

TOWN OF CANTON - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Hybrid Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – 7:00 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Tim LeGeyt, Stephen Sedor, William Volovski, Elizabeth Corkum Winsor

Absent: Kevin Witkos

Also Present: CAO Mark Penney, Recording Secretary Maureen Griffin

Call to Order: S. Sedor called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

L. Minichiello (Maple Avenue) addressed two issues:

-The recent CRCOG Rte. 44 Corridor Study meeting – he would like to see this information reach a larger segment of the community.

-The WPCA – he asked for an update on the study committee that is being formed.

He commented on the possible use of speed cameras and said that the CRCOG study recommended their use.

APPOINTMENTS – There were no new appointments. S. Sedor reported that they are trying to set an Appointment Committee meeting for next week.

ACTION ITEMS

Vote to dissolve the Temporary Collinsville Fire/EMS House Project Committee and thank the Committee Members for their service.

M. Penney commented that he was only involved at the end of the project; he thanked the committee for their work and added that the results speak for themselves.

Motion: T. LeGeyt moved to dissolve the Temporary Collinsville Fire/EMS House Project Committee and thank the Committee Members for their service.

Seconded by: W. Volovski

The motion passed unanimously.

Determine the topic(s) to be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting.

S. Sedor explained that Selectmen had emailed suggestions to K. Witkos. W. Volovski commented that, in the past few years, there has not been discussions/presentations at the Annual Town Meeting. Prior to those years, the Annual Meeting had featured a topic for discussion. He suggested having a presentation on affordable housing. T. LeGeyt commented that it would give the public a sense of where Canton stands in relation to the goals and criteria for affordable housing. E. Corkum Winsor suggested having a broader discussion about housing and apartment development related to the POCD and what is appropriate and approved by P&Z. She also suggested having a discussion about the CRCOG study, as Mr. Minichiello mentioned during public participation. She added that it might be a time to present an annual review of what has been accomplished in terms of growth and services in the past year. S. Sedor suggested having a discussion about the budget process and its timeline because a plurality of people spoke negatively about the budget this past year. A brief presentation would help reduce negativity. He added that K. Witkos will be present at the next BOS meeting for the final discussion/vote on the meeting topic. He asked M. Penney to add this to the 12-23-24 meeting agenda.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

-Refund of Taxes pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 12-129.

-Approve the November 26, 2024, Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes.

-Discuss and possibly approve rescinding the Board of Selectmen's resolution for the Cherry Brook

School Project.

- Review and possibly approve the DECD Municipal Brownfield Grant Program in the amount of \$200,000 for the Collins Company Complex.
- Approve a donation from the Canton Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. in the amount of \$2500.00 to purchase electronic equipment to be mounted in Room F of the Community Center in order to enhance Town meetings and other programs.

Motion: W. Volovski moved to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Seconded by: E. Corkum Winsor

The motion passed unanimously.

Add Agenda Item: Discuss and possibly approve submission of a grant application for the FEMA 2024 Assistance to Firefighters grant program.

M. Penney explained the request from the Fire Dept./EMS and the need to add this item to the agenda. There is a tight timeline for this submission.

Motion: W. Volovski moved to add Agenda Item: Discuss and possibly approve submission of a grant application for the FEMA 2024 Assistance to Firefighters grant program.

Seconded by: S. Sedor

The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly approve submission of a grant application for the FEMA 2024 Assistance to Firefighters grant program.

Motion: W. Volovski moved to approve submission of a grant application for the FEMA 2024 Assistance to Firefighters grant program.

Seconded by: T. LeGeyt

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 that the subcommittee met recently. They had a presentation on the ADA Right of Way Assessment. Seven miles of sidewalks were assessed. A report is expected in two months. She said that the memo of understanding between the Town of Canton Fire/EMS and Boy Scout Troop 177 is complete; they are getting all signatures. She is working with Neil Pade on a state road Quick Build Demonstration Project that could result in traffic calming measures being implemented on Maple/Dowd Avenues. This requires state approval. There was agreement that the Police Department and Fire Department will have designees on the subcommittee as permanent members. They will join in January.

-WPCA Liaison Update

W. Volovski reported that the WPCA Chair and the WPCA Superintendent are reviewing the scope of work for the long range plan. They are working with a consulting engineer.

-Communication: ARPA

M. Penney reported that he met with Nathan Amos today and that they are getting close to the final numbers. He will present exact numbers at the next BOS meeting. There will be approximately \$165,000 left to obligate. He provided additional information on amounts that are left in some line items/funds. This amount does not include \$96,000 that was set aside for the High Street Station relocation project. M. Penney said that he reviewed the Town Charter and spoke with the Town Attorney about the ARPA Funds Policy. ARPA funds are treated differently from other funds; a Town Meeting will probably not be necessary for reallocation of funds. Department Directors are submitting requests for funds. He will present a list of these requests at the next BOS meeting. For example, there is a need for IT equipment and for a study on the optimal use of municipal space/offices.

-Communication: email from Lynn Hunter

M. Penney received an email from Lynn Hunter last night. He emailed Selectmen today. He forwarded the letter to Ken Slater. Selectmen discussed the correspondence and their concerns about the review, promised ETA, and managing expectations of residents.

-CAO's Report

M. Penney reported that he presented the Connecticut Council of Municipalities Lifetime Achievement Award to R. Skinner at the CCM Conference. He congratulated Sarah McCusker who received the Connecticut Municipal Officer (CCMO) certificate.

REMARKS BY SELECTMEN

E. Corkum Winsor asked about the planned evaluation of the 4-day work week. This will be added to the 1-8-25 BOS meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

W. Volovski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Seconded by: S. Sedor

The motion passed unanimously.