

Town of Canton
Annual Town Budget Meeting
May 31, 2005

The annual Town Budget Meeting of all electors and those qualified to vote in Town Meetings in the Town of Canton, Connecticut was held on Tuesday, May 31, 2005, at 7:30pm in the auditorium of Canton Middle/Sr High School, 76 Simonds Ave, Collinsville, CT, for the purpose of discussing the Board of Finance's recommended budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2005, and ends June 30, 2006. Because residents petitioned the original budget to referendum, all subsequent votes on the budget are held by referendum per Town Charter. Therefore, this meeting was for discussion only and no votes were taken. Jim Bixler served as Moderator and Linda Smith as Town Clerk.

Jim Bixler called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. He reiterated that no votes would be taken and that the second referendum would be held June 7, 2005. The polls will be open from 6am-8pm and absentee ballots would be available June 1st.

The Clerk read the call of the meeting as it was published in the Hartford Courant on May 24, 2005.

Richard Eickenhorst explained the breakdown of the amended budget and the mill rate increase. He encouraged all to vote for the new budget.

The Moderator then opened the meeting up for discussion. Comments were made by:

Tracey Toland	54 Queens Peak	Thanked the BOF for additional money commented on results of first referendum and BOF actions thereafter; upset by additional money added back in; urged people to vote 'no'; questioned BOE strategy there is no way to measure BOE achievement
George Thimot	West Mountain Rd	
Gordon Geick	Birch Knoll Road	Thanked the BOF for additional money what expenses will be reduced if this referendum fails? How is the Town getting the word out to advertise the referendum?
Kim Hathaway	Trailsend Drive	
Joanna Aversa	Timber Lane	
Guy Gilchrist	Lawton Road	
Jim Keane	Freedom Drive	questioned staffing decisions of the BOE/BOS; administrative jobs vs teaching jobs
Norm Adams	Case Street	pay increases are too much for teachers
Karen Berry	East Mtn Road	explained the details of the BOE contract pay increases
Sarah Faulkner	Dyer Ave	Thanked the BOF for additional money; good schools increase property value; it is important that class sizes be kept small due to mainstreaming Special Education students
Raymond Mikulski	Freedom Dr	people should pay extra taxes if they have kids in school; BOE gets far too much money than any other services/department
Mark Lowell	Gildersleeve Ave	a community has an obligation to educate its youth; this budget is too high; first budget was perfectly fine; we can not keep doing these increases year after year; large spending increases will drive out people and will deteriorate the character of the town making it homogeneous and without diversity
Andrea O'Neal	Indian Hill Road	she pays additional money throughout the school year for programs and supplies and doesn't feel families with school aged children should be taxed more
Tony Toland	54 Queens Peak	79 new kids in Canton is like having 240 additional kids in Farmington or 160 new kids in Avon; 3% union increases are not uncommon
Elaine Powell	Deer Run Road	too much money is being spent on education; more money does not equal a good education; the best teachers to educate our children are the parents; special education money is being wasted
Andy Kuhlberg	Christmas Tree Hill	supports increased budget; the increased value in people's homes is real value vs the taxes paid each year
Norm Adams	Case Street	he only gets a 1.7% increase in his social security check
Julie Rush	Wilder's Pass	Thanked the BOF for additional money; a good investment
Kim Hathaway	Trailsend Drive	Why do we need so many policemen?
Sarah Faulkner	Dyer Ave	what does a no vote mean; supports a yes/no/no vote
Larry Minichiello	Maple Ave	the BOE voted 9-0 to support the revised budget

Hailey Hathaway	Trailsend Drive	Thanked the BOF for additional money; doesn't understand why there wasn't a yes/no/no vote; young people support elderly with social security money
George Thimot	West Mtn Road	resents statement regarding social security
Sam Humphrey	Barbourtown Road	tried to explain yes/no/no vote; emails were from both sides of the issue; there is an affluent group of people pushing the BOE initiatives; this disturbs him because they deny that there are people in town who cannot pay
Carol Fine	Wilder's Pass	every town has a responsibility to its kids and seniors' this is a good compromise; vote yes in the second referendum
Jim Keane	Freedom Drive	we cannot change the form of the vote to a yes/no/no format
Kevin Smith	Bristol Drive	he is against the \$150,000 addition of money to the BOE budget; believes the additional money is going to support unnecessary administration
Jeanne Bouchard	Lawton Road	we already pay for sports with our taxes
Guy Gilchrist	Lawton Road	does not believe in pay for play system

There being no further comments, a motion was made by Fred Turkington to adjourn the Annual Budget Meeting to referendum, dated June 7, 2005. Second by Sue Saidel. The polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm EDT. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Linda Smith
Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record June 1, 2005

Linda Smith
Linda Smith, Town Clerk