

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Minutes
January 3, 2011

Selectmen present: Bob Steenson
Briggs Lockwood
Ken Folsom
Town Administrator: Roger Becker

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Mark Blount, Mary Morrison and Nick Cotes attended the meeting to discuss the grant program "Safe Routes to School"

Nick explained that there are 3 grant opportunities.

- 1) \$5,000, (start up grant) which has been received
- 2) \$15,000, for travel plans, assessing data to determine what Canterbury needs.
- 3) \$250,000 for infrastructure or a general grant.

Mary reported that the walk to school day was successful. Approximately 80 students and 25 adults participated. The school bus dropped off the students in the center and they walked to the Elementary School. They have done this twice and are planning to do it again. This spring they are planning a safety festival. Instructors will be available to be sure the children know the rules of the road. Mary explained that what comes out of this grant will be determined by what the community wants.

Bob stated that this grant applies to students within a 2 mile radius of the school, how many students live within that radius. Nick explained that there are a large number of students. What this grant allows is to study the speeds on various roads, where automobile accidents are happening, dangerous spots, etc. This grant is not just about building sidewalks. They will also look at alternate pickup locations for buses, possible a sidewalk in from the school to connect the two pickup locations.

Ken asked if there was a time frame that his needed to be accomplished. Nick replied no, they are taking it slow, having monthly meetings, but would like to have the start up grand completed by the end of the school year.

Nick reported that he sat in a meeting with the Department of Transportation (DOT) with the Town of Sutton. DOT is claiming that they do not have any funding; all their money is going into Interstate 93 with no funding available for secondary roads. Nick offered his assistance in helping the Selectmen pushing their state road concerns to the forefront.

Mark Blount distributed a "Targeting Achievement" report on Shaker Regional.

The Board thanked Mark, Mary and Nick for updated them on their progress.

Bob Fife attended the meeting to report on a seminar that he recently attended. The name of the seminar was "Smart Trails" explaining the liabilities of the Towns that have trails

and open land for the public. Bob Steenson suggested that the Conservation Commission meet and present their recommendations to the Board.

Bob F. explained that he spoke with Gordon Jackson about the large spruce by the gazebo. Bob F. recommended that the spruce be limbed by the gazebo. The Selectmen approved trimming and cleaning up the tree. Bob F. stated that he and Gordon will take care of it.

Bob S. mentioned that the Maple tree by the Sam Lake House be looked at and suggested that an arborist be contacted.

The Board thanked Bob F. for attending.

Budget Committee Members: Bob Scarponi, Priscilla Lockwood and Seth Cohn attended the meeting.

The Selectmen began the review of the proposed 2011 budget.

Executive

The Selectmen are proposing a slight increase over last year. A discussion was held on the health insurance. Bob S. explained that the Board will be looking to develop a program for employee benefits and research alternate plans and will involve employees in the decision making process. Ken explained that there are plans through the LGC that offer a higher deductible, the cost difference is minimal. Bob S. stated that they want to continue to offer part-time employees insurance to keep the high quality of our part-time employees.

Election

Added funding for election wages, advertising and supplies.

Financial

No changes to proposed budget.

Planning and Zoning

Encumbered money for safe routes to school and reduced the amount for Planning Board Professional Services.

General Government Buildings

The following budget lines have encumbrances, Sam Lake maintenance, Municipal Alarms and Municipal Building maintenance.

Cemeteries

No changes to proposed budget.

Insurance

No changes to proposed budget.

Building Inspection

No changes to proposed budget.

Police

The major change is that the Chief will be going to 2 full-time officers and 2 part-time officers. The Cruiser Maintenance is now being broken out by each vehicle.

The next budget is down \$29,094 over last year.

Fire

The full-time EMT wages will receive a cost of living increase. The Chief submitted a request for a part-time Chief. The Selectmen cut that budget line at an earlier meeting with the Chief.

The communication line is up due to the fact that they will be replacing the headsets on engine 1 and engine 3. Seth suggested that this item should be a warrant article. Ken explained that within the communication budget also includes pagers that are going to be repaired or replaced. Briggs suggested that the Fire Department could purchase 1 of the headsets this year and 1 next year. The following budget lines were amended: communications reduced to \$8,000 and the Fire & Rescue equipment reduced to \$7,500.

A discussion was held on encumbering the unspent money for Penacook Rescue. Priscilla explained that you can't encumber 2010 money and spend it in 2011; the unspent balance should go into the general fund. Roger will review the encumbrance laws.

Highway Department

Bob S. explained that the Board will be moving the unspent money left in the budget to culverts/bridges and encumber the funds to assist in paying for the repairs to the Old Tilton Road Bridge.

Solid Waste

No changes to proposed budget. Seth suggested creating a warrant article to put money aside for a hazardous waste day with the possibility of using money collected from the sale of the PAYT bags.

Library

The proposed wages show an increase of \$7,000. The Selectmen have held other department wages flat and are concerned with a 10% increase on the Library wages. The increase reflects the library being open 3 more hours per week and an increase for their employees.

Historical Society

No changes to proposed budget. A discussion was held on possible replacing the roof on the Houser Museum.

Long-Term Debt

There will be no revenue offset from Gold Star.

A brief discussion was held on the decreasing Gold Star Revenue. Bob S. will discuss the revenue shortfall with the Conservation Commission.

Capital Reserves

The Selectmen are proposing a new capital reserve fund for the Sam Lake House renovations.

The total proposed budget is \$2,334,765, \$46,958 increase over last year (2.1%).

The Board thanked the Bob, Priscilla and Seth for attending.

Deputy Town Clerk Ben Bynum attended the meeting to discuss a company called Govolution. This company would work with Canterbury to allow the Town Clerk to accept credit card payments for on-line motor vehicle renewals.

Ken suggested to Ben that he contact Govolution to obtain a list of their clients. Ken would like to have recommendations from other towns using this service, such as, who is using it, what is the usage, percent of people using and what their experience has been like with Govolution.

Bob stated that he felt that it seems costly; the advantage is a modest decrease in the number of people coming into the office or mailing the renewal in.

Ben explained that Cheryl has been pro-active in keeping things going forward. Since they are not open all the time, they would like to offer this convenience.

The Selectmen asked Ben to find out how many registrations they do annually. The Selectmen will further review and wait for Ben to get the details.

The Board thanked Ben for coming in.

The Board signed: A/P Manifest
 Payroll Manifest
 Intent to cut: Tax Map 209 Lot 29
 Abatement request from Keyspan

Bob made a motion to encumber a total of \$262,381.96 from the 2010 budget for projects/purchases not completed. Briggs seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion passed.

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence from Fred Fuller Company regarding a vent alarm that is not working at the old Elkins Library. The Board asked Jan to contact them to arrange the necessary repairs.

The next Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2010 at 6:00PM at the Meeting House.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 PM. Briggs seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant