

TOWN OF CANTON - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Hybrid Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 -7pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: K. Witkos (First Selectman), E. Winsor (Deputy First Selectman), S. Faulkner, S. Hague, T. LeGeyt

Also Present: M. Penney (Chief Administrative Officer), Z. Peak (Finance Officer), T. Richardson (DPW Director), C. Arciero (CPD Chief), J. Gotaski (CFD Chief), L. Coggins (Recording Secretary)

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Zoe Peak

IV. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES (00:01:00)

BOS Appointments Committee-S. Hague noted no updates. The next meeting is June 8, 2026.

BOS Public Safety Subcommittee- E. Winsor reported no updates. The next meeting is Jun 1, 2026.

CIP Committee- K. Witkos reported the committee will have its first meeting of the quarter soon after the BOS reviews status of previous projects.

WPCA Liaison- S. Faulkner stated the \$1.8 million grant with match was awarded to the WPCA, notification from Senator Murphy. Matching funds will come from WPCA fund balance, which has sufficient funds. The consultant facility review has recommended upgrades. K. Witkos suggested a thank-you note to Sen. Murphy from the WPCA, and the BOS on behalf of the residents.

BOF Liaison -K. Witkos mentioned there was leadership meeting with BOE Chair Daniels, and BOF Chair Miller to pen the notification to residents for the upcoming referendum on June 2, 2026. The letter was sent through email and social media, and noted the tax increase of 1.32%, budget increase of 5.8%.

Perm. Ins. Committee-E. Winsor provided a detailed analysis in response to public comment regarding the stop loss gap and benefits of being on a self-insured vs. an administrative contract, the latter being 4%-8% more expensive. She noted a \$420k surplus that will be deposited into the claim reserve fund. The PIC met with the BOE team regarding the teacher negotiations starting in August 2026.

Outreach Task Force- S. Faulkner noted no new updates.

YSB -S. Hague reported no new updates.

Temporary POCD Update Committee -S. Faulkner reported that the consultant RFP was approved at the 5/27/26 meeting. EDA and Conservation Commission are invited to present at the July and August meetings. There will be no meeting in June. Target to select the consultant is for September or October 2026.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (00:08:45)

Barbara Schori: Inquired if the BOS would send out a mailer with the updated budget information prior to the next referendum, voiced concerns about the communication gap for those not using digital communications and shared a notice from Civic Plus asking her to subscribe to notices.

K. Witkos informed everyone that flyers will be available on site with budget details prior to the vote, and hard copies are available at the Town Hall and Community Center. He also noted the tax calculator is available. CAO Penney will look into why she received communications from Civic Plus, since the new website is not yet live to the public.

Lisa Coggins: Thanked the BOS for their budget considerations during the last meeting. She voiced concern about the recent budget update mailer information as being unclear, and raised a concern about her inability to communicate with the Land Use Office in a timely manner regarding citations.

Peter Gensheimer: Questioned the town's commitment to deferred maintenance given the recent budget cuts and expressed concern over the BOE budget increases in comparison to decreasing population as unsustainable.

K. Witkos responded with details of the BOF required budget cuts and explained how department cuts will be managed.

S. Faulkner, responding to earlier comments, stated that a budget mailer costs \$4000, and those funds are not in the budget.

VI. OLD BUSINESS (00:20:45)

- A. Utilities Update- CAO M. Penney discussed ongoing collaboration with the Energy Committee to analyze EverSource consumption data and assess the ROI for proposed firehouse solar panels.
- B. Town Fleet Update- CAO M. Penney distributed the vehicle roster for budgeting accuracy in response to public feedback during the recent budget meetings.
 - a. DPW: Director T. Richardson discussed plow truck cycles and strategies to extend the life of older trucks.
 - b. Police Department: Chief Arciero distributed two documents, defined the current 16 vehicle fleet size, citing increase of staff to meet minimum requirements, heavy engine hours, sharing vehicles across departments, and the need for cars to generate private duty revenue. Fundraising for LEO was reviewed. The availability of a gift vehicle from West Hartford was discussed.
 - c. Fire/EMS: Chief Gotaski discussed NFPA and OSHA standards, the immediate need for a traffic vehicle replacement, and severe rust issues on the 2006 Kenworth Tanker. He also noted heavy mutual aid responses (especially to Simsbury), significant cost increases, and the extreme lead time on fire apparatus as 3-4 years.

Follow-up: E. Winsor suggested a leadership meeting with Simsbury to discuss mutual aid.

VII. ACTION ITEMS (01:19:45)

Motion: K. Witkos moved items A. , B., and D. to the consent agenda without objection.

- C. Review and possibly approve a request from the Fire & EMS Department to waive the bid process to purchase a traffic vehicle.

Motion: E. Winsor moved to approve the request from the Fire/EMS Department to waive the bid process to purchase a used traffic vehicle in the amount of \$60,000 (\$45k vehicle, \$15k upfitting). Second: K. Witkos

Discussion: Chief Gotaski discussed the need for this type of vehicle and the anticipated uses for traffic and towing. Request is based on comparisons to similar used vehicles and need for upfit of essential Fire/EMS equipment, sirens and graphics. Existing radios will be used.

Motion: K. Witkos moved to add item C. to the consent calendar without objections.

Objection: T. LeGeyt stated that foregoing the usual procedures of getting three bids should require a specific vote.

Vote: Unanimous (5-0-0)

Motion: K. Witkos moved to add item D. to accept the donation from the 2007 police utility van at no cost from the West Hartford Police Department to the agenda. Second: S. Faulkner

Vote: Unanimous (5-0-0)

Motion: K. Witkos moved to accept the donation from the 2007 police utility van at no cost from the West Hartford Police Department. Second: E. Winsor

- D. Accept the donation from the 2007 police utility van at no cost from the West Hartford Police Department.
Discussion: Selectmen discussed which department would take on the responsibility of maintenance costs. CAO mentioned proceeds of \$20,000 from the DPW sale of items, and costs associated to strip the interior.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (01:04:45)

- A. Dyer Depot: S. Faulkner reported that the Land Trust is interested in restoring the Dyer Depot. K. Witkos explained the project is stalled due to lack of correspondence with the contract who committed to moving it at no cost.

IX. REMARKS (01:34:45)

Deputy First Selectman Winsor

- Emphasized the need for a formal, multi-department protocol for canceling town events (e.g., the recent Memorial Day Parade) due to weather.

Sarah Faulkner complimented E. Winsor for her representation at the Memorial Day ceremonies.

Tim LeGeyt

- Complimented E Winsor for her work on the Memorial Day ceremonies.
- Inquired about several items in the CAO report: 37 Bridge Street, Axe Factory, CBPS expansion, CBPS PFAS, Maple Ave connectivity and the website launch for July 1, 2026. The CAO and First Selectman expanded on details found in the meeting packet where applicable.

First Selectman Kevin Witkos noted that his temporary appointment to the PMBC concludes at the end of June following a legal opinion.

X. FINANCIAL UPDATE (01:51:00)

Finance Director Zoe Peak distributed two documents, provided a status update on FY25/26 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects and introduced several accounting transfers to close completed projects and cover overages.

Follow up: K. Witkos stated that a MOU should be developed at the next Tri-Board Meeting regarding CIP Reserve Funds. Additionally, he requested a year end report to demonstrate the follow-through of Capital Projects to the public.

Motion: K. Witkos moved to approve a slate of CIP transfers: \$741.62 and \$506.00 from closed CIP projects to cover to Transfer Station Mobile Office overages totaling \$1227 with the remaining funds being returned to the undesignated CIP in the amount of \$20.62, \$4,000 from the 3 yard Bucket Loader to cover new state Stormwater Management mandates, \$1,567.16 from Truck 12 to cover Truck 13 purchase overage, \$16,652.86 from the scratched Community Center Shower Project to Fire Escape repairs, and \$10,000 from Town Planner professional services to cover the SS4A grant match requirement. Second: T. LeGeyt

Motion: K. Witkos moved to add the slate of CIP transfers to the consent calendar without objections.

Objection: S. Faulkner explained that the Board of Finance should review these items separately.

Motion: K. Witkos called for a vote to approve the slate of CIP transfers.

Vote: Unanimous (5-0-0)

XI. CONSENT AGENDA (02:17:50)

Action Items:

- A. Refund of Taxes pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 12-129
- B. Approve the May 13, 2026 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
- D. Accept the donation from the 2007 police utility van at no cost from the West Hartford Police Department.

Motion: First Selectman Witkos called for a vote to approve all items placed on the Agenda.

Vote: Passed unanimously (5-0-0)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

K. Witkos adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.