

Town of Canterbury  
Selectmen's Meeting  
February 6, 2023

Selectmen Present: Bob Steenson  
Cheryl Gordon  
Kent Ruesswick  
Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM.

**Administrative**

Kent made a motion to sign Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$480,066.23. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Kent made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$42,588.60. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

A discussion was held on the Welfare Manifest in the amount of \$2,000.00. Jan explained what the payment was for and why it was sent. Bob wanted to make a motion to not approve the payment, but the payment was made and the check cleared. Bob suggested that a letter be sent to the receiving party notifying them that there will be no further payment. Bob suggested that legal counsel be contacted for their opinion. Kent made a motion to sign the welfare manifest in the amount of \$2,000.00. Cheryl seconded the motion.

**Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 23, 2022, meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Kent seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2023 proposed budget and warrant articles including the articles of \$100,000 at 5:45 PM. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Others present: Sumner Dole, Scott Doherty, Al Edelstein, and Howard Moffett.

Bob explained that the operating budget is up by 4% and proceeded to read the warrant articles as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Fire Truck and to authorize the withdrawal of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$360,000) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose; furthermore; with the balance of Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$490,000) to be paid for by the Selectmen accepting the Fire Fighter's Grant

or, alternatively, and in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), to authorize the Selectmen to issue not more than Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$490,000) of bonds and notes and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. ***Two Thirds Ballot Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen.***

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Two Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Seventy Dollars (\$3,228,070) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required). ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$178,000) 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
4915.27 - Town Building Maintenance	5,000
4915.30 - Highway Loader	30,000
4915.31 - Highway Backhoe	10,000

***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

5. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Bridge Maintenance and Construction Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintaining bridges. The initial funding (\$49,470) to be placed in this fund consists of funds received from the State of New Hampshire budget surplus (SB 401) and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

6. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Transfer Station Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund to upgrade and re-build the Transfer Station and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

7. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund created in 1985 and deposit all remaining funds of \$6,289 and any additional interest accrued into the newly created Transfer Station Upgrade Capital Reserve. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new Highway Truck, wing, and plow and to authorize the withdrawal of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***
9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Six dollars (\$38,236) to pay principal (\$35,000) and interest (\$3,236) on the Gold Star Bond, said amount to be removed from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***
10. To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Shaker Regional School Board to form a committee to initiate a review of the feasibility and suitability for the Town of Canterbury to withdraw from the Shaker Regional School District pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 195:25 and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) for the purpose of engaging educational and legal consultants as necessary to complete the review. . ***Recommended by 2 Selectmen. Not recommended by 1 selectman.***
11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to purchase a zero-turn mower and to withdraw the funds from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***
12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) to re-finish the Town Hall floors. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***
13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to purchase an Air Conditioner/Condenser for the Municipal Building. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***
14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to install a Ductless AC and Heating Unit at the Town Meeting House. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***
15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for engineering, surveying, wetlands mapping, permitting, and conceptual design of a second entrance to Maple Grove Cemetery. ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

16. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Canterbury Community Power plan, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Canterbury Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary.” ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

17. Shall the Town of Canterbury Re-Adopt the “Optional Veterans’ Tax Credit” in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500? (Majority vote required). ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

18. Shall the Town of Canterbury Re-Adopt the “All Veterans Tax Credit” in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal the same amount as the standard or optional veterans’ tax credit voted by the Town of Canterbury under RSA 72:28? (Majority vote required). ***Recommended by the Selectmen.***

Sumner inquired as to which fire truck is being replaced. Bob explained that it is the one purchased in the 1990’s.

Al questioned if the proposed budget had any changes since the last meeting. No, no changes were made.

Howard thanked the Selectmen for including the warrant article for the Canterbury Community Power Committee.

#### New Business

The Selectmen reviewed a letter from Doris Hampton asking the Selectmen to explore where the town might be able to create a permanent solution by adding the capability of holding zoom meetings in the Town Hall. Ken explained that there is a bridge connection from the Town Offices, but it is a secure network. For the amount of time that the Town Hall is being used it’s not feasible to have the extra monthly expense of a Broadband connection. Ken will check with the IT company to see if a Public Wi-Fi bridge can be put in place.

Ken reported that he received a request from the Historical Society for physical repairs to the room they use in the Library and the ductless mini-split is not currently working.

Ken reported that he had applied for a grant through NRRA to go towards the baler at the Transfer Station. He was notified that the grant was awarded to the Town of Canterbury in the amount of \$4,300. Cheryl thanked Ken.

Ken updated the Selectmen on the Hazard Mitigation Plan funding. If FEMA doesn’t approve our plan in a timely manner, the plan may have to be completely redone.

The Selectmen reviewed a proposal from a resident to purchase Tax Map 208 Lot 9. The Selectmen have previously negotiated with another resident to purchase, but their title company had concerns with the clarity of the title. The Board asked Mandy to review the assessed value and pull current comps.

A brief discussion was held on who the Town Report should be dedicated to.

Bob made a motion to close the public hearing for the 2023 proposed budget and warrant articles including the articles of \$100,000 at 6:25 PM

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM.

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be held on February 27, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout  
Administrative Assistant