

Town of Canterbury  
Board of Selectmen  
January 17, 2011

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

Briggs reported that he received a call from Wayne Mann regarding the Gold Star Committee and the ownership of the buildings

Library Director Sue LeClair, Library Trustees Florence Woods and Anne Nute attended the meeting to discuss the 2011 proposed budget for the Library.

Sue distributed a graph showing the increase in materials circulated, programs and the number of patrons over the past 5 years.

Bob explained that the only question the Selectmen had on their budget was the wage line. Sue explained that the increase reflects expanded hours on Tuesday morning and a 3 % increase for employees. With the increase in services, the extra hours would allow them to catch up on the back log. Bob questioned why 2 people were on during the slow traffic times. Flo explained that it was for safety reasons. Sue further explained that the American Library Association stresses that 2 people are on at all time. There are times when they have projects that require 2 people.

Bob explained that every other department is running a flat wage line. Ken stated that other departments have adjusted their budgets to allow for a small increase in wages. Briggs explained that the Town's ability to generate revenue is deteriorating. Bob explained that the revaluation will be completed in April and will be unsettling for the taxpayers because the tax rate will go up even though the resulting tax bill we remain the same. This has not been a good financial year for the Town. Sue stated that she understood that the Selectmen may not approve the additional hours, but questioned the increase in wages. Bob explained that other Department Heads were able to fund a small increase within last year's budgeted amount. Bob stated that as long as the bottom line remains flat to the 2010 budget they are free to increase the wages!

Bob stated that the Board would like to have a Library Trustee on the Budget Committee.

Sue will further discuss with the other Library Trustees. A brief discussion was held on Sue taking the Health Insurance buy out instead of being on the Town's Health Insurance policy.

Sue asked to be on a schedule to meet with the Selectmen during the budget process. The Selectmen will meet with the Budget Committee, Department Heads and the Library Trustees on January 31, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House.

The Board thanked Sue, Florence and Anne for attending the meeting.

Sally Tanner of Primex attended the meeting to discuss the health insurance plans they offer.

Bob explained to Sally that the Selectmen are not looking for a price on a plan similar to the one we have, but would like to evaluate all the options

Sally and the Selectmen looked at alternate plans for health insurance. They reviewed HMO's, POS and PPO plans. She suggested that the Town offer 2 plans to the employees. They discussed the benefits of all 3 plans.

Sally explained that she likes to work on a 5-year plan. This would allow small changes annually such as introducing a higher deductible, health reimbursement accounts, etc. to assist in reducing the cost of the insurance.

Briggs explained that one of the challenges we face is that we place workers compensation, property liability and the health insurance with the LGC. By bundling all 3 of these, the Town gets a reduced rate. If we change, we may lose the additional savings on the other services. Sally explained that Primex offers all those services as well as training/employee assistance programs for all employees.

Sally explained that in order for her to give the Board a quote on health insurance, she would need an updated census of employees along with the claims experience over the past 2 years.

Bob asked if Primex would quote a plan assuming the Town had never offered health insurance. Sally explained that the Underwriters need to see the claims and census data then the experience is all pooled together. Bob stated that it seems like they are paying a penalty for being small, with no advantage of being pooled. Sally explained that they try to rate as a pool with everyone sharing in the resulting benefits.

The Board thanked Sally for all the information she provided. Jan will send the information she needs to obtain a quote.

Bob Drew and Jeremy Slayton attended the meeting to discuss the solar panels.

Bob explained that he was not happy with the current PV Powered internet Inverter Monitoring program. He had asked Jeremy to research for alternate sites. Jeremy opened the website on his laptop for the Selectmen to see. The website allows the inverters to be monitored individually or in total. The annual cost of this service is \$500. Bob stated that as part of his agreement with the Town he is willing to pay for the service for the first 2-years.

The Selectmen voted to enter into this agreement. Jeremy will contact the company and have them re-issue the quote in the Town's name.

The Selectmen thanked Jeremy.

Bob stayed to discuss a prior agreement between him and the Selectmen for being on-call for electrical services for the Town. Bob proposed that in exchange for the ability for him to bring his vehicle to the Fire Department weekly to clean it and wash it he would give the Town 3 hours of labor monthly. The Selectmen will discuss this with the Fire Chief.

The Board thanked Bob Drew.

David Boles of Rocky Pond Association attended the meeting.

David explained that the Association has applied to the State for financial aid to help with the costs of the chemical treatment to Rocky Pond for Milfoil. The cost of the treatment is approximately \$17,000. They have been approved by the State for 20% of the cost. David is meeting with the Towns of Loudon, Gilmanston and Canterbury to ask if they would contribute \$1,500.

The Selectmen explained to David that last year they approved his request and used the funds in the Conservation Commission budget. They will need to confirm with the Conservation Commission to see what plans they have for the money allocated in the budget.

The Board thanked David and told him they would get back to him after they discuss this with the Conservation Commission.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cheryl Gordon and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ben Bynum attended the meeting. They presented a contract with Govolution for the Selectmen to sign. This would allow them to accept credit card payments for on-line renewals.

Ben explained that he was asked by the Fire Department for a general security alarm code for the Sam Lake House. Ben also explained that when he worked in the Assessing office, he was doing the 911 addressing. 911 have assigned Pete Angwin as the liaison for the Town and Dave Nelson as the Deputy liaison. When Ben moved into the Town Clerk's office, he thought Mary Grady had enough to learn and took the job of assigning house numbers with him. Bob felt that the task of house numbers should stay with the Assessing Clerk. Ken will contact Pete and have them put Mary Grady on 911 liaison list.

Cheryl reported that she sent out delinquent notices equaling \$800,000. A brief discussion was held on a property being deeded that is currently being rented out. Ken asked Cheryl for an updated list of delinquent tax payers.

The Board thanked Cheryl and Ben for attending.

The Selectmen signed:

- Accounts Payable Manifest
- Payroll Manifest
- Application for Current Use – Tax Map 258 Lot 6
- Veteran's Credit Application – Tax Map 264 Lot 14
- Abatement Request – Tax Map 106 Lot 4
- Planning Board Alternate Appointment Slips (2)
- Permission Slip for Canterbury Elementary School to use Municipal Building in the event of an emergency.

The Board reviewed the Medical Coverage/Workers compensation/Property Liability renewal – the Board signed the health insurance renewal but will not sign the multi-year renewal for workers compensation or property liability until they obtain additional information.

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence from Town Counsel regarding an on-going court case. By court order, the judge ordered an individual's property to be sold. The Selectmen or the Town's attorney need to appoint a commissioner to conduct the actual sale. Town Counsel has offered to appoint the position. The Selectmen agreed to have Town Counsel take on this task.

Bob reported that he went to the last Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the possibility of them assisting with paying the Gold Star debt. Briggs felt that the Land Use Change Tax is used to purchase land, and since we are still paying for the Gold Star land, felt it was an appropriate use of the Land Use Change Tax money.

Roger reported that Mr. Blackstone contacted him and would like to set up a meeting with

representatives from the Selectmen, Conservation Commission and Agricultural Commission.

The Board will contact Road Agent Phil Stone to see if he has obtained any steel prices for the necessary repairs to the bridge on Old Tilton Road.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 20, 2010 meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ken seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 3, 2011 meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ken seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Briggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 PM. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be held on February 7, 2011 @ 6:00 PM at the Meeting House.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout  
Administrative Assistant