

Town of North Canaan
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
June 1, 2020, 7:00pm via zoom technology

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

Meeting was called to order 7:03pm

Selectman Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion with 2 amendments. Motion was approved.

Public comment:

Selectman Perotti spoke with John Lannen and Selectman Whiting should have access to the town facebook page soon.

A letter was received from Catherine Aakjar regarding using the field near the municipal parking lot for a community victory garden to help residents. The selectmen all agree it is a good idea. If any formalization needs to happen it can be done at the next meeting.

1. Kirt Mayland from the solar panel project here to discuss how the plans are going along. Mr. Kirkland spoke with neighbors (Mr. Crane's son) and there does not seem to be an issue with anyone. He discussed a possible temporary access to Mr. Duntz on his property and he was fine with it as well. It is very difficult to see from the abutting properties. They would like the town to do a letter of support to send to the siting council. They were instructed to send to the selectman office and Selectman Perotti will sign. They are on the planning and zoning agenda for the next meeting even though they do not have to follow town regs because they go thru the siting council. They had had a team of environmentalists check property to make sure that there is no impact on the environment. There was a brief discussion of elevations.
2. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to approve the renewal of the lease to the North Canaan-Canaan Little League Inc. for the sum of \$1.00 for the parcel of land located upon the school property. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
3. **Selectman Whiting made a motion to designate the bank in which Town Funds are to be deposited from a list of banks. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
4. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow such sums as may be necessary to fund ordinary expenses of the Town of North Canaan. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
5. The 20-21 budget was passed for a total of \$11,533,473 and the mill rate remained the same as last year.
6. Selectman Perotti has had conversations regarding the disc golf and will continue discussions regarding insurance etc. now that it has opened back up to groups of less than 5. A letter was sent to the state regarding the use of land that is leased to the town.

7. The town hall will possibly begin reopening around June 20. Precautions have been put in place including Plexiglas barriers and hand sanitizing stations. The library may open too. Groups of less than 10 have been ok'd. The planning and zoning plan on having their next meeting in the town hall. Selectman July meeting will hopefully be in the town hall as well.
8. The governor would like each town to come up with a committee of a few people for long-term recovery. Selectman Allyn recommended Chris Tippler and he and Selectman Whiting would like to be part of it. Selectman Whiting mentioned that this is going to hit the fire department hard this year as their fundraising efforts are not going to happen due to the virus.
9. It was decided to cancel Railroad Days this year due to everything going on. We may try and do something later in the year.
10. Selectman Perotti spoke with the town trooper regarding the parking fees and he stated they are much better. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to accept the parking fee ordinance. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
11. Transfer stickers this year will be slightly more than last year. Will not be on sale until July 1 – still have to have them printed. **Selectman Whiting made a motion to accept the sticker prices. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**
12. Update on COVID-19: The state says Canaan has had 5 cases and 1 death. Selectman Perotti has spoken with Adam Bunce about the pool. They are working on having the leak fixed now that it has been discovered. They are waiting on guidelines on opening the pool – as well as playgrounds.
13. Resident Trooper update had 159 calls in May
14. Building official update: construction costs were \$255,751 and permits were \$1834. Things are going ok.
15. Update from Selectman Whiting: We have submitted COVID expenses to the state and have been diligent about expense tracking. Thank you to Tom Zettstrom for his work on the tree for Fred Hall. He received a message that the boy scouts are looking for projects this summer as camps are being cancelled. The fire company fundraising would have helped cover air packs and turnout gear which is outdated. Going to be hard hit. Appeal which usually brings in a good amount of motion may not do as well this year either. Because we cannot hold a town meeting on the ordinances the thought is to do it similar to the budgets and allow the public to send in concerns etc before the selectmen pass or deny them. Stadium Systems were able to redirect their employees to create masks and aprons for Geer. Other local businesses have done similar things – Hotchkiss School gave food to fishes and loaves. As of right now the State Convention is still on but the fire department is keeping expenses down in case it is cancelled.
16. Update from Selectman Allyn: He would like to see in the minutes an appreciation spot for individuals that should get recognition. Selectmen are in agreement with this. The DOT railroad crossing project is still moving forward currently. A grant was pursued to get the HUB going again if it works out. Perhaps a boy scout project could be to work with the community garden.
17. Selectman Perotti stated that the North Canaan food truck distribution has been cancelled.

Public Comment: Sally Greene asked about the ZEO – there have been no applicants, therefore the entire commission continues as the ZEO. There was a brief discussion regarding the planning and zoning

meeting and having both in person (for a few people) and zoom for anyone else who wants to attend as there can be no more than 10 people in the meeting. Ms. Greene also is looking for a place for direct food donation to people in Canaan – The food pantry or Fishes and Loaves. Selectman Perotti said that BJ Christinat (town social worker) has not had many calls

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

Respectfully submitted

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary