

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, September 19, 2007**

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. Mark Quattro, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

Mark Quattro reviewed the process of the meeting and asked each person wishing to vote to have their name checked off the voter's list.

Mary Tomolonius made a motion that the meeting consider and take action on a special appropriation in accordance with Town Charter 9-3(e) (3) in an amount not to exceed \$117,500 for purposes of settlement of Mr. Kenneth Ripley's claim currently pending before the Worker's Compensation Commission.

Seconded by Shirley Krompegal.

Mrs. Tomolonius introduced Henry Ziccardi, the Town Attorney, who reviewed the history of the case. He was restrained from revealing too much of the background of the claim due to Mr. Ripley's personal medical history/privacy. He explained that the breakdown of the settlement as being medical costs, the extent of the injury and future claims.

Comments/questions:

1. Matthew Bahre-Dowd Ave. He supports the motion and asked if there was an initial \$25,000 offer made to the Town. He felt the details of the claim should have been more public and that administrators have done a disservice to Mr. Ripley by rejecting an initial offer.

Mr. Ziccardi responded that he was not aware of a smaller (\$25K) offer. The initial number that he recalls was closer to \$200,000 and that any settlement has to be approved by Worker's Compensation.

Paul Fetherston responded that there was no other initial offer made other than Mr. Ripley's request for medical insurance until he reached the age of 65.

2.Emmit Cancryn-9 Meadowview Court. Mr. Cancryn felt that the Town was asking him to vote without knowing all the details. If we approved this motion would it extinguish all claims in lieu of settlement? Was there a risk to the community in not accepting this settlement?

Mr. Ziccardi responded that there were two separate health claims; one from 1992 and one from 2005. They were not specific instances of injury. Mr. Ziccardi recommends this motion to the community. It was the best offer presented to Worker's Compensation Commissioner Walker.

3.Ken Ripley-Burlington CT. He waived his rights to privacy by speaking. Mr. Ripley gave an overview of his medical history since 1992 and his interaction with the Town regarding this claim.

Paul Fetherston responded that no offer for \$25,000 was made. There was a request for medical benefits to the age of 65. Mr. Ripley would have to go through the Worker's Compensation process if he desired any benefit beyond what other retirees get.

Mr. Ziccardi agreed with Mr. Fetherston.

Mary Tomolonius stated that Fred Turkington, the prior CAO, left a file regarding this claim with her when he left the employ of the Town. She also was not aware of a \$25,000 initial offer.

4. Bill Cooper-Boulder Ridge. Mr. Cooper asked if Mr. Ripley has medical benefits.

Paul Fetherston responded that retirees may buy into the town's COBRA plan in accordance with federal law.

5.Emmit Cancryn-Mr. Cancryn wanted clarification on attorney's fees.

Mr. Ziccardi responded that 20% of the \$117,500 would go to Mr. Ripley's attorney. His attorney's fees are not in addition to the claim.

Jim Keane made a motion to close discussion.
Seconded by Cary Sinish.

The motion vote was 51 YES/0 NO. The motion passed.

Lou Daniels made a motion to adjourn which was seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm

Linda Smith

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Linda Smith

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

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