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# **MINUTES Of CANAAN**

## **Town Meeting Deliberative Session**

### **February 8, 2020**

## REPORT OF TOWN MEETING DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 8, 2020

The Deliberative Session of the Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Dale Barney at the Canaan Elementary School, February 8, 2020 at 9:01 am. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Moderator read the rules: 1) no smoking on the premises; 2) only legally registered voters from Canaan may exercise their voting rights; 3) a person must be recognized by the chair prior to speaking and then should direct all comments through the Moderator; 4) all discussion must be related to the article on the floor; 5) there can only be one amendment at a time on the floor; 6) amendments must be in writing; 7) negative motions will not be accepted; 8) the right to speak as well as the right to be heard will be respected; 9) comments should be limited to three minutes or less; and 10) five or more signatures will be required for a petition for a paper ballot on any article.

The Moderator asked for a moment of silence to honor the men and women in the military.

### Article 02 General Fund Appropriation

Shall the Town of Canaan raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,036,477, with \$50,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2019? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,902,604, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article

*A motion to open Article 2 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Stephen Freese. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 2 be placed on the ballot as written.*

### Article 03 Water & Sewer

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred and Seventeen Dollars (\$194,617) for Water and Sewer Operations for the Town of Canaan with \$97,348 to be raised and appropriated for Water and \$97,269 to be raised and appropriated for Sewer. These funds are raised by Water and Sewer user fees with no amount to come from property taxes. (Majority vote required.)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article

No additional property tax impact. User fees fund these programs. No anticipated increase or decrease in user fees.

*A motion to open Article 3 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Charles Townsend. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 3 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 04 Purchase 10 Wheel Dump Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of One Hundred Eighty Thousand dollars (\$180,000.00) for the purchase of a 10 Wheel Dump Truck to replace the 2005 International 10 Wheel Dump Truck #104; and further, of this total, to authorize the withdrawal of up to One Hundred Eighty Thousand dollars (\$180,000.00) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with no additional amount to be raised by taxation. Any trade in value or proceeds from the sale of the old truck is to be applied to reduce the purchase price to be within the appropriated \$180,000. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 1 Recommends this article

No additional property tax impact.

*A motion to open Article 4 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Nelson Therriault. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 4 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 05 Purchase Police Cruiser**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of Thirty Seven Thousand dollars (\$37,000.00) for the purchase of a new 4 wheel drive police vehicle to replace the 2013 Ford Taurus Interceptor; and further, of this total, to authorize the withdrawal of up to Thirty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$37,000.00) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, with no additional amount to be raised by taxation. Any trade in value or proceeds from the sale of the old cruiser is to be applied to reduce the purchase price to be within the appropriated \$37,000. (Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article

No property tax impact.

*A motion to open Article 5 for discussion was made by Stephen Freese, second by David McAlister. Carolann Morrison asked why the vehicles that we buy are more expensive than regular vehicles. Mike Samson explained that the town does get discounts on the vehicles. But the vehicles need to be heavy duty because of the wear and tear on them and they have to last for a minimum of 8 years. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 5 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 06 Appropriate NH Municipal Aid Money for Paving**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Seven Dollars (\$71,357.00) to be used for paving in 2020 and shall be in addition to money budgeted in the General Fund Road Construction Budget. The amount to be raised shall be appropriated from the 2019 HB 4 Municipal Aid that is received from the State of



New Hampshire in 2020 and is budgeted in the 2020 Revenue Budget. No additional taxes will be raised to support this appropriation. (Majority vote required)  
The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article  
The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article  
No property tax impact.

*A motion to open Article 6 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Nelson Therriault. Mike Samson explained that this is a one-time grant from the State of New Hampshire. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 6 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 07 Appropriate Flood Mitigation Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Seven Million Five Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$7,510,000). This appropriation will be used for flood mitigation improvements in Canaan that will replace two bridges (Transfer Station & Potato Road), two railroad trestles (Behind Williams Field and Barney Residence), a sewer pump station and install a new bridge on Potato Road. One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000.00) of this appropriation will come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019 (surplus). The balance of this amount will come from a US Economic Development Administration grant of \$6,008,000 and \$1,387,000 in NH DOT funding. The funding for this article will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation. This appropriation is conditioned on receipt of sufficient State and Federal funding. This article is to be non-lapsing through 2022. (Majority vote required.)  
The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article  
The Budget Committee Yes 7 No 1 Recommends this article  
No property tax impact.

*A motion to open Article 7 for discussion was made by Stephen Freese, second by Alan Ricard. Mike Samson gave an explanation about the long term plan for flood prevention by replacing the Transfer Station bridge and the Potato Road bridge and elevating Potato road. Increasing the width of the railroad trestles and removing the pilings on the trestles. The Town would like to see the Route 4 bridge by the Canaan Pizza replaced, but it is not included in this article. The Town needs to flood proof the sewer pump station and put rip-rap on Orange Brook by the Transfer Station. Carolann Morrison and Claude Lemoi asked that the voters support this article. Claude asked if there was anything that the people of Canaan can do to help get these grants. Mike said that we just have to wait and see what happens. Al Posnanski said that we need to support the warrant article and get other citizens to support it. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 7 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 08 Appropriate to Bridge Capital Reserve Account**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to be added to the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund with the Governing Body (the Selectmen) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be



raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article

*A motion to open Article 8 for discussion was made by Stephen Freese, second by Amy Thurber. Mike Samson explained that 2019 had a huge impact on the Unassigned Fund Balance and that we need to build up the Capital Reserve fund again. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 8 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 09 Appropriate to Revaluation Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund with the Governing Body (the Selectmen) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article

*A motion to open Article 9 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Denis Salvail. Helen Skeist asked why Article 8 and Article 9 did not have the “No property tax impact” at the end like the other articles? Mike said they should have, but it is difficult at this time to change it. We have to have approval by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) when we change an article. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 9 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 10 Adopt All Veterans Tax Credit**

Shall the voters of Canaan vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$200, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Canaan under RSA 72:28.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article

*A motion to open Article 10 for discussion was made by Alan Ricard, second by David McAlister. Mike Samson explained that we do have a Veterans Tax Credit in place but it is restrictive and this opens it up to accept more Veterans. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 10 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 11 Exemption for Wind, Solar, Wood Energy By Petition**

To see if the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems,

wind powered energy systems or wood heating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of the assessed value qualifying equipment under these statutes. (Majority vote required) By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

*A motion to open Article 11 for discussion was made by Charles Townsend, second by Bob Scott. Hope Strainnell explained that over 100 municipalities have adopted this. The goal is to encourage people to use alternative power, not discourage it. She asked everyone to support this article. Sharon Everett wanted to know why the Selectmen do not recommend? Dave McAlister indicated that these items add value to the property so therefore should be taxed. Al Posnanski agreed with that. Scott Borthwick said that many people are not in favor of wind mills and it might look like we are encouraging that with this article. Alice Schori asked if we needed to amend the wording because of the repetition of certain words. Mike Samson explained again that it is very difficult to change the articles because we need the approval of DRA to change anything. We do not have control over the method. And if the DRA does not approve of a change the article will not be accepted by them. Helen Skeist said that this is very discouraging and that we have always been able to make changes. That is why the town holds the deliberative session. Eleanor Davis said that people can come to the public hearing and change articles before they are submitted to the DRA. There was general agreement that we need to change the wording in this article. Stephen Freese made a motion to amend Article 11 as follows, second by Jamie Jukowski:*

**“Article 11 Exemption for Wind, Solar, Wood Energy By Petition**

**To see if the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property’s assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems, wind powered energy systems or woodheating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of the qualifying equipment under these statutes. (Majority vote required) By Petition.**

**The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article”**

*Voted and the ayes have it. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 11 be place on the ballot as amended.*

*Mike Samson made a motion to reopen articles 8 and 9 to add the language at the end, “No property tax impact”, second by Denis Salvail. Voted and ayes have it. So the articles will read as follows:*

**“Article 08 Appropriate to Bridge Capital Reserve Account**

**To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to be added to the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund with the Governing Body (the Selectmen) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the**



**unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)**

**The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article**

**The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article**

**No property tax impact**

#### **Article 09 Appropriate to Revaluation Capital Reserve**

**To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund with the Governing Body (the Selectmen) as Agents to Expend. This sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019 (surplus) and will require that no additional amount be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)**

**The Board of Selectmen Yes 3 No 0 Recommends this article**

**The Budget Committee Yes 8 No 0 Recommends this article**

**No Property tax impact”**

#### **Article 12 Support of Tri County CAP By Petition**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,960.00 to support Tri County CAP's Homeless Intervention and Prevention Program, a community service program provided by Tri County Community Action Program, Inc. (Majority vote required) By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 3 Abstain 1 Recommends this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.01 per thousand or \$1.15 on a home worth \$200,000.

*A motion to open Article 12 for discussion was made by Charles Townsend, second by Nelson Therriault. Eleanor Davis said that the monetary amount should be written out also. Mike said that these are petitioned articles and they go in as written unless it is changed at the Deliberative Session. Carolann Morrison spoke in favor of this article. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 12 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 13 Grafton County Senior Citizens By Petition**

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000.00) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. through the Mascoma Area Senior Center and the ServiceLink Resource Center for services for Canaan residents in 2020. These services include congregate meals, home delivered meals, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support and more. In FY 2019, Grafton Senior Citizens Council, Inc. provided services for 223 Canaan residents and Service Link provided services for 117 Residents. The cost of providing these services was \$135,256.30. (Majority vote required.) By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 2 Abstain 1 Recommends this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.04 per thousand or \$7.61 on a home worth \$200,000.



*A motion to open Article 13 for discussion was made by Alan Ricard, second by Stephen Freese. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 13 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 14 Mascoma Community Health Center By Petition**

Shall the voters vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) to support Mascoma Community Health Center in 2020? This appropriation will be used to offset some of the \$20,539 donated by the Center to provide care for uninsured and under insured Canaan Residents. Mascoma Community Health Center served 1,031 medical and dental patients from Canaan in the past 12 months, representing about 27% of the Town's population. Canaan Residents made 4,701 visits to the Center in 2019. By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 2 Abstain 2 Recommends this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.03 per thousand or \$5.86 on a home worth \$200,000.

*A motion to open Article 14 for discussion was made by Peter Thurber, second by Charles Townsend. Peter Thurber spoke in favor of this article. No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 14 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 15 Advance Transit By Petition**

Shall the voters in the Town of Canaan vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$9,550.00) to be allocated to Advance Transit, Inc. to help support public transportation services in the Town of Canaan in 2020. In 2019, 7,938 passenger trips boarded Advanced Transit in Canaan. Advance Transit provided services to the Town of Canaan at a cost of \$132,000. (Majority vote required.) By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 2 Abstain 1 Recommends this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.03 per thousand or \$5.59 on a home worth \$200,000.

*A motion to open Article 15 for discussion was made by Alan Ricard, second by David McAlister. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 15 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 16 VNH by Petition**

Shall the Town of Canaan vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$9,700.00) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse & Hospice for VT and NH. (Majority vote required.) By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 2 Abstain 2 Recommends this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.03 per thousand or \$5.68 on a home worth \$200,000.

*A motion to open Article 16 for discussion was made by David McAlister, second by Nelson Therriault. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 16 be placed on the ballot as written.*

#### **Article 17 West Central by Petition**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$2,800.00) for the support of West Central Behavioral Health. In fiscal year 2019 – from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 – West Central provided 102 Canaan residents including 30 children, totaling \$27,864 in charitable mental health care. West Central Behavioral Health is the region's non-profit mental health and substance use services provider, providing help for many of the area's most vulnerable residents. We provide care to children, adults and families in Sullivan County and Northern Grafton County, maintain a 24/7 Emergency Services line, and work with schools and first responders to help all in need, regardless of ability to pay. By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

Budget Committee Yes 3 No 3 Abstain 2 Does Not Recommend this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.01 per thousand or \$1.64 on a home worth \$200,000.

*A motion to open Article 17 for discussion was made by Charles Townsend, second by Wayne Morrison. Wayne Morrison and Carolann Morrison spoke in favor of this article. John Bergeron questioned why the wording is “Northern Grafton County”. Wayne Morrison made a motion to take out the “Northern” before Grafton County, second by Alice Schori. Voted and the ayes have it so the article will read as follows:*

#### **“Article 17 West Central by Petition**

**To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$2,800.00) for the support of West Central Behavioral Health. In fiscal year 2019 – from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 – West Central provided 102 Canaan residents including 30 children, totaling \$27,864 in charitable mental health care. West Central Behavioral Health is the region's non-profit mental health and substance use services provider, providing help for many of the area's most vulnerable residents. We provide care to children, adults and families in Sullivan County and Grafton County, maintain a 24/7 Emergency Services line, and work with schools and first responders to help all in need, regardless of ability to pay. By Petition.**

**The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article**

**Budget Committee Yes 3 No 3 Abstain 2 Does Not Recommend this article**

**It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.01 per thousand or \$1.64 on a home worth \$200,000.”**

*No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 17 be placed on the ballot as amended.*



### **Article 18 Support WISE By Petition**

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00) to support the mission of WISE in providing free crisis intervention and support services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking. By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

The Budget Committee Yes 4 No 3 Abstain 1 Recommends this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.01 per thousand or \$1.23 on a home worth \$200,000.

*A motion to open Article 18 for discussion was made by Bob Scott, second by Charles Townsend. No discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 18 be placed on the ballot as written.*

### **Article 19 Public Health Council By Petition**

Will the voters raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars (\$2,957.00) to support Public Health Council of the Upper Valley services to Canaan Residents in 2019. Services include flu vaccine programs, childhood lead poisoning prevention, community based substance abuse and suicide prevention, oral health programs and more. (Majority vote required.) By Petition.

The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article

The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 2 Abstain 1 Recommends this article

It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.01 per thousand or \$1.73 on a home worth \$200,000.

*A motion to open Article 19 for discussion was made by Peter Thurber, second by Amy Thurber. Alice Schori made a motion to change the "2019" to "2020", second by Jean Townsend. Voted and ayes have it. So the article will read as follows:*

### **"Article 19 Public Health Council By Petition**

**Will the voters raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars (\$2,957.00) to support Public Health Council of the Upper Valley services to Canaan Residents in 2020. Services include flu vaccine programs, childhood lead poisoning prevention, community based substance abuse and suicide prevention, oral health programs and more. (Majority vote required.) By Petition.**

**The Board of Selectmen Yes 0 No 3 Does Not Recommend this article**

**The Budget Committee Yes 5 No 2 Abstain 1 Recommends this article**

**It is estimated that passage of this article will increase the tax rate \$.01 per thousand or \$1.73 on a home worth \$200,000."**

*No further discussion so the Moderator declared that Article 19 be placed on the ballot as amended.*



*Scott Borthwick thanked everyone for their support for his re-election. He asked that people consider running for positions on boards within the town. He would like to see more involvement in the community from our citizens.*

*Claude Lemoi wanted to thank the Budget Committee and the Town Administration for all of their work this past year.*

*The Moderator reminded everyone that the town election will be March 10, 2020 at the Fire Station.*

*No further business to transact so the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 10:38 AM.*

A true copy attests:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vicky J. McAlister".

Vicky J. McAlister  
Canaan Town Clerk