

Town of Canterbury
Board of Selectmen
January 23, 2012

Selectmen Present: Bob Steenson
Briggs Lockwood
Tyson Miller
Town Administrator: Roger Becker

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Bob reported that he has contacted Anthem for Health Insurance pricing. Bob asked Jan to check on the Towns health insurance renewal date.

The Board signed: Accounts Payable Manifest
Payroll Manifest
Welfare Manifest
Interfund Transfer
UMRLAC Appointment Slips
Budget Committee Appointment Slips
Abatement form - Tax Map 267 Lot 2
Timber Tax Warrant
Intent to Cut – Tax Map 263 Lot 1

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 19, 2011 meeting. Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ty seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ty seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 19, 2011 budget work session. Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ty seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget Committee members Priscilla Lockwood, Kelly Short and Bob Scarponi attended the meeting.

Bob explained that the Selectmen went back to the Department Heads and asked that they revise their budgets to reflect only a 5% increase over the prior year. To accomplish this, the Highway Department had to reduce their budget by \$7,900, Police by \$11,000 and Fire by \$12,700.

Police Department

The Chief submitted a revised budget reducing the wages and subcontractor lines to bring the total budget to a 4% increase.

Fire Department

Bob reported that the Board had authorized Pete in September to work a few shifts a week to work with the full-time EMT and set expectations for the position. Pete had anticipated that the number of hours would be reduced as the expectations were defined. The proposed 2012 budget has budgeted \$12,000 to continue this task, while the weekend coverage budget line was cut in half. Briggs explained that the number of calls have been fairly flat and doesn't agree that the \$12,000 is appropriate. He doesn't believe this is what the Town anticipated when the EMT position was approved. Bob stated that based on the call volume, it's hard to justify that they need additional money to supervise this position.

Bob Scarponi suggested that the Board speak to the Fire Department again to discuss the budget revisions. Bob Steenson stated to the credit of every department, they do turn in money at the end of the year. The Board needs to understand the rationale for the changes made by the Fire Department.

Highway Department

Phil attended the meeting to discuss his revisions. He amended the wage line in the budget and suggested that the road improvement budget could be reduced if needed.

Phil reported that he has agreed to wait another year to replace the 1999 Sterling. The Selectmen have increased the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund and anticipate having approximately half the amount needed to purchase a truck next year.

The Board thanked Phil for attending the meeting.

A brief discussion was held on the savings from the Solar Panels.

Bob reported that he has contacted Anthem to discuss health insurance plans for the employees.

Bob explained that the Town had capped the amount the Town would contribute to the part-time employee's health insurance. Over the past 2 years the Board had budgeted an additional \$10,000 to supplement the capped amount and to lessen the burden to the employees. The 2012 budget shows that reimbursement line budgeted at zero. The Selectmen have increased the amount of the Town's contribution.

A brief discussion was held on the pole tax for utilities. Priscilla asked the Selectmen to look into taxing the poles. The Board asked Roger to contact Cross Country Appraisals.

A brief discussion was held on the Intervale Farm proceeds. The funds will be set aside to cover the cost of the bond. We have not yet heard back from Bond Counsel with respect to possible limitations on how the money might be treated.

Bob Scarponi reported that the Historical Society will be presenting the Boston Post Cane to Canterbury's oldest resident on Sunday.

The Board thanked Priscilla, Kelly and Bob for their guidance in the preparation of the budget.

A brief discussion was held on purchasing defibrillators for each Town building.

The Board will research additional areas to fund updating the current use records.

The Board will hold a budget work session on January 30, 2012 at 6:00 PM at the Meeting House.

The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be held on February 6, 2012 at 6:00 at the Meeting House.

Briggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant