

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT  
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING  
May 11, 2009**

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 11, 2009 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, 2009 and ends June 30, 2010.

Arthur E. Fournier, Jr., Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

“SHALL THE BOARD OF FINANCE’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,619,772 BE APPROVED?”

Budget consideration and discussion was moved and seconded.

Dick Ohanesian, Chairman of the Board of Finance, recognized the difficult economic times and the fact that both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education had made hard decisions. He referred to the Board of Finance mailer and the reduction in revenues in the areas of license/permit fees, Town aid to roads and intergovernmental revenue. The BOF did not make any further cuts to the BOS’s 3% reduction in spending while they did cut the BOE’s budget by another \$195K in order to come to a bottom line of no tax increases. Considering the revaluation of homes done this year, the new mill rate is projected to be 25.64. Over the next two years, the BOF will be looking to the State and Federal governments for aid. Mr. Ohanesian felt that the budget presented was an excellent one in a tough economic time. It was a responsible one and preserved what had been built up. All boards will have a difficult task going forward.

Richard J. Barlow, First Selectman, presented the General Government portion of the budget noting that this year going forward would be a difficult cycle for the Board of Selectmen. The BOS understands that citizens expect a lean and conservative budget and they were able to develop a 3% reduction in spending. Not all areas were cut, however, with key initiatives being made in the areas of Fire and EMS volunteers, the Park and Recreation account and employee liability. Reductions and savings were found in the areas of: curbside tipping fees, a part time position at the Transfer Station, 2 vacancies at the Police Department, snow removal, open space, regional partnerships and capitol improvement. Mr. Barlow felt that the budget presented by the BOS was a lean one that is doable and he is pleased the BOS could contribute to a 0% tax increase.

Lou Daniels, Chairman of the Board of Education, explained the Education portion of the budget. He stated that Canton has a high achieving/great school district and despite the tough economic times, we as a community will come through this stronger. The budget presented by the BOE:

- preserves class sizes according to Board policy;
- adds participation fees for sports programs and will be looking to expand this in the future beyond sports;
- has planted a seed with the unions that they may need to go back to them for concessions;
- freezes salaries for FY 2009-2010 for the senior leadership group;
- provides for no new additions and some staff reductions.

The Board of Education supports this budget and feels there will be better days ahead.

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

- this was a painful budget process and reductions were made in areas we wouldn’t otherwise make;
- maintaining class size was important;
- the budget reflects special education support for 18 students out of district;

- a 10% reduction in instructional supplies;
- a \$90K reduction in the technology plan;
- software licenses and programs will continue to be supported;
- a participation fee in sports will be expanded to other areas;
- the addition of a second grade teacher to meet BOE class size requirements;
- staffing reductions were done where it was possible;
- the enrichment program at CIS was cut to ½ teacher;
- a reduction of 10 paraeducators in the district;
- reduction of a special education teacher at CBPS by ½ teacher;
- the maintenance and custodial supervisor will be cut from .7 to .5;
- the reduction of one FTE from the maintenance staff.

Overall, spending will be up 1.19% or \$262,788.

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Ken Humphrey	250 East Hill Road
Sam Humphrey	96 Barbourtown Road
Robert Sigman	45 West Road
Peter O'Meara	72 Bart Drive
George Thimot	103 West Mountain Road

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

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

THE BOARD OF FINANCE'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,619,772 was passed by a vote of:

106 Yes  
13 No

There being no further business, Richard Barlow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Lou Daniels.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

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Linda Smith  
Town Clerk

Received for record May 12, 2009.

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Linda Smith  
Town Clerk