

2022 TOWN MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2022

The February 28, 2022 Annual Town Meeting was opened by Moderator A. Morgan Wade at 6:00 P.M.

Moderator A. Morgan Wade introduced herself and said she was the Moderator for the evening.

Moderator A. Morgan Wade stated that the meetings are governed by State Laws and the Robert Rules of Order and will modify if needed. Moderator Wade asked that anyone with questions come to the center of the room where the microphone is and if you don't feel comfortable enough to do that the runners can go to you. Moderator also stated to make sure to give your name so the clerk can take notes. "My goal is to help conduct the meeting and you can always ask for a point of clarification. You can question and challenge me. Articles must be moved, seconded and restated and articles can be reconsidered up to the point where they can be moved, seconded and restated. Nonvoters that want to speak should identify yourself and will be able to speak once we suspend the rules."

With no objections, Moderator Wade introduced our State Representative Paul Lefebvre to update (us) the assembly on what's happening in the legislature. He appreciated the chance to speak and said it would be the last time he will be able to speak (to Canaan due to the reorganization of the districts). He spoke about the changes with the Agency of Natural Resources.

Moderator Wade referenced Robert Rules and commented that, if there is no objection, she will go through the Warning Article by Article.

Moderator Wade read the Warning with a revision that the Town will transact Town business from the floor, and immediately thereafter, to transact the School business from the floor.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters of the Town of Canaan accept the provisions of V.S.A. T.32 §4791 in regard to the collection of taxes by the Treasurer?

Motion was made by Judith Masson to open discussion on Article 1 and seconded by Kathy Smith.

Robert Baum asked if someone can explain this Article. Haven Haynes Jr. said it is just following the statues for collection of taxes which is giving permission to the Treasurer.

No other discussion took place.

Moderator Wade called for a vote.

Article 1 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town of Canaan vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

Motion was made by Renee Marchesseault to open discussion on Article 2 and seconded by Terrie Herr.

Terrie Herr questioned if there is any surplus and Town Clerk, Noreen Labrecque explained if you look at the revenues on page 21 it shows a surplus of \$50,000 and that will be used to reduce the taxes in the general account.

No other discussion took place.

Moderator Wade called for a vote.

Article 2 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 3. Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 for deposit into the Building Capital Reserve Fund, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804(a)?

Motion was made by Judith Masson to open discussion on Article 3 and seconded by Ginette Ladd.

No discussion took place.

Moderator Wade called for a vote.

Article 3 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Canaan raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,894.00 with revisions, if any, for the following agencies?

a.	Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc.	\$4,400.00	pg 60
b.	Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.	\$1,944.00	pg 59
c.	Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	\$1,500.00	pg 61
d.	Rural Community Transportation	\$1,110.00	pg 56
e.	Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	\$1,250.00	pg 67
f.	Umbrella, Inc.	\$ 700.00	pg 66
g.	Canaan Naturally Connected, Inc.	\$2,000.00	pg 53
	AGENCY APPROPRIATION REQUEST TOTALS	\$12,894.00	

Moderator Wade asked if no objections this can be voted on as a group. No objections.

Motion was made by Renee Marchesseault to open discussion on Article 4 and seconded by Odette Crawford.

Judith Masson questioned how it compared to last year. Odette Crawford did the comparison and the only change was Rural Community Transportation was \$1,210 and this year it was reduced by \$100.

No further discussion took place.

Moderator Wade called for a vote.

Article 4 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 5. To determine if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 for the UPPER CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL to help defray the costs of providing emergency and critical care clinic services. (pg. 57)

Motion was made by Sharon Belleville to open discussion on Article 5 and seconded by Daniel Lepine.

No discussion took place.

Moderator Wade called for a vote.

Article 5 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Canaan accept the proposed Library budget, with revisions, if any, for the ensuing year? (pg 33)

Motion was made by Terrie Herr and seconded by Zack Brown to open discussion on Article 6.

No discussion took place, Moderator Wade called for a vote.

Article 6 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Canaan accept the proposed General budget, with revisions, if any, for the ensuing year? (Includes Transfer Station & Police) pgs 16-21

Motion was made by Odette Crawford and seconded by Terrie Herr to open discussion on Article 7.

Haven Haynes Jr. presented the General budget and went thru some of the highlights page 16: Under Clerk/Treasurer's Office – Selectboard Adm. increased due to resurveying of Rouleau Rd; Other Contracted Services – increased due to installation of

new internet serv; Office equipment – need to buy new printer; Ballot Clerks – increased because of election year; Heath insurance increased to plan on new assistant clerk; Auditing – it is recommended by VLCT that an audit is done every 5 years; Lister mileage/workshops increased due to lister training for the new State Program and we have it set up so they can get help if needed; under General Services – Printing/Advertisement increased due to advertising more; Dispatch Service Center – that is our portion.

Alfred Buckley presented the rest of the General budget and also went thru some of the highlights on pages 17-19 Under Parks & Trees – Contracted Services increased due to removal and trimming of some of the trees in Fletcher Park; Park Electric – increased for installation of electricity in the Beecher Falls Park; 45th Parallel increased; Under Police Department – Parts/Supplies/Repairs increased to purchase a new computer for the cruiser which is approximately \$6,000; Under Buildings – Electricity decreased due to the SAU moving out; Under Transfer Station – Contracted Services price for shipping has increased; Building Construction increased due to needed repairs to the Transfer Station i.e. fix the roof and run electricity to the building; Hazardous Waste Day increased.

No further discussion, Moderator Wade called for a vote.

Article 7 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Canaan accept the proposed Highway budget, with revisions, if any, for the ensuing year? pgs 29-30

Motion was made by Odette Crawford and seconded by Kim Sweatt to open discussion on Article 8.

Mark Bullard presented the Highway budget and went through some of the highlights: under Utilities – increased for roof repair, leaking in several places and trying to find a contractor to do the work; Equipment – increased for new tires on backhoe. We no longer have the 2015 truck on the books and also commented that the 2021 has a five year lease left; Summer Maintenance has increased for road side mowing and street sweeping for fuel and maintenance cost, the contractor's price for road side mowing and street sweeping has been the same for the past 5 years so he has increased this year; Hall Stream Road project is an offset by a 80-20 grant. We might only have to pay 10% but depends on how the grant goes through.

Haven commented that the DOT had some extra money and we qualified for a grant through them. After the rehab work is done on the bridge this year the paving of River Road will happen the year after. Odette Crawford questioned what is wrong with the bridge and Haven commented that the Bridge Inspector noticed that the concrete on the underside is rotting and needed to be filled and resealed and the Engineers are coming up with a plan and the work should be done in the summer.

Robert Baum questioned if the plan is to put in a new bridge or repair the old and Haven commented it is to rehab the bridge. Mr. Baum also questioned if it would increase the weight barrier and Haven commented that would be up to the Engineers.

No further discussion took place. Moderator Wade asked for a vote.

Article 8 passed in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 9. To transact any business that may legally come before the meeting.

No other business to transact.

Motion was made by Kathy Smith to adjourn meeting and seconded by Terrie Herr.

The 2022 Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelara Rancourt

Approved by:

W. Wade

A. Mariani

A. Mariani WAD, Moderator