

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
May 12, 2008**

The annual budget meeting of all electors and those qualified to vote in Town Meetings in the Town of Canton, Connecticut was held on Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Canton Middle/High School, 76 Simonds Avenue, Canton, CT for the purpose of discussing the Board of Finance recommended budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2008 and ends June 30, 2009.

James Bixler, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice. Approximately 225 people were in attendance.

“SHALL THE BOARD OF FINANCE’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,103,110 BE APPROVED?”

Gary Miller moved that the budget be considered and discussed.
Shirley Krompegal seconded the motion.

Richard J. Barlow, First Selectman, presented the General Government portion of the budget noting key initiatives of the BOS including:

- ? IT/Improved communication
- ? Staff consolidation
- ? An additional police officer
- ? Road maintenance
- ? Waste management/cost containment

He further discussed the CIP projects and noted that 64% of the BOS budget comprises salaries, benefits, insurance and contracted expenses.

Lou Daniels, Chairman of the Board of Education, explained the Education portion of the budget and pointed out that the process starts in November with the Capital Improvement Plan. The operating portion of the budget is put together in December and through a series of Public Hearings, mailings, Hartford Courant articles, CPTV commercials and the website, is communicated to the public throughout the process. The BOE budget reflects a 6.49% increase, 70% of which is driven by contractual obligations. With this budget the BOE has increased class sizes and offered fewer classes in the high school. Canton is 100 out of 166 in per pupil spending in Connecticut.

Kevin Case, Superintendent of Schools, further elaborated on the details of the budget noting:

- ? 1777 students in the system
- ? Reduced teaching staff
- ? Increased class size
- ? Combined classes in the high school
- ? A new phone system in Cherry Brook Primary School
- ? Renovations in the Canton High School lavatories
- ? IT improvements
- ? Purchase of a used maintenance vehicle
- ? Fuel and utilities
- ? Employee benefits
- ? Reduced spending for equipment
- ? No Child Left Behind
- ? Qualified teachers
- ? Remedial support to children in need
- ? Outside support services
- ? Professional development opportunities
- ? Contract obligations
- ? A new lighting program which is realizing cost savings

- ? Increased employee share for medical benefits
- ? Increased school lunch prices
- ? Grant opportunities
- ? The PTO's support of technology
- ? Athletic programs supported by the Booster Clubs

Dick Ohanesian, Chairman of the Board of Finance, referred to the budget mailer as he reviewed the revenue side of the budget. As the grand list growth continues to go down, the BOF has attempted to keep tax increases to a minimum. Both the BOS and BOE have taken the direction of the BOF by looking at benefits, cost sharing and making cuts to control costs. The BOF budget contains \$300,000 for the benefit of Open Space and did not make any cuts to the BOS or BOE budgets presented to them. After last year's budget was passed, State money came to the Town. Last year's State money was used to offset this year's numbers, keeping the mil rate increase to a minimum. The budget increase of 1.7% was passed unanimously by the BOF.

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Chris Budnick	11 Orchard Hill Road
Norm Adams	18 Case Street
Lance Perry	22 Barbourtown Road
Gary Miller	7 East Hill Road
George Thimot	103 West Mountain road
Bill Crowe	111 West Road
Theresa Martin Dotson	109 Torrington Road

There being no further comments, David Gilchrist made a motion to call the question. George Thimot seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a hand vote with all but two votes in favor.

According to Town Charter 3-9, the vote was taken by secret ballot.

THE BOARD OF FINANCE'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,103,110 was passed by a vote of:

197	Yes
19	No

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Linda Smith
Town Clerk

Received for record May 13, 2008.

Linda Smith
Town Clerk