse Bunce

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

**Selectman Whiting moved to accept the agenda. Selectman Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Selectman Whiting moved to accept the minutes from April 1 meeting. Selectman Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Positive Community News: Lindsey Crane thanked Craig Whiting and Ron Carpenter for cleaning the tennis courts this past weekend. They look great. Thank you to Laurel Brook Natural Resources for use of their power washer. The Fire Co. will be rinsing them off tomorrow night. PK is going to rebuild the backstop and will be donating some pickleball stuff. Selectman Ohler stated that April saw a lot of volunteer opportunities. There were over 70 people in attendance for the cleanup day and it was a remarkable effort. Thank you to Mountainside for donating the refreshments. Thank you to Jessica Serna for spearheading the effort.

Public Comment: The Events Committee has several upcoming events. May 18 is Springfest. Other upcoming events include the community tag sale and the 60th anniversary of Railroad Days. Tomorrow evening is the round table for the events committee at 6:30 at the art bar. Everyone is welcome to come and contribute. There was a question regarding the school funding law change and how it will change money received from the state. Selectman Ohler stated that in working with the State Board of Education numbers will be hashed out once a plan is in place. Reminder the budget public hearing is next Wednesday the 15th.

Selectman Ohler read into record the municipal agent appointment letter which was received from the state. This is an agent for the elderly and the social worker Sharon has agreed to fill this appointment. **Selectman Bunce moved to appoint Sharon to this position. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Town Hall elections/referendums: historically, it has been commonplace to close the town hall for elections and referendums. Recently the 2 registrars met with the Secretary of
State’s office and were informed that it is not necessary for the offices to close. Going forward the Town Hall will be open although some offices have opted to close. Tomorrow is the referendum from 12pm to 8pm. During municipal elections, any elected officials on the ballot that work in the town will need to stay in their office during the elections so as not to influence the public.

Small business summit/EDC: At the most recent EDC meeting there was a conversation regarding having a small business summit along with the EDC as an opportunity for networking and to show the resources for businesses. There will be speakers from the State to show what is available on a state level. Selectman Ohler would like to ask the theater if it is available for that day. There are other events on that date as well.

Affordable Housing: There was a committee that created the North Canaan Affordability Plan that was a mandate from the State. Jocelyn Ayr helped the committee. It is a 5-year plan ending in 2027. It lays out the groundwork on how to get more affordable housing in North Canaan. Selectman Ohler would like to get the committee back together (or invite new members) to begin implementing the plan. Brief discussion occurred.

Veteran Service Officer: There is a direct liaison with the town to the VA who help with handling caseloads, disability concerns, pension work, etc. The liaison from Waterbury will speak with the VFW and the hope is to give 1 day a month in town either at the town hall or the VFW to help veterans.

Memorial Day: Parade lineup is 10:30. The doughboy work will be unveiled. There will be recognitions.

May 18 – the town has reserved a towable lift and will be repainting the flag poles in town. Thank you to Jaquier Welding for the new flagpole.

Connecticut Crack and Seal: Several roads were assessed and are now slated to be done. Selectman Ohler explained what is happening with Lower Rd. There is a lot of restructuring work that has to happen.

Old Turnpike South: An engineer will be looking at the lateral piping. The belief is it needs to be cleaned out as it is not draining correctly. Once it is cleaned out it will be assessed again. Hopefully, it will help with some of the water coming down the hill.

Town is looking into pricing for LED flashing lights for the crosswalks. They would be solar.

The fiscal year budget process is coming to a close. The public hearing is May 15 at 7:00pm

Selectman Ohler read the Fire Marshal report into record.

Selectman Ohler read the building official report into record.
Community Health and Wellness received its Certificate of Occupancy. There will be an open house event on May 11 at 10:00am.

Selectman Ohler read the ZEO report into record.

There was no report from the Resident Trooper.

Selectman Ohler read the Social Worker report into record.

Selectman Whiting report: He wanted to review the Salisbury dumpster ordinance. Their ordinance addresses dumpsters and bears. During the recent town clean up several bags of garbage were collected behind McDonalds, the mess being caused by bears taking garbage out of the dumpsters. Selectman Whiting would like to work on an ordinance to address this. The tax incentive plan is with the EDC and waiting for their feedback. Selectman Ohler will be speaking with Maria Horn after the session ends. He is working on the narrative for the state for changing the law. The highway department is waiting on numbers for their truck. A discussion was had with Brian at the transfer station regarding being rid of the natural debris pile- perhaps making wood chips. Selectman Whiting gave out a draft bid process for any non-emergency project for the members to look over and edit/give feedback. If it can be approved soon, this as well as the tax incentive can be brought to a town meeting. Selectman Whiting was recently accused of editing zoom videos. He is going on record to state he has never edited a video before it was aired.

Selectman Bunce report: Several meetings were attended. EDC is in favor of the honey hill development and is reviewing the tax incentive plan. The Events Committee discussed ideas for the trunk or treat and including town businesses and possible pumpkin carving contest. Also a possible event of a community bonfire. He spoke with the Fire Chief and they are willing to be there for safety. A couple of venue ideas including the transfer station were discussed. Selectman Ohler doesn’t feel comfortable having people at the transfer station after hours due to liability issues. The events and recreation committees are both on board for an event possibly in the fall and discussed including a flag burning ceremony with the boy scouts. Selectman Ohler stated that that ceremony probably would not be a good idea as they have a special process and do it at the VFW, but if a venue can be found for a bonfire event it could be planned out. Selectman Bunce met with Tom Zettestrom about the greenway project. They are going to walk around and see how they could use grant money. The Selectmen were at the arbor day ceremony. There was discussions of putting a donated tree behind the theater. Jack Scott would like to delay the fixing of the Graceway paving as he is having well issues and maybe connecting to aquarion water. Selectman Bunce spoke with Dr. Roy and the ZEO regarding the playground. The town has to apply for a permit to be on file but will not have to pay for anything. Selectman Bunce’s
company will be removing the pickleball wall to make way for a new one to go back up. He was approached about the failing sidewalks in town. Selectman Ohler stated that the sidewalk from McDonalds to the firehouse and in front of the doughboy will be redone this summer. The AARPA funds meeting didn’t happen, but there is no June deadline. He questioned the status of grants applied for; they are in progress.

Public Comment: The Old Turnpike South engineer will be out after Memorial Day. Selectman Ohler would like the residents to be part of that. They are coming up with a plan for Camp Brook. Cheryl Duntz thanked Craig for the years of taping that he has done and getting them posted for residents. It is a courtesy to the town and not required.

Why is there no report from the resident trooper? Selectman Ohler does not know why he hasn’t sent one in. He is aware of the deadline. It was suggested that he could be called by a resident to find out what is going on with the program.

The grants that are in progress are a micro transit one, a fiber/broadband one, and a CT Community fund for summer programs.

Suggestion for sandwich boards in front of Romas to remind about no parking. They are trying to get that crosswalk removed and have the crosswalk near the post office moved closer to the bank.

The resident trooper is not a town employee, his supervisor is the Lieutenant at the barracks.

Lawrence Field update - they are getting quotes to put up a fence.

2 letters were given to Selectman Ohler. They were not read into record.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary