

## CANAAN FIRE DISTRICT

### DRAFT Minutes of Annual District Meeting held March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Canaan Fire District was held at the North Canaan Town Hall on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock P.M. (E.S.T.).

The meeting was called to order by Warden Anthony J. Nania, who acted as Moderator.

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 February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 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 February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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 15 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 began the meeting by reviewing the agenda items for the meeting.

Regarding the agenda item for legal depository for the District, upon motion duly made by Mr. Gow, seconded by Mr. Devino and unanimously carried, Salisbury Bank and Trust Company, along with Peoples Bank, were named as legal depository of District funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

Regarding the agenda item for auditor for the District, upon motion duly made by Mr. Johannesen, seconded by Mr. Gow and unanimously carried, Sinnamon & Associates, LLC was named as auditor to inspect the accounts of the Canaan Fire District for such fiscal year.

Warden Nania indicated there were three seats open on the Executive Committee of the Canaan Fire District. Mr. Shearer read to those in attendance the names of the candidates who had submitted their names with the proper 10 day notification period. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Riva, seconded by Mr. Gow and unanimously carried, the following individuals were elected to the Executive Committee, to serve until their successors have been duly elected and have qualified:

Executive Committee    Anthony J. Nania

Executive Committee    Richard Crane Jr.

Executive Committee    Todd Shearer

Warden Nania next announced the open officer positions on the Executive Committee of the Canaan Fire District; Warden, Treasurer and Clerk. Mr. Shearer read to those in attendance the names of the candidates who had submitted their names with the proper 10 day notification period. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Devino, seconded by Mr. Minacci and unanimously carried, the following individuals were elected as officers of the Executive Committee, to serve until their successors have been duly elected and have qualified:

Warden	Anthony J. Nania
Treasurer	Richard Crane Jr.
Clerk	Todd Shearer

There being no further agenda items, Warden Nania opened the meeting up to questions from voters in attendance.

Voter Michael Reagan of 280 North Elm street had a series of questions which he posed to the committee.

- Question (Mr. Reagan): What is the current sewer user charge, and how is it calculated?
  - Response (Warden Nania): \$365.00/50,000 gallons. Over 200,000 gallons @ \$365.00/50,000 gallons.
  - Response (Mr. Minacci): Recommended speaking with District assessor Bonnie English.
  - Additional ongoing discussion of how to characterize housing unit for B-n-B.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Are there two Districts within the Canaan Fire District?
  - Response (Warden Nania): Yes, the sewer district and the Fire District. Sewer deals with sewer only, Fire District deals with sidewalks, lighting and fire hydrants. Warden Nania provided a brief description of the history of the District and how it came to be in its current form.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Why is the rate of charges from last year's budget not equal to Income – Expenditures?
  - Response (Warden Nania): It is, but needs to account for Grand List only in the CFD. The warden also reviewed how infrequently the CFD increases its rate. We're also continuing to work to bring in grants to the District.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Wants to understand the taxes in more depth. Why can't the District charge an incremental rate based on usage rather than the flat rate?
  - Response (Warden Nania): The CFD sets a sewer user charge independent of the CFD taxes.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Mr. Reagan had a question related to testimony given by Warden Nania in March to the budget committee.
  - Response (Warden Nania): Clarified his testimony.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Does the District have a multi-year plan for sidewalks?
  - Response (Warden Nania): Warden Nania re-iterated that Canaan has the best/most extensive sidewalks in the area. The District has had a difficult 2 years due to the BD tax situation, but currently have \$75,000 in the budget for maintenance.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Is there a plan for new sidewalks, or upgrades to existing?
  - Response (Warden Nania): Yes, there are state funds for the rail-road crossing, along with other upgrades and maintenance.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Is there a 20-year plan or a 50-year plan for sidewalks in Canaan?
  - Response (Warden Nania): Canaan is a small town, and we have to respond to existing problems as they come up. We agree that North Elm could use a sidewalk, but this needs to be considered in the context of the overall sidewalk needs of the town.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Finds it hard to get information about the District. Trying to ask all of his questions at this time.
  - Response (Warden Nania): Appreciate the questions, but needs to bring this meeting to a close.
  - Response (Mr. Reagan): Objects to being shut down, and wants to continue with questions.
  - Response (Ms. Nealy): Supports Mike continuing questions.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Is the CFD a Municipal Corporation?
  - Response (Warden Nania): Explained the background and makeup of the CFD.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): Is there a map of the CFD that can be viewed by the public.
  - Response (Warden Nania): There are many maps, not a single map. The maps are added on as the CFD grows, so this is likely 25 total maps for the District.

- Question (Mr. Reagan): Can he view the maps.
  - Response (Warden Nania): This is not easy, and it's not in a form for the public. If this is the desire of the public, it would cost District money to have the maps put in a form for public viewing.
- Question (Mr. Reagan): What is the minimum distance for hydrants within the District.
  - Response (Warden Nania): Unsure of this. Most likely a state decision.

Final comments were added by Ms. Nealy and Ms. Duncie. Ms. Nealy asked that the by-laws for the District be put online. Ms. Duncie indicated that meeting minutes would be posted online at the town website.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made by Mr. Johannesen, seconded by Mr. Devino and unanimously carried, it was voted to adjourn at 7:46 o'clock P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Todd M. Shearer, Clerk