

TOWN OF CANTON - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Hybrid Meeting

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 – 7:00 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: First Selectman Kevin Witkos, Tim LeGeyt, Stephen Sedor, William Volovski, and Elizabeth Corkum Winsor.

Also Present: Interim CAO Taryn Schrager, Town Clerk Tracy Morrocco, Mark Penney, Recording Secretary Maureen Griffin

Call to Order: K. Witkos called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: K. Witkos moved to enter Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. for personnel matters pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(6)(a).

- Consider status of Probationary Employee
- New Chief Administrative Officer

He invited T. Schrager and N. Amos to the Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Take actions based on discussion in Executive Session

Motion: S. Sedor moved that the Board of Selectmen do the following:

1. Approve the appointment of Mark Penney as the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Canton.
2. Such appointment is strictly in accordance with the terms of the written contract between Mr. Penney and the Board of Selectmen as executed by the First Selectman.

Seconded by: W. Volovski

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: S. Sedor moved that the Board of Selectmen hereby continues the employment of Nathan Amos as the Finance Director for an additional probationary period of six months with such employment continuing to be otherwise in accordance with the terms and conditions of any existing contract of employment between Mr. Amos and the Town of Canton.

Seconded by: W. Volovski

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

-Lisa Coggins (Daynard Drive) thanked the BOS for acting so quickly in hiring the new CAO. She is in favor of the field naming as indicated in the meeting packet. She attended the Tri-Board meeting and learned of the PFAS remediation grant. She thanked the BOS and Town Staff that handled the submission of the application; this results in less of a financial impact on residents.

-Tom Blatchley (Bart Drive) thanked First Selectman K. Witkos, and all Selectmen for their service. He thanked T. Schrager for serving as Interim CAO. He acknowledged Lisa Seminara and K. Witkos for securing the \$500,000 grant for PFAS remediation.

APPOINTMENTS – There were no new appointments.

ACTION ITEMS

Request by Farmington River Watershed Association to waive the facility use fees for using the Town Hall Auditorium for the annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

K. Witkos explained that this is an annual event and that the fee has been waived in the past.

T. Schrager said that the fee would be approximately \$150.

Motion: K. Witkos moved to waive the facility use fees for the Farmington River Watershed Association to use the Town Hall Auditorium for the annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

Seconded by: T. LeGeyt
The motion passed unanimously.

Review Fiscal Year 2023/2024 end of year balances and possibly approve the reappropriation of funds between departments as detailed in the September 11, 2024, memorandum.

K. Witkos commented that he reviewed the documents and pointed out that some items did not have explanations for the deficits. This information is needed to complete the review. He suggested deferring this review until the next BOS meeting. He asked T. Schrager to provide printed copies of the spreadsheet for easier review.

Review the status of ARPA reappropriations.

K. Witkos asked that this item be tabled. Many questions were raised at the Tri-Board meeting. This review should be done along with the fiscal year 2023/24 end of year review.

Adopt the 2025 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule.

Motion: S. Sedor moved to adopt the 2025 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule.
Seconded by: W. Volovski
The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: K. Witkos moved to reschedule the November 13, 2024 BOS meeting to November 14, 2024.
Seconded by: W. Volovski
The motion passed unanimously.

Review and possibly approve a resolution authorizing the First Selectman to request that Sarah McCusker coordinate the creation of the Canton CT 250 Committee.

K. Witkos explained that S. McCusker reached out to the CAO to address preparations for 2026 events. It will be the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the 200th year anniversary of the Collins Company, and the 220th anniversary of the Town of Canton's incorporation. The committee would function like the Memorial Day Parade committee; they will report to the BOS.

Motion: K. Witkos moved to approve a resolution authorizing the First Selectman to request that Sarah McCusker coordinate the creation of the Canton CT 250 Committee.
Seconded by: S. Sedor
The motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to section III(D) of the Town of Canton Naming Rights, review and possibly approve to name of the High School Turf Field.

K. Witkos tabled this item. Many requests have been made to name some Town properties after Nancy Grace. The BOE and her family would like to wait. Mr. Witkos suggested holding a public hearing at the second BOS meeting in January. People may submit other naming suggestions before the public hearing.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Selectmen discussed the Materials Management Infrastructure grant application submission for a foam packaging recycling machine. K. Witkos explained that this grant will cover 100% of costs. It will start with a six month trial period. Selectmen commented that it will be a convenience for residents and will be good for the environment.

Motion: W. Volovski moved to adopt the Consent Agenda.
Seconded by: E. Corkum Winsor
The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CAO, TOWN AGENCIES, OFFICIALS AND/OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS

Reports -

BOS Public Safety Subcommittee Update - E. Corkum Winsor reported on three areas that the BOS

had identified for the subcommittee. She spoke with the Fire Chief about an overdue monthly report. He had been busy with the opening of the new Fire House. He is now up to date on reporting. She got information about equipment that is stored at Canton Springs Fire Station: Engines 4 and 6 are stored there (Engine 6 is out of service). The BOS requested an update on the effectiveness of new Fire/EMS incentives for recruitment. The Chief needs additional time to analyze this. He is tentatively scheduled to report at the November 14th BOS meeting. He will report on their strategic plan in Q1 of 2025. Chief Arciero attended the subcommittee meeting to address comments/concerns about speeding and traffic violations. E. Corkum Winsor emphasized that this is a problem throughout the state and nation. There is not a single stop-gap measure to resolve this. Residents would like additional police presence on roads; this is a budgetary issue. Chief Arciero reported on a survey of Case Road neighborhood residents. There was a good response—52 residents responded. The majority did not think that calming measures worked. Many provided specific details in their comments. There are many issues and unanticipated consequences: rude driver behaviors that include horn honking, speeding between lanes, driving over residents' lawns, etc. Chief Arciero would like to keep the measures in place for additional evaluations. E. Corkum Winsor will draft a letter that will be sent to Case Road neighborhood residents. The Temporary Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee has received the survey results. The committee will work on questions related to traffic cameras. Residents of Maple/Dowd would like to pursue the possibility of traffic cameras as a solution for speeding problems. When answers are provided for these questions, there is still a need for an ordinance and Town Meeting. S. Sedor pointed out that the DOT has not identified the Maple/Dowd area as one that would qualify for traffic cameras. E. Corkum Winsor reported that the Canton Fire/EMS and Boy Scout Troop 77 are getting very close to an agreement. She will present the proposed agreement for review at the next BOS meeting.

WPCA Liaison Update – W. Volovski reported that he met with T. Schrager, J. Kaminski, and N. Pade so they could bring him up to speed. He was not able to attend the last WPCA meeting but he will attend the upcoming meeting. Stakeholders will be invited to a meeting with the consultant who will work on the master plan. K. Witkos commented that he received an email from Aquarion Water. They proposed purchasing/managing our water pollution control but did not provide any particulars. He has not responded to them.

Appointment Committee Update - S. Sedor stated that they did not meet in September or October. The committee will meet in the first week of November.

Correspondence

4-day work week – T. Schrager explained that resident emails were included in the meeting packet. Several people made specific comments and several had general questions. E. Corkum Winsor suggested having a better way to respond to emails now that there is a 4-day work week. Selectmen discussed the lapse in time due to the long weekend. Correspondence received on Thursday may not be answered until the following Monday. K. Witkos added that a part-time person may be needed for the Tax Collector's office. Some departments are limited by the size of the staff. These issues will be further discussed when the trial period ends in December.

Early Voting – K. Witkos commented that this is going well; numbers are good, and the process has been flawless.

W. Volovski announced that the dedication of the new Senior Center will be held next Wednesday (11:30am – 1:30pm)

ADJOURNMENT

K. Witkos adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.