

Town of Canterbury  
Selectmen's Meeting  
February 7, 2022

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon  
Arthur Hudson *via telephone*  
Bob Steenson

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM.

**Appointments**

Bryan Duchesne attended the meeting to discuss the interest and penalties assessed on his December 2021 tax bill. On January 24, 2022, Bryan explained that he received a notice at his Canterbury address that he was delinquent on his December 2020 taxes. Bryan explained that a series of events happened around that time frame that affected his mailing address. He never received the December tax bill and asked the Selectmen for an abatement on the interest and penalties. Bryan has filled out forms with Sam Papps that state all town mailings will go to his Canterbury address. Bob explained that Sam made a reasonable effort to get the tax bill to Bryan; the Selectmen will take this under advisement and get back to Bryan.

Bryan thanked the Selectmen for meeting with him.

**Treasure Al Edelstein**

Al distributed a handout showing the number of deposits made in 2021, the number of hours worked in 2021, and the proposed Salary increases he requested. Al stated that he had been the Treasurer for 14 years, and the Sam Lake House team of the Town Treasurer, Bookkeeper, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector is efficient and smooth running.

The Selectmen discussed with him that they had asked him to look into investments last year. Al said that he went to TD Bank and spoke with past Library Trustee Claudia Leidinger to see how the Trustees invested in the Library Trust Funds, but the information was not helpful to the Town.

The Selectmen discuss Al's job performance and opportunities to improve. The Board explained that they are not in favor of a salary increase at this point. They will discuss and have a decision at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Al stated that if the Selectmen keep the current salary, he may not be willing to make it to year 15.

The Board thanked Al for attending the meeting.

Bob made a motion to open the public hearing on the 2022 proposed budget and warrant articles.

Art read the warrant articles.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million One Hundred Five Thousand Eighty-One Dollars \$3,105,081 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required).

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Fire Truck. Three Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$323,837) to come from an assistance to firefighters grant, and Three Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty-three Dollars (\$326,163) to come from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. No amount shall be expended unless the grant funds are secured.

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to purchase ceiling fans for both the Highway and Fire Department garage bays.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$7,250) to purchase a Mig Welder and Plasma Cutter.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-One Thousand One Hundred Forty-Three dollars (\$41,143) to pay principal (\$35,000) and interest (\$6,143) on the Gold Star Bond, said amount to be removed from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance.

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to replace the flooring in the Police Department.

11. To see if the Town will modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Canterbury, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$75,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$80,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$115,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$32,500 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required).

12. To see if the Town will modify the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$75,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$32,500 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$45,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Dollars (\$173,000) to be deposited into the following Capital Reserves:

4915.3 - Highway Equipment	10,000
4915.4 - Highway Truck	30,000
4915.5 - Highway Grader	30,000
4915.18 Rescue Truck	12,000
4915.19 - Fire Truck	50,000

	4915.24 - Landfill Closure	1,000
87	4915.30 - Highway Loader	30,000
88	4915.31 - Highway Backhoe	10,000
89		

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) to upgrade the Transfer Station power service from 100 A to 400A, to upgrade the building wiring to accept the 400 A service and bring it up to code, to purchase a 60 inch vertical baler, and to purchase a variable frequency drive (VFD)

15. To see if the Town will vote to instruct the school board to form a committee pursuant to N.H. Rev. Stat. 195:25 to initiate a review of the feasibility and suitability for the Town of Canterbury to explore withdrawing from Shaker Regional School District and pursue agreements with surrounding towns (including Belmont) to provide multiple options for educational, athletic and extracurricular activities for Middle and High School students, Canterbury has a small student population and is surrounded by towns that offer more options to meet our students' needs within a closer proximity at a potentially lower cost per student.

Energy Committee Chair Ruth Smith spoke to warrant article 7 – *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to purchase ceiling fans for both the Highway and Fire Department garage bays.* A discussion was held on purchasing canister fans or blade fans. The Energy Committee will be getting final quotes this week and recommends that the warrant article be increased. After discussing the two options, Bob made a motion to amend the proposed warrant article from \$10,000 to \$14,000. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The proposed 2022 budget was reviewed.

Jim Miller questioned that 3 of the salaried positions had been overspent. Bob explained that the budget is a bottom-line budget, and the 2021 budget was underspent. Most of the departments were short-handed for the majority of the year, and as an acknowledgment, they gave them year-end bonuses.

Al asked that was if it was money that was leftover in the budget that was used to compensate the employees. The Board explained yes, it was.

Al asked why there were wages in the Deputy Town Clerk budget line when there is no Deputy. The money has been budgeted in case Sam is able to hire another Deputy. Ken explained that Jamie is still the Deputy and works a few times a month. Al asked what happens to the money left over in the budget. Bob explained that it goes into the unreserved fund balance and can be used to buy down the tax rate.

Bob made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

### **Administrative**

Cheryl made a motion to sign the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$444,750.23. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest (1) in the amount of \$38,331.54. Art seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest (2) in the amount of \$39,222.83. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The Board signed:

- Encumbered funds from 2021 to 2022
- Intent to Cut – Tax Map 225 Lot 2 – Meeh – Shaker Road
- Tax Map 249 Lots 9.11 & 12 – Harris – Baptist Hill Rd
- Yield Tax Levy – Tax Map 221 Lot 9 – Fountain – Ayers Road
- Tax Map 253 Lot 24 – Moir- Morrill Road
- Veteran’s Tax Credit – Tax Map 253 Lot 29 – Stevens – Kimball Pond Rd
- Tax Map 247 Lot 33 – Platt – Northwest Rd
- Tax Map 244 Lot 1 – Brown – Clough Pond Rd

Thank you letter to Nadine Dahl

### **Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 17, 2022 meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

### **New Business**

Ken explained that the residents of 75 Southwest Road have asked for confirmation of the spelling of the road. Is it one word or two? Bob would like to understand their concerns before the Selectmen send a confirmation letter.

Art left the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Ken reported that he checked with the TD Bank investment rates because the NHPDIP (Trust Fund Accounts) interest income is way down. Ken has forwarded TD Bank’s contact information to Trust Fund Trustee Greg Heath. The Trustees of the Trust funds will be meeting in March and will review to review the accounts.

A brief discussion was held on the Class VI/Private Road Waiver for Mountain Road. The Planning Board had a site walk at that location this morning and will be discussing it at their next meeting.

Kathy Doherty asked for a quick update for broadband services. Bob explained that Consolidated Communication came before the Board with the concept of broadband town-wide. They were sent an RFP and had declined to submit a proposal. Comcast has given preliminary numbers but has paused the proposal until the State of NH comes up with a process for administering funds.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting will be February 28, 2022, at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

180 Jan Stout  
181 Administrative Assistant