

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, December 16, 2009**

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. James Bixler, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

Richard Barlow moved that the meeting consider and take action on the elimination of the position of Town Engineer and the creation of a new position entitled Project Administrator. David Gilchrist seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Robert Skinner, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that as Town Engineer Ken Wassall was about to retire, they took a look at the position's current role and responsibilities. The core function of engineering had shrunk in our municipality and the majority of time is now spent on facility maintenance, contract management, and grant administration. Skinner distributed a summary and graph (attached) of the Town Engineer's work hours. The information outlined the projects he has worked on from February 2009 through November 2009. Most items listed showed time spent on bids, construction, grants, and contract maintenance. Land Use plan review (Zoning site plans, Planning site plans and IWWA site plans) only encompassed 8% of his overall time. Therefore, the job title and job itself was changed to reflect the work currently being done (attached). The position will pay between \$68,000 and \$85,000 which is less than the \$94,000 currently being paid to the Town Engineer. Although there will be no engineer license required for the new job, it would be preferred. The Town will contract out when and if engineering review is needed. Under current zoning regulations, we have the right to charge applicants for engineering services. The Planner is currently putting out to bid professional services for his department. An engineer could fit into that plan/bid.

Projects to be administered by the new position will generally encompass:

- Phase Three of the Bike Trail (engineering review for this project is already built in as part of the project)
- Energy Conservation
- The Hydro Project
- The new Highway Garage
- Farmington River dredging
- e-Waste bids
- Solid Waste bids

Questions and comments were heard by:

Theresa Barger-8 Pond Road
Richard Barlow-321 Cherry Brook Road
Bruce Lockwood-45 East Hill Road
Steve Roberto-6 Pine Acres Drive
Rowan Sheldon-20 Pond View Drive
Marc Cerniglia-31 Ellsworth Lane
Dave Madigan-166 Robin Drive
Dave Markowitz-14 High Hill Road
Robert Skinner-Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Gilchrist-54 Lawton Road

David Gilchrist made a motion to move the question. Bruce Lockwood seconded the motion.

The motion vote was 6 YES / 4 NO.

Richard Barlow made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record December 17, 2009

Linda Smith, Town Clerk