

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert DiPanni  
Mary Davis Cody  
Kathleen Corbet  
Judy Neville, Chairman

Roger Smith  
Robert Spangler  
John Laird

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan LaPerla, Neil Budnick; C. Daniel Ward

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; Pam Flynn, Executive Assistant; Jerry Ellis, Richard Stowe, Steve Gynn, Jim Cole, Rachel Kirkpatrick, NC Advertiser; Kristiana Glavin, NC News Review.

Ms. Neville convened the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Ms. Neville called the roll and noted the absence of Mr. Budnick, Mr. Ward and Ms. LaPerla.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 9, 2007 and made several changes. On the motion of Mr. Smith and second of Ms. Corbet the Board unanimously approved the minutes as amended.

The Board entered into further discussion of the missing Richter and Cegan Bills. Mr. Conrad discussed the posting marked by Richter and Cegan and where we currently stand.

The Town Wide Study- \$60,000 was approved with \$14,618.60 shortfall due to additional mapping.

Water Tower Field's misclassifications were corrected and there is a \$54,565.14 shortfall plus architect fees. Jeb Walker, Chairman of the Park and Rec Commission has committed to raise the funds to cover that figure before the end of the calendar year. Mr. Conrad will follow up.

Irwin Park Trails – There is a future estimate for an additional \$5000 is needed for A drainage issue. That figure covers the cost of Holt's assessment (\$4000) plus Mike Cegan from Richter and Cegan's final walk through and sign off (\$1000). Ms Neville noted that this is wrapped up in the \$75K from the STEAP grant application and should cover these needs.

Ms Neville addressed the need to close out and ask for more money for the Mapping (Town Wide Study) since there is an extra \$30,000 that was not appropriated. It was noted that this additional work was not approved by any of the Town bodies including the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and the Town Council but instead it was approved by the Chairman of the Park and Rec Commission.

Right now the needs assessment overage should be addressed (\$14,618.60) and an appropriation should be referred over to the Town Council.

The appropriation of \$14,618.60 from General Funds was unanimously approved on the motion of Mr. Smith and second of Mr. DiPanni.

Ms Neville next recognized Richard Stowe, from the Environmental group; Steve Gynn, resident and attorney with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Jerry Ellis, resident and advisor on New Canaan's behalf in the Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning work. She thanked everyone for their help and their specific expertise in the ongoing fight against the FAA airspace redesign over New Canaan.

Next, Ms. Neville presented a request from the First Selectman's office for an appropriation of \$75,000.

She explained that an Alliance of Towns had been formed to fight the FAA airspace redesign and previously asked the Selectmen to approve a memorandum of Understanding between the Towns of New Canaan, Greenwich, Darien, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport, Wilton, Pound Ridge, NY and the Cities of Norwalk and Stamford to all enter into an agreement with Attorney Steve Pflaum of McDermott, Will and Emery in Chicago (\$500,000). This amount covers the court case, briefs, filings as well as 2 needed consultants.

Also needed is a contract with Timmons and Company of Washington D.C. for lobbying services (\$180,000).

Finally, a contract with OnPoint Advocacy, a grass roots firm based in Alexandria Virginia (\$240,000) for Phase I through March 2008; Total \$920,000.

Ms. Neville then concluded by saying that the total Appropriation requested is for \$75,000. (\$64,400) based on the attached schedule (7%), plus a Contingency of approximately \$10,000. The \$75,000 is the total of New Canaan's share.

Ms. Neville stated that 50 percent of the money is a straight allocation and 50 percent is based on population size. Discussion continued on the processes of approval in the Alliance towns as well as the timing of filing the suit. New Canaan is leading the Alliance and arranges all of its meetings. Discussion continued with questions about what will happen after the November election. Feedback from Mr. Stowe and Mr. Guynn indicated that all parties support the established efforts and the hope is that the contract obligations of the Town will be fulfilled.

Mr. Ellis explained more about the credibility of the law firm and he reviewed the differences in services between lobbyists and grassroots firms. A question was raised regarding Attorney General Blumenthal's standing on this. Ms Neville stated that his office is looking into whether they have standing and they will advise us. Discussion continued on the importance of this case, regarding quality of life, environmental, real estate values, regional level and a national perspectives.

Ms Neville explained the processes and timing of filing this case, concluding that the best results would be for it all to go back to the FAA for review and noted that New Canaan needs to be "at the table".

The Appropriation for \$75,000 was unanimously approved on the motion of Roger Smith and the second of Robert DiPanni.

Discussion by Mr. Conrad started regarding the flooding due to the heavy rains of October 12 in the basement of Town Hall proper. Two feet of water, mud, and leaves have displaced the Parking, Building Departments and the Fire Marshal to a temporary spot in the Auditorium. The water destroyed records, files, computer and Nextel equipment. Repair of Records and new housing for the departments and insurance issues was discussed. There was also damage to the new water tower turf fields, the water pushed and moved the fields. Irwin House was mentioned as a possible relocation spot.

Jim Cole suggested the third floor of the Police station as a sooner rather than later solution for the displaced employees. FEMA criteria and SBA was discussed. Further discussion regarding flooded spots throughout the town. Ms. Neville noted the Public Works and Fire and Police's great efforts during the storm.

On the motion of Mr. DiPanni and second of Mr. Smith, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert DiPanni, Secretary