The Annual Budget Meeting of the Canaan Fire District was held at the North Canaan Town Hall on Monday, June 28th, 2021, at 7:00 o’clock P.M. (E.S.T.).

The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by Warden Anthony J. Nania, who acted as Moderator. A quorum of 16 District voters was present.

The Moderator read the call of the meeting and reported that a copy thereof, signed by the Warden, had been posted on the District bulletin board on May 7th, 2021, and that a copy thereof had been published in the Torrington Register-Citizen, a newspaper published in Torrington, Connecticut and having a general circulation in the District, as well as the Lakeville Journal in their issue of May 7th, 2021.

The Moderator stated that in accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, only an elector of the District or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the District for taxes assessed against him based on an assessment of not less than $1,000 on the last completed grand list of the District or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran, would be entitled to vote at the meeting. The Moderator announced that 16 duly qualified voters of the Fire District were present, and that such number constituted a quorum for the transaction of business in accordance with the applicable State statutes.

Warden Nania opened the meeting with a summary of the ongoing tax issue with BD and Specialty Minerals. The history of this tax issue has been described in multiple CFD meetings in the past, but in summary, in 2019 BD claimed a capital equipment exemption on their Fire District taxes retroactive for multiple years. This would have the impact of significantly decreasing the yearly revenue of the District, as well as requiring reimbursement for the years claimed by BD. The CFD disagreed with the claims by BD, and attempted to work out a compromise, which included the involvement of local and state legislators. The District worked out a compromise with BD for the existing claims, but has also worked with the CT Legislature for a long term solution. The legislature passed a bill which would re-imburse the District for the amount of this exemption, but would need to be re-applied for every two years. BD was allowed to claim an exemption of $104,000 for 2021-2022, which will impact the CFD budget for that period.

With that history reviewed, Warden Nania moved on to the 2021-2022 CFD budget. One key point on this budget is the inclusion of the $100,000 revenue labeled “Payment in Lieu of Taxes”. This refers to the reimbursement from the CT legislature as described above. Warden Nania then moved on to an item-by-item description of the proposed budget. This proposed budget led to an estimated surplus of $25,552.00. The tax rate for the District would remain unchanged at 0.0022 mils, while the sewer user charge would increase from $330.00 up to $365.00.

Completing the summary of the proposed budget, Warden Nania then opened the meeting up to questions from the voters.

District voter Ms. Duntz had a question regarding the $400,000 for sidewalks, if this was to be used for repair and when the last repair had been completed. The warden indicated that the $400,000 was a grant specific to the Mountainside sidewalk extension, but an additional $75,000 was for in-town sidewalk repair. The last repairs took place roughly 2-3 years ago.

Ms. Duntz had an additional question regarding the District giving funds to the town Beautification Committee in the amount of $1250.00. Warden Nania indicated this was yearly donation from the District to the
Committee, with voter Geoff Drury providing additional historical context.

There being no further questions or comments regarding the budget, upon motion duly made by Mr. Gow, seconded by Mr. Considine and carried unanimously, the 2021-2022 budget for the Canaan Fire District was approved.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made by Mr. Devino, seconded by Mr. Segalla and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Todd M. Shearer, Clerk