

**TOWN COUNCIL OF NEW CANAAN
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2008
6 pm – Waveny House**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Mark De Waele	Tucker Murphy
Kenneth Campbell	Thomas O’Dea
Kathryn Devereaux	Johnny Potts
Paul Foley	Dick White
Elizabeth Jones	Penny Young
Stephen Karl	

MEMBER ABSENT: Chris Hussey

ALSO PRESENT: Jeb Walker, First Selectman and Ex-Officio Member, Town Council; George Maranis, Administrative Officer; Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; David Bryant, Director, and three other representatives of the New Canaan Library; Tiger Mann, Senior Engineer; Mike Pastore, Town Engineer; Frank DeNicola, Director Public Works; Bill Oestmann, Administrative Superintendent, Public Works Department; John Howe, Park Superintendent/Tree Warden; Mose Saccary, Superintendent of Highway Operations ; Jim Rogers, Superintendent Waste Water Plant; Don Smith, Superintendent Transfer Station; Chief Edward Nadriczny, New Canaan Police Department; Fred Baker, Fire Marshal; Assistant Chief Jack Hennessey, Assistant Chief Ed Karl, New Canaan Fire Department; Jack Horner, Fire Commission Chair, Sven Englund, Fire Commissioner

Dr. De Waele convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. O’Dea called the roll, noting the presence of all members except Ms. Hussey ,and read the Notice of the Meeting.

In the interest of time, Item 3, budget presentation, was taken out of order.

Item 3. Presentations of the budgets of the Library and the Public Works Department for the year ending June 30, 2009.

Library - Mr. Bryant described the growth in Library operations, saying that this was the busiest year in the Library’s 131 year history. The total budget request for 2008-2009 is \$1,623,500, a 3.1% increase over the prior year’s budget. The Town subsidy represents 78.7% of the Library’s operating budget for FY 2008-09. The Library raises all of the funds for its capital projects.

Public Works - Mr. Mann presented the Public Works budget to the Council. He reviewed initiatives as follows:

Engineering: (1) Pavement Improvement Project- \$5 million for Phase III; (2) Drainage Improvement Program - \$425,000, \$150,000 of which is for Five Mile River Study; drainage mapping and individual projects; (3) Sidewalk condition survey; (4) Sidewalk improvement and installation programs; (5) Safe Routes 2 Schools Program; (5) Bridges-Old Norwalk, Wahackme, Ponus Ridge, Valley Road and Lakeview Road.

Highway: (1) Ice Be Gone Anti-Icing Program; (2) Sale of composted leaf mulch; (3) Bio-Diesel Pilot Program; (4) Salt Shed Study.

Parks - Organic Turf Program.

Tree Service - (1) New Tree Warden; (2) Tree Inventory; (3) Tree Replacement.

Waste Water Facility – (1) Forest Street and Richmond Hill Sewer Rehab; (2) Annual cleaning of sewer lines.

Transfer Station – Tipping Fees

Mr. Mann presented an operating budget for 2008-2009 of \$8,487,031 (including \$869,469 for Waste Water Treatment), a 4.31% increase over the prior year budget. He also presented a capital budget for 2008-2009 of \$1,418,800, a 36.45% decrease from the prior year. He discussed the significant items comprising the 2008-2209 operating and capital budgets. He noted that one additional employee is being requested for the Parks Department, an Assistant Superintendent. This employee will also assist as arborist and tree warden duties

At this point, Mr. Mann reverted to Item 1. - **Approval of an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for Phase III of a pavement management plan for the Town of New Canaan's network of roads**

This is a continuation of a program implemented in 2004. Mr. Mann gave a brief review of the history of the project. There are approximately 122 miles of road in New Canaan. In 2004, a consultant was hired to do a road analysis, and using a method known as PCI (Pavement Condition Index), rated the Town's roads as 77 on a scale of 1-100, 100 being perfect. The average PCI for New England as a whole is 84. The request for Phases I and II of the program were for \$5 million each, and the work on these Phases is nearing completion. Approximately 18 miles of roads have been paved under Phases I and II. All work, from design through construction, is administered the Public Works Department, saving 5%-10% in consultant fees. The present request for \$5 million is for Phase III of the program, with collector roads, or roads that run to arterials, continuing to be the focus of the work. On the motion of Mr. Potts and second of Mr. Karl, the Council voted unanimously to approve an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for Phase III of a pavement management plan for the Town of New Canaan's network of roads.

Next taken up was Item 2. - **Adoption of a resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$5,000,000 For Phase III Of The Town Of New Canaan's Road Network And Authorizing Insurance Of \$5,000,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose."**

Upon motion of Mr. Potts and second of Ms. Murphy, the Council voted unanimously to Adopt the resolution.

The Council then returned to budget deliberations, and Chief Nadriczny presented the Police Department and Animal Control budgets. He described Police Department operations and the growth in their activity over prior years. He said that the budget was within prescribed guidelines, after certain final adjustments were made. The final operating budget request for 2008-2009 of \$5,185,296 represents a 4.9% increase over the prior year budget. Capital requests total \$143,800, exclusive of a Firearms Training Range at a cost of \$550,000 and an Automobile Maintenance Garage at a cost of \$330,000 which will be considered for bonding or included in future budgets.

Mr. Baker gave a brief presentation of the Fire Marshal budget. The request for FY 2008-09 is \$166,785, representing a 5.88% increase over the 2007-08 request of \$157,520.

Mr. Horner addressed the Fire Department by commenting that one of the primary driving factors for the increase in the budget is contractual obligations. He said that the Fire Department budget for 2008-2009 contains no new programs or initiatives. Requests this year are for maintaining the Fire Department operations as presently constituted.

Assistant Chief Hennessey presented the details of the operating budget, briefly reviewing individual items. Initiatives include:

- Water Supply Improvement Program- includes a new tanker, a water shuttle program, a dry hydrant program and 2 underground water cistern tanks.
- Driver Training.
- Improvement of Communication System.
- Personnel Development Program.
- Update of Personal Protective Equipment.

- ISO Improvement project.

Asst. Chief Hennessey explained that there are no new personnel or service increases. 44% of the line items have no increase or a decrease. Contractual Employee Expenses are 87% of the budget, or \$2.3 million; energy costs comprise 2% of the budget at \$58,000, and all other expenses combined are 11% of the budget, or approximately \$300,000. The largest increase, \$137,979, is for full time base salaries which are determined by the labor contract. Contractual increases, step increases and 3 new lieutenant positions contribute to the overall increase.

The Board of Selectmen had reduced the sick time line in the proposed budget by approximately \$51,000, and the Board of Finance reduced the budget by another \$75,000, directed principally at overtime cost. non-specifically. The Fire Commission has not yet determined where this reduction can be made. A long discussion ensued on callback overtime and questions were raised as to why this item was budgeted for an increase, given the expansion to 6/6 shift staffing.

Finally, Asst. Chief Hennessey presented the Capital Budget, describing, in detail, the individual items comprising this budget.

Mr. Foley pointed out that the \$75,000 cut made by the Board of Finance would likely result in the Fire Department returning to ask for additional appropriations later in the year.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. O'Dea, Jr.
Secretary