

TOWN OF CANTON - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Hybrid Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 - 7pm
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: First Selectman Kevin Witkos, Elizabeth Winsor, Sarah Faulkner, Sarah Hague, Tim LeGeyt (virtual)
Also Present: CAO Mark Penney, Recording Secretary Lisa Coggins
Selectman Witkos called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Hazel Kosch

K. Witkos moved item V. Presentation up to IV.

K. Witkos added "Discussion Vision 2050" to item IX.

Motion: E. Winsor made a motion to accept the changes to the agenda. Seconded S. Faulkner.

Vote: Unanimous

IV. PRESENTATION

Time Stamp 00:02:30

Fire Marshal Tim Tharau presented the Town of Canton Fire Prevention Poster Contest Award to Hazel Kosch. Photos were taken.

V. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Time Stamp 00:05:20

BOS Appointments Committee- S. Hague read a list of vacancies for various boards and commissions, and encouraged residents to volunteer.

BOS Public Safety Subcommittee- E. Winsor provided an update from the 3/4/26 meeting including details of new CTDOT reflective stop signs, recognition from the CT Pedestrian Advisory Board for the optical speed bars on Maple Ave., review of the snow removal ordinance, and a presentation regarding the deteriorating condition of the Canton Public Safety radio communication system. An email from Chief Gotaski was read into the record.

CIP Committee- K. Witkos noted no new meeting.

WPCA Liaison- S. Faulkner provided updates from the 3/2/26 meeting noting the infrastructure study continues. The consultant is meeting with Land Use Boards, to determine what the sewage treatment area should encompass. Aging equipment, potential grants for funding were noted. User fee structure was reviewed and town supplemented funding was posed.

BOF Liaison- K. Witkos shared that the audit posed no questions from BOF. The insurance presentation from E. Winsor was well received. BOF did not ask any questions of BOS, but they did refer the later agenda item.

Outreach Task Force- S. Hague shared that 168 responses to the bonding survey were received. She presented a preliminary itemization of the support levels to each item. The open-ended question was presented in categories. A completed response chart and excel spreadsheet will be sent to the CAO when the survey closes. S. Faulkner is continuing to compile responses from the Town Departments. Several departments have individual, incomplete email lists.

YSB - S. Hague shared no updates.

Perm. Ins. Committee- E. Winsor provided an update from the 3/5/26 meeting. The next steps are to assess plan design changes and United Health will assist with a health plan performance review with the aid of the USI consultant, Chris Monroe.

POCD- S. Faulkner stated the first meeting was last week, and complemented the recruitment of the members as a cross section of the Town that represent a variety of skill sets. Town Planner Neil Pade presented procedural background and plan expectations. The budget will cover the consultant and the entire process. Public input is necessary throughout, as this is the start of a very long process.

VI. APPOINTMENTS:

Time Stamp 00:23:15

Motion: K. Witkos made a motion to move items A-B to the consent agenda without objection.

VII. ACTION ITEM:

Time Stamp 00:23:50

Motion: K. Witkos moved items A.-C. to the consent agenda without objection.

D. Discuss and possibly approve a request from Canton Conservation Commission to endorse limitation of outdoor light pollution.

K. Witkos tabled this item to invite the author to present and to consult with legal counsel.

E. Discuss and possibly give the Chief Administrative Officer authorization to sign the GZA change order. CAO Penney provided a summary of the history of PFAS at CBPS and the state mandated changes regarding remediation after the GZA contract was signed. New technology has also been made available that will meet state requirements and could be more cost effective. The state grant will be updated once the change order is signed. Reclamation of the space may be accomplished via reconfiguring the parking lot. Insurance has also aided to offset costs.

Motion: K. Witkos moved items E. to the consent agenda without objection.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Time Stamp 00:32:00

Brian Demski: Corrected an error in his public comment to BOE, noted the digital board at the Canton Green is not updated, suggested creating a structure for maintenance, asked about Avon's contribution to WPCA, and suggested the POCD is a waste of money, asked if the PFAS soil can be brought to the New Haven burn center.

Doreen DePaul: Complemented efforts of the survey, but expressed disappointment with the low bonding survey participation, is concerned over rising budgets, suggested a 5-10 year strategic plan, inquired about potential commercial developments, and raised issues with the BOE budget.

Jan Tanner: Provided an update on the Bike Skills Park for 55 Lawton Road and recognized Ben Paulsgrove, Troop 174 Eagle Scout who will be providing kiosks and signage.

Lisa Coggins: Inquired about CTDOT crosswalk updates throughout the Town and noted the poor condition at the intersection of Route 44 & 177, and asked when the FireHouse project report will be ready to be reviewed.

Aubrey Blatchley (virtual): Appreciates the bonding survey objective but is disappointed by the low responses, suggested a town mailer to garner more feedback, inquired about a tax calculator available to residents, and asked if the bonding items will be split on the referendum.

Tom Blatchley (virtual): Thanked the BOS for their time, requested public comment be moved to the start of the meeting, requested a tax calculator for residents, requested the bonding scope be broken out on the referendum, raised concerns about WPCA costs, commented about the distribution of Town signage needing to be improved.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Time Stamp 00:55:50

A. Vision 2050

K. Witkos raised the issue of revised items for bonding, and the timing of the bonding vs. the referendum. He noted the engineer for the CIS roof is on medical leave and has not done a site visit, and suggested capping the bonding amount to \$6 million to include: CIS roof, Emergency Services Communication, and Mills Pond Park, which would keep the amount below the 5% BOF debt policy. He noted the tax collector and assessor are investigating a calculator for residents that will incorporate, bonding, budget and phase-in. Selectmen discussed various concerns, noting the seriousness of the emergency system radio upgrades. Bonding costs are \$1300 and would be planned for late September. K. Witkos will notify BOF of the changes.

B. Public Comment

S. Hague suggested moving up public comment saying that the pros outweigh the cons. After selectmen shared their viewpoints, the consensus was to move up public comment on the agenda to after "Reports From Committees", in an effort to increase participation and respond to resident concerns. CAO will edit future agendas to reflect the change.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Time Stamp 01:20:30

A. Formal request from Board of Finance to discuss undesignated CIP Fund.

K. Witkos gave a summary of the Town Charter requirements of spending reports. Undesignated CIP fund was discussed at BOF regarding potential oversight and referred to BOS to have a discussion. K. Witkos explained that the account was used 6 times in the last 7 years and outside of the General Budget. It is funded by STIF (Short Term Investment Fund); funds that accrue interest from bonding money that is waiting to be spent on a project. He noted that BOE has a similar account. He stated that BOF inquired if the interest should be applied to the undesignated fund balance, and that the Finance Officer stated that is not standard procedure. The flexibility of the account was noted as useful.

X. REMARKS

Time Stamp 01:23:55

E. Windsor thanked the Appointments Committee for the excellent appointments on the Permanent Insurance Committee.

S. Faulkner addressed public comment and shared details about the POCD being a blueprint for the Town, and encouraged the public to get involved. (*Doreen DePaul handed a business card to the CAO @ 8:26pm*)

S. Hague thanked Selectman Witkos for his intention, creativity and problem-solving during the budget and bonding processes.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

Time Stamp 01:27:00

Appointments

A. Appointment of Christina Ehrenreich (D) as an alternate member of the Juvenile Review Board for a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

B. Elevation of Laura Williamson (U) as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term to expire on January 1, 2029.

Action Items

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

B. Approve the February 19, 2026 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes

C. Approve the February 28, 2026 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes

E. Discuss and possibly give the Chief Administrative Officer authorization to sign the GZA change order.

Motion: K. Witkos made a motion to approve the consent agenda

Vote: Unanimous

XII. ADJOURNMENT

K. Witkos adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm