

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
May 10, 2010**

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 10, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Canton Middle/High School, 76 Simonds Avenue, Canton, CT for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Board of Finance recommended budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2010 and ends June 30, 2011.

Lorinda Pane, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and explained the need for 150 voters to constitute a quorum for this meeting. If 150 voters as determined by the Registrar of Voters immediately prior to taking the vote are not present, then the meeting would be adjourned to a referendum. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

The moderator asked for the following motion:

“SHALL THE BOARD OF FINANCE’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,656,429 BE APPROVED?”

Motion made by Kathy Corkum. Seconded by David Gilchrist.

Budget presentation and discussion followed:

Richard Ohanesian, Chairman of the Board of Finance, addressed the audience first. Referring to the [budget mailer \(attached\)](#), he stated that the past two budget years have been met with extraordinary economic circumstances. Both BOS and BOE recognize these circumstances and both boards came in at 0% increased spending. BOF felt that it was the right amount of spending. The BOF took no action in reducing the proposed budgets. However, we are still met with a shortfall of revenue of approximately \$707K. BOF could have reduced the budgets lower or we could have used fund balance to pay the difference so there would be no tax increase. The unanimous decision was to not use the fund balance as we have in past years because we would be starting out next year with a \$707K ‘hole.’ It is also unlikely that we would be looking at 0% increases from both boards for next year. Also revenues from state and federal sources will be going down in the future. Using the fund balance would create a larger and larger gap as the years went on. The BOF is proposing a tax increase of 1.76% or .45 additional mils. Over the last two years the taxes have increased less than 1%. The objective of the BOF is to make taxes manageable for everyone in town, not just those who can afford it but for those who also need some assistance. The Grand List only grew by .23%. In past years, it has been very high. Currently the Grand List level is coming down to normal levels. BOF also say that the medical self insurance and pension is funded at 100%. The BOF unanimously supports this budget and urge your support.

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 budget that the BOS proposes is \$9,039,238; a \$1427 increase over last year’s spending (.002% increase). Of that, \$6.8 million is for the operating budget and \$405,000 is for capital improvement projects. The average spending increase over the last three years is .8% increase. Fixed costs have increased over the last year such as utilities, medical, pension. Severance is now funded. These costs will continue to increase. Revenues will not increase. State aid for highways is anticipated to be reduced. The proposed budget has reductions that we feel will not cause noticeable drops in service. Highlights of the budget include adding Community Policing, improving Social Services, making the Building Inspector position part time, making the Deputy Fire Marshall an on-call service, Park and Rec hours have been extended and will be covered by their special revenue fund and road maintenance will be studied to improve the road systems.

Beth Kandryawatz, Chairman of the Board of Education, addressed the audience. The Proposed budget will spend the same amount as last year. This budget meets the needs of

all of our students, maintains the infrastructure, and continues to reach for goals. Administrators are rethinking how things can be done. We'll be utilizing small revenue accounts like athletic gate receipts, reorganizing the library, using less energy, paper and postage. Programs added are enrichment program at CBPS, honors classes at the high school, experiential at Canton Middle School. Each bargaining unit in the district was approached for help in meeting fiscal goals. The custodians offered 2 furlough days next year. Teachers and the secretaries declined while the administrators chose to decrease their contractual professional development dollars to cover their reduction and the equivalent reduction for their secretarial staff. Non-union staff will also have two furlough days next year. Kevin Case and the administrators were praised for their hard work.

Kevin Case, Superintendent of Canton School, addressed the audience with a [power point presentation](#). (see attached)

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Lawrence Sullivan	Bunker Hill Road
Steven Weisman	Bunker Hill Road
Marianne Burbank	North Mountain Road
Carrie Sinish	Dyer Avenue
James Lucignano	Ellsworth Lane
Barry Dickstein	Queens Peak Road
Ben Holden	Boulder Ridge
Jay Kaplan	Gracey Road
Bryan Williams	East Hill Road
Larry Minichiello	Maple Avenue

There being no further comments, the motion to call the question was made and seconded. Unanimous.

The Moderator asked the Registrar of Voters to report on the number of ballots that were distributed. Jack Miner, Republican Registrar of Voters, reported that 197 ballots were distributed.

According to Town Charter 3.05, a quorum was met and the vote was taken by secret ballot.

THE BOARD OF FINANCE'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,656,429 was passed by a vote of:

178 Yes
16 No

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Linda Smith
Town Clerk

Received for record May 11, 2010.

Linda Smith
Town Clerk