

Town of Canton
Annual Town Budget Meeting
May 9, 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 Monday, May 9, 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. A petition was filed with the Town Clerk containing more than the required number of signatures to take the budget question to Referendum. Therefore, this meeting was for discussion only and no votes were taken. John Burns served as Moderator and Linda Smith as Town Clerk.

John Burns called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. The Clerk read the call of the meeting as it was published in the Hartford Courant on May 3, 2005.

Richard Eickenhorst moved that the budget be considered and discussed.
Mary Tomolonius seconded.

Copies of the handouts follow these minutes.

Richard Eickenhorst, Chairman of the Board of Finance, explained the process of coming up with the budget and urged its support. His comments centered on bonding, grand list growth, the town's limitations, debt service and future needs. He also explained his reasoning behind voting against putting an advisory question on the referendum ballot. He did not believe the additional question would bring any clarification to the vote.

Larry Minichiello, Chairman of the Board of Education, explained the Education portion of the budget with the aid of a power point presentation and urged its adoption. His comments centered on enrollment, staffing, expenditures, BOF reductions and BOE initiatives.

Mary Tomolonius, First Selectman, presented the General Government portion of the budget. Her comments focused on budget goals, financial constraints, commercial and residential growth, higher levels to service our debt, higher fixed costs, and senior services. She stated that the \$100,000 cuts for the BOS are undetermined as yet and outlined the items that make up the 6.33% increase. She urged the entire budget's backing.

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

Rachel Galligan	110 High Valley Dr	What can Canton expect from the State Budget Surplus?
Tony Toland	54 Queens Peak	Believes an advisory question should be on the ballot-he will be voting 'no'
Becky Kandrysawtz	35 Hanson Rd	doesn't believe its an acceptable budget for BOE-will vote no
Peg Berry	115 Robin Dr	How did BOF arrive at \$300K cut to BOE-will vote no
George Thimot	103 West Mtn Rd	suggested exit polling-were are we saving money-Kohl's lawsuit
Carrie Sinish	20 Dyer Ave	disappointed that advisory question not on ballot-considering not voting
Susan Crowe	111 West Rd	wanted further reasoning behind not putting advisory question on ballot
Johanna Ferrone	4 Sandy Place	23 or 24 children in a classroom is significant and a burden
Mike Sheldon	20 Pond View Dr	citizens are ultimately responsible on voting day-when will the budget be finalized if referendum goes down-how can citizens better make their feelings known-how does the process affect teacher hiring
Sharon Weakley	21 Ellsworth Lane	what will it take for BOF to add back in \$300K-will vote no
Janet Connelly	54 Indian Hill Rd	moved to town because of quality of schools -supports schools
Dick Swibold	731 Cherry Brook Rd	supports restoring \$300K to BOE
Jim Keane	32 Freedom Drive	Canton can't afford these large increases-look for more efficiencies-approve this budget
Julie Divencenzo	101 High Valley Dr	why was there no mill increase?-is this typical

Glenn Barger	8 Pond Road	a member of zoning commission-doesn't believe there is any fat in budgets-restore \$300K to BOE
Jeff Smith	13 Scoville Rd	why are the proposed increases more than what the BOF suggested at the beginning of the budget process?
Bill Spatcher	17 Pond View Dr	the proposed budget underserves the BOE needs-we need an Advisory question-will vote no
Jackie Kunkel	179 High Valley Dr	moved to Canton because of school system-displeased with budget cuts
Carol Fine	60 Wilders Pass	Property values are related to quality of schools
Dave Berry	115 Robin Dr	does BOF agree with BOE that funding levels are inadequate-where does education fall in the list of priorities for BOF?
Theresa Barger	8 Pond Road	Supports BOE increases-additional tax would be minimal
Tony Toland	54 Queens Peak	can \$65 be taxed on each home and solve this problem?
Becky Kandrysawtz	35 Hanson Rd	she had 75 letters to present to the BOF-what has been the sentiment the BOF has heard outside of this meeting?
Bill Spatcher	17 Pond View Dr	how will BOF be able to discern the thought of the people if referendum goes down?
Theresa Barger	8 Pond Road	what will it take for BOF to reconsider this budget?
Candace Freedenberg	21 Dartmouth	supports BOE-put back \$300K-concerned with cuts for after school programs
Julie Divencenzo	101 High Valley Dr	How many times can this go to referendum?

There being no further comments, a motion was made to adjourn the Annual Budget Meeting to referendum, dated May 17, 2005. Second by Karen Berry. The polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm EDT. The meeting adjourned at 10:11pm

Linda Smith
Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record May 10, 2005

Linda Smith
Linda Smith, Town Clerk