

**TOWN COUNCIL OF NEW CANAAN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
JOINT MEETING  
June 14, 2006**

**TOWN COUNCIL -**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Lewis Annunziato	Christine Hussey
Barbara Beall	Thomas O’Dea
Ken Campbell	Ruth Smithers
Dr. Mark DeWaele	Dick White
John Emert	Penny Young
Paul Foley	

**MEMBER ABSENT:**

Kathryn Devereaux

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN -**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Judy Neville, First Selectman; Johnny Potts and Paul Giusti, Selectmen

**BOARD OF FINANCE -**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mary Davis Cody (Alternate)	Roger Smith
Robert DiPanni	Dan Ward
Harry Durney	Kathleen Corbet (Alternate)
Susan LaPerla	Virginia Lastner (Alternate)
Judy Neville, Chairman	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Robert Cruickshank  
John Laird  
Robert Spangler

**ALSO PRESENT:** George Maranis, Administrative Officer; Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; Andy Ashforth, Principal, A.P. Construction Company; Christine Wagner, Chairman, and Penny Rashin, Werner Meyer, and Arnold Karp, Members, New Canaan High School Building Committee; Joe Gambino, Owner’s Representative; David Abbey, Superintendent of Schools; Chip D’Angelo, Principal, WCD Consulting; Brad Erickson, Assistant Fire Chief; Sandy Reddin and Jack Horner, Fire Commissioners; Steve Gaetta, Eugene Tiani, and Mike Socci, Firefighters; Jim Cole, Police Commissioner; Fred Baker, Fire Marshall; Sally Hines, Chairman, and Ditte Riefsnyder, Member, Board of Education; Sara Poirier, New Canaan Advertiser; Hal Brown, New Canaan News-Review; and about ten members of the public.

Dr. Annunziato called the Regular Meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:25 pm. Ms. Young read the Notice of Meeting and took the roll, noting the absence of Ms. Devereraux. Ms. Neville called the Special Meetings of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to order and took the rolls, noting the presence of all the Selectmen and the absence of Board of Finance members Robert Cruickshank, John Laird, and Robert Spangler. By unanimous vote of the Board of Finance, Alternates Mary Davis Cody, Kathleen Corbet, and Virginia Lastner were seated.

Dr. Annunziato then asked that one item be added to the agenda, a resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute an agreement on behalf of the Town of New Canaan with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Upon the motion of Dr. DeWaele and the second of Mr. Foley, the members of the Council voted unanimously to add this item to the agenda.

Next, upon the motion of Mr. Foley and the second of Mr. Campbell, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 18, 2006, Mr. White and Ms. Hussey abstaining due to absence. Upon the motion of Mr. Foley and the second of Mr. Campbell, the members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Public (Budget) Hearing of April 19, 2006, Ms. Beall abstaining due to absence. Upon the motion of Mr. Campbell and the second of Mr. White, the members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting of April 19, 2006, Ms. Beall abstaining due to absence. Upon the motion of Mr. Foley and the second of Ms. Hussey, the members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2006, Mr. White abstaining due to absence.

The Town bodies then discussed agenda Item 1, "To act upon a request from the New Canaan Fire Department for a special appropriation from general funds of \$150,000 to meet unbudgeted operating expenses at the New Canaan Fire Station for the year ending June 30, 2006." Commissioner Reddin explained that the expenses were incurred as a result of three storms, two major fires, three injuries (two of whom were Captains) and a record number of calls. Assistant Fire Chief Erickson described costs related to equipment and apparatus repair. Mr. Foley, Chairman of the Council's Public Safety Committee, opined that the expenses were reasonable. Selectman Giusti questioned whether going to a five-man shift with a five-man minimum during the fiscal year may have increased the budget to a point where this additional request for funding was necessary. Mr. Foley and Commissioner Horner disagreed, arguing that the change from "5 and 4" to "5 and 5" had, in fact, decreased overtime pay. Mr. Giusti then raised a procedural issue, contending that the move to a 5 man crew, 5 man minimum scheduling had never been voted on by the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Potts agreed with Mr. Giusti, maintaining that the matter should have been approved by the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Neville observed that "6 and 6" staffing has already been approved in the budget for the 2006-2207 fiscal year by both the Board of Finance and the Town Council, making academic the discussion of the change to "5 and 5" staffing.

Upon the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to grant the request for the additional funding of \$150,000. Upon the motion of Mr. DiPanni and the second of Mr. Smith, the Board of Finance voted unanimously to grant the request. Mr. O'Dea then moved that the motion be amended and that the change in staffing from "5 and 4" to "5 and 5" be sent back to the Board of Selectmen for approval. There was no second and Mr. O'Dea's motion died.. Upon the motion of Mr. Foley and the second of Ms. Smithers, the Town Council then voted unanimously to grant the request.

The Town bodies next addressed Item 2, "To act upon a request from the High School Building Committee for a special appropriation of \$3,200,000 for the continuation of asbestos removal at New Canaan High School." Ms. Wagner summarized activity since the last presentation to the members, saying the target completion date remains June 2007 with some staffing required through August 2007. She added that the probable cost for the asbestos abatement is now estimated at \$13,926,049, of which \$10,715,111 has already been funded. Mr. Gambino provided additional details and Mr. Ashforth detailed where the Town may expect to see further savings. He advised that descoping has resulted in a decrease in expenses of \$583,197 since February 14, 2006 and he is hoping to reduce costs by a total of approximately \$600,000. Mr. D'Angelo opined that the Building Committee's estimates were reasonably conservative, but that he was somewhat more optimistic as to the savings to be realized. Mr. Giusti suggested that the Committee's request be reduced to \$2,600,000, while Mr. Foley, Chairman of the Asbestos Abatement Oversight Committee, suggested an appropriation of \$2,900,000, with a review of progress in September. Upon motion of Mr. Potts and second of Mr. Giusti, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to grant the request as amended, to provide \$2,900,000. Upon the motion of Mr. DiPanni and the second of Ms. Davis Cody, the Board of Finance voted unanimously to grant the request as amended, Dan Ward abstaining. Upon the motion of Mr. O'Dea and the second of Mr. Emert, the Town Council voted 9 -2 to grant the request as amended, Dr. DeWaele and Mr. Campbell dissenting.

The Town bodies then addressed Item 3, "Approval of a resolution entitled 'Resolution Appropriating \$3,200,000 For Continuation of Asbestos Removal At The New Canaan High School And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,200,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose' ". In accordance with the votes on Item 2 as noted above, this Item was amended to read "\$2,900,000" rather than "\$3,200,000." Upon the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the Board of Selectman voted unanimously to approve the resolution, as amended. Upon the motion of Mr. Smith and the second of Ms. Cody Davis, the Board of Finance voted unanimously to approve the amended resolution, Mr. Ward abstaining. Upon motion of Ms. Hussey and second of Mr. White, the Town Council voted 9 - 1 to approve the amended resolution, Dr. DeWaele voting against, and Mr. Emert abstaining.

Finally, the Town Council addressed the adoption of a Resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute an agreement on behalf of the Town of New Canaan with the State of Connecticut Department of

Transportation concerning the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation – Agreement No. 3.28-42(06) –for the term from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011. After brief discussion, upon motion by Ms. Hussey and second of Dr. DeWaele, the Town Council voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Penny Young, Secretary, Town Council

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Robert DiPanni, Secretary, Board of Finance

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George M. Maranis, Secretary,  
Board of Selectmen