

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
May 26, 2011**

The annual budget meeting of all electors and those qualified to vote in Town Meetings in the Town of Canton, Connecticut was held on Thursday, May 26, 2011 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, 2011 and ends June 30, 2012.

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. Mr. Bixler explained that the budget has been successfully petitioned to a referendum, pursuant to section 3-9 of the Canton Town Charter. Absentee ballots will be available in the Town Clerk's office as of May 27, 2011. The Annual Budget Meeting will be adjourned to a referendum. Discussion and presentations began regarding the following:

“SHALL THE BOARD OF FINANCE’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,015,978 BE APPROVED?”

Richard Ohanesian, Chairman of the Board of Finance, addressed the audience first by welcoming the voters in the audience, thanking the Board of Finance members for their work and the Board of Selectmen and Education for the time they put into their respective budgets. Both boards submitted good budgets that held spending down. Mr. Ohanesian explained the budget process which begins in November, includes the Town Assessor, and takes into consideration the Grand List. The Board of Finance unanimously felt that both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education budgets should be cut. The BOS budget was reduced by \$93,290 and the Board of Education was reduced by \$286,500. The overall budget is a 0.9% budget increase or a .73% tax increase. The average home increase will be \$48 in taxes. Mr. Ohanesian urges your support of the budget. It is a modest increase but one he feels the Town can afford.

Richard Barlow, First Selectman, addressed the audience first by thanking the CAO, Finance Officer and other employees who assisted in the preparation of this budget. The BOS worked on a lean and prudent budget and will make further reductions of \$93,290 as directed by the Board of Finance. Highlights include health insurance, road salt, salaries, and road maintenance. Mr. Barlow encouraged support of the budget.

Beth Kandrysawtz, Chairman of the Board of Education, addressed the audience. She thanked the Board of Education and the Finance Committee for their work on this budget. After the Board of Finance's reduction, the BOE increase requested a 1.5% increase. The BOE looks for innovative ways to reduce overhead. Highlights considered in this year's budget include salaries and benefits, enrollment, maintenance & repair of buildings, Spanish in the 6th grade, use of the ACT program, sports in the Middle School, and reduced spending on supplies/utilities/stipends/technology. Mrs. Kandrysawtz urged support of the budget.

Kevin Case, Superintendent of Canton Schools, addressed the audience. Acknowledging the difficult economic conditions, the goal of the BOE is to maintain the high quality of education that the children in Town receive. Highlights considered include combining courses where feasible, reduce teaching portions of positions, enrichment programs at CIS, retirees and hires at lower salaries, teacher contractual obligations, reduced utilities through efficiencies, reduced professional development, reduced equipment/supplies, delayed window replacement at Canton High School, certified/non-certified personnel changes (although there are no specifics at this time), State of Connecticut grant funding and Federal Jobs Money.

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Marcel Robaczynski	667 Cherry Brook Road
Marianne Burbank	84 North Mountain Road
Ben Holden	20 Boulder Ridge
James Keane	32 Freedom Drive
John Sharp	18 Allen Place
Erika Hayes	95 High Valley Drive
Norman Adams	18 Case Street

There were no questions/comments regarding the Charter revision question that will appear on the ballot.

There being no further comments, Mr. Barlow moved that we adjourn to referendum scheduled for June 8, 2011, seconded by Bruce Lockwood.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Linda Smith
Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record May 31, 2011.

Linda Smith
Linda Smith
Town Clerk