

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 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 four motions:

That the Town of Canton create a new part time position entitled Administrative Assistant to the Senior Services Coordinator (seconded by Tim LeGeyt);

That the Town of Canton create a new part time position entitled Department of Public Works Clerk (seconded by David Gilchrist);

That the Town of Canton create a new part time position entitled Office of the Chief Administrator Clerk (seconded by Tim LeGeyt); and,

That the Town of Canton create a new part time position entitled Fire Department Clerk (seconded by David Gilchrist).

Richard Barlow introduced CAO Robert Skinner to provide details. With the Senior Services Coordinator's retirement in January, the Town was looking for another approach to provide better services to the Town's seniors. It was determined that breaking the position into two part time positions, each with 15-19 hours, would best suit the needs of the Town. The Senior Services Administrative Assistant would be paid less than the new part time Senior Services Coordinator thus saving the Town money. Having two people in the position would also enable cross training and filling in when one was out. The department would fall beneath the Park and Recreation department, whose department head would be responsible for the budget and writing grants. This would free up the two part time positions for dedicated work to the seniors, providing them with better, more direct, service.

The Public Works Clerk, Chief Administrator Clerk, and Fire Dept Clerk would be staffed with a current employee from the Tax office and records clerk. Savings will be seen due to the elimination of the Administrative Services position earlier this year. The small amount of hours dedicated to these positions (Public Works – 4 hours) (Fire Dept Clerk – 4 hours) (Chief Administrator clerk – 10 hours) have made a significant and efficient difference in the department's clerical/administrative work.

Comments:

Fred Fletcher-Main Street- inquired about a large scale personnel readjustment plan before the next budget cycle and would economic conditions lead to smaller number of employees.

Dante D'Addeo-Highfields Drive-Suggested the Town start a program of detailed budget review to see where cuts can be made.

Art Blondin-Orchard Hill Road-Chairman of the Commission on Aging-12% of the population in Canton is over 65. We need to make sure we do things to make it more desirable to be in Canton.

Carrie Sinish Moved the Question  
David Sinish Seconded.

The Motion PASSED with a vote of 32 YES / 0 NO

Richard Barlow moved the Town Amend Ordinance #228 entitled “An Ordinance Authorizing a Program of Property Tax Relief” by increasing the maximum allowable income and the available tax credits. The Motion was Seconded by Art Blondin.

David Gilchrist made a motion to further amend ordinance #228 to add the following sentence as the third sentence in section 2 “*This seven year requirement will not apply to any resident who previously applied for and received a tax credit under any previous version of this ordinance.*” The Motion was Seconded by Dick Barlow.

Dick Barlow thanked the committee for their service and recommendations. He explained that the revision would increase residency and the amount of credit allowed. The Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen support the revised ordinance. The purpose of the additional sentence in section 2 is to grandfather those individuals who have previously applied for and qualified for tax relief under the existing ordinance, but would fail to qualify now because of the 7 year tax payer requirement.

Comments:

David Sinish-Dyer Ave- wanted clarification on residency and wanted to know how many people now receive the benefit.

Steve Irwin-Timber Lane-wanted a definition of disabled.

Fred Fletcher-Main Street-wanted clarification on property jointly owned.

Violet Danila-Collins Road-wanted clarification regarding assets

David Sinish Moved the Question  
Carrie Sinish Seconded.

The Town Clerk read the motion as amended.

The Amendment to the Motion passed with a vote of 33 YES / 1 NO

The Motion as amended passed with a vote of 33 YES / 0 NO

There being no further business, Dick Barlow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by David Gilchrist.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record 12/4/08

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