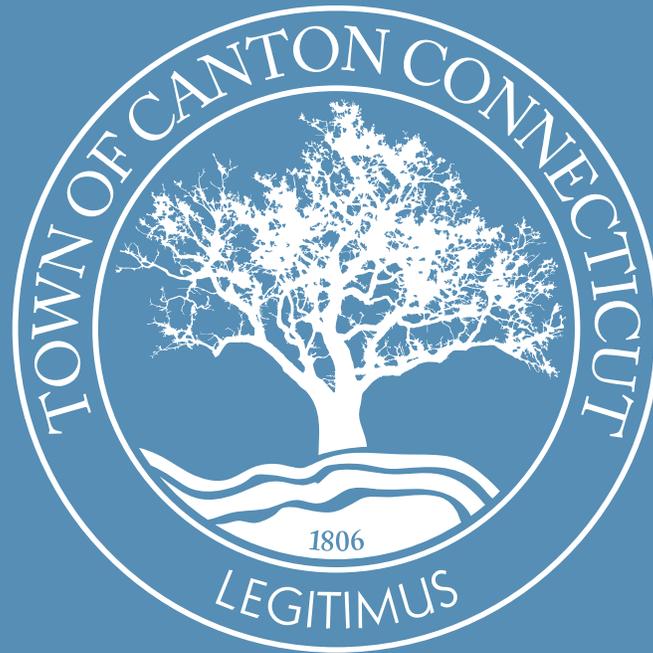


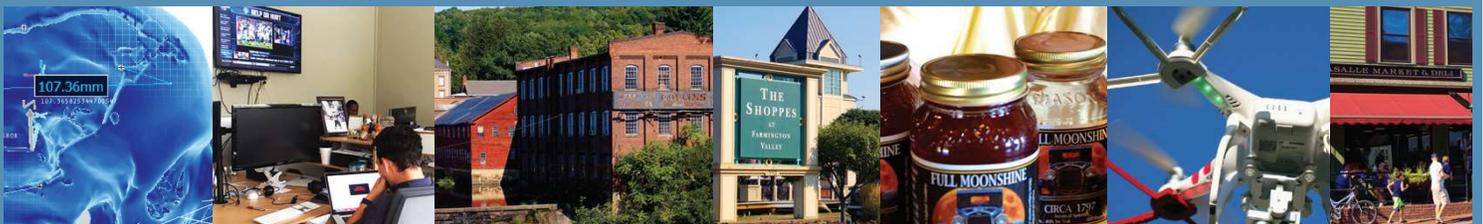
CANTON



Small Town, Big Impact

Town of Canton Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021-2022



Town of Canton Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021-2022

It is with much gratitude and respect that the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Report be dedicated to David Leff in recognition of his considerable public service and contributions to the Canton community.



David K. Leff was a man of many passions, pursuits and accomplishments. His restless energy brought him to Canton's rivers and streams, history and wildlife – both animal and human, and trails, mountains, government, books and poetry. Much like Collinsville, where David made his home, he was more than a label. In fact, David was an experience. Arriving in Canton as a young father, David fell in love with the beauty and history of our town. Certainly, he wanted to preserve its charm, but just as certainly, he saw that change was part of the charm. He recognized that a town that clings only to the past will too often stumble in the present and collapse in the future. He promoted the idea of a “working village” where fresh innovations take root among the old through his books and the Collinsville Historic District. His idea is carrying our town to a vibrant future, which wouldn't have been the case without our friend, colleague, co-conspirator and nudge who infected the world with his smile.

**Town of Canton Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

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**Town of Canton Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2021-2022**



**TOWN MEETING
MINUTES & ELECTION
RESULTS**

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Thursday, September 23, 2021

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of Canton and those qualified taxpayers lawfully entitled to vote in Canton Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes that a Special Town Meeting will be commenced on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Canton High School Auditorium, 76 Simonds Avenue, Canton, Connecticut, to consider and take action on the following questions:

1. Shall the Town of Canton increase the staffing at the Police Department by authoring the hiring of an additional Police Officer and appropriate \$46,294 from the undesignated fund balance to the Police Patrol - Full Time AFSCME line item in the operating budget for the purpose of funding the position for a portion of the 2021/2022 fiscal year?
2. Shall the Town of Canton approve acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$800,034 to partially fund improvements to Bridge No. 023006 – Old Canton Road over Rattlesnake Brook.
3. Shall the Town of Canton approve acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$847,784 to partially fund improvements to Bridge No. 023001 – Washburn Road over Jim Brook.

Dated at Canton, Connecticut this 14th day of September, 2021

Board of Selectmen
Robert Bessel
First Selectman

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on September 14, 2021, a copy of the foregoing warning and notice was left with Linda Smith, Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on September 16, 2021, a copy of said warning and notice was published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in said Town.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on September 14, 2021, a copy of said warning and notice was posted on the Town's website, and all other places designated by Charter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said meeting on September 23, 2021.

Robert Bessel
First Selectman

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**
Thursday, September 23, 2021

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. Nicholas

Ouellette, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

1. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:
Shall the Town of Canton increase the staffing at the Police Department by authoring the hiring of an additional Police Officer and appropriate \$46,294 from the undesignated fund balance to the Police Patrol - Full Time AFSCME line item in the operating budget for the purpose of funding the position for a portion of the 2021/2022 fiscal year?

Seconded by Tim LeGeyt

Discussion:

First Selectman Bob Bessel gave a PowerPoint presentation for reasons to hire an additional police officer. Although our population has remained fairly stable, there are many other things in town that have changed. Events in town are popular and require added police presence. The Halloween Parade and the Shops at Farmington Valley, among other things, are destinations. Also, the bike trail is one of the most popular in the state drawing in 160,000 people to the area. The river tubing, Collinsville HOT, and farmers market are also very popular. Traffic has increase to between 26,000 and 28,000 average daily trips in the Dowd Ave/Route 44 area near the Shops. By comparison, West Farms Mall gets 26,000 average daily trips. Calls for police service have gone up in the overall trend since 2011.

Outside of normal police operations, the police department is also responsible for the Local Emergency Operations Plan which includes storm operations, long term recovery, cyber security threats, mass care/vaccinations/shelter, school security planning, dam safety, and emergency operations.

Issues that impact patrol functions are fraud scams, retirement/retention/hiring, cybercrime, town-wide recreation, economic development, the new cannabis laws, supervisory efficiency, accountability mandates and policy compliance. These are functions that take a lot longer to process and schedule which affects our patrol time.

The department also has specialized policing programs and community policing programs in place that are dependent, in part, by staffing. The numbers in staffing have not changed since 2010.

The cost to fund this new position for the remainder of the fiscal year is \$46,294. Moving forward, there would be an approximate \$82,301 expense.

Comments:

1. Jeff Tager – 17 Bridal Path
2. Michael ?
3. ? – Thompson Hill Road
4. ?- Andrew Drive
5. Harold Mullins – 42 Case Street
6. Andrew Lavery – 4 Pine Acres Drive
7. Sarah Faulkner – 25 Dyer Ave
8. Dick Barlow – 321 Cherry Brook Road
9. Phil Rockwell – 54 Cherry Brook Road

There being no further comments, the question was called.
The motion passed with a voice vote.

2. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:
Shall the Town of Canton approve acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$800,034 to partially fund improvements to Bridge No. 023006 – Old Canton Road over Rattlesnake Brook?

Seconded by William Newkirk.

Discussion:

Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner presented. At the last election, there was a successful referendum question on the ballot regarding funding half the cost of this bridge. This grant will fund the remaining half. It is a local bridge grant whose funding is mostly federal, but also comes from some state funds.

Comments:

1. Norris Sullivan?
2. Gary Miller – 7 East Hill Road
3. Larry Minichiello – 35 Maple Ave

There being no further comments, the question was called.
The motion passed with a voice vote.

3. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:
Shall the Town of Canton approve acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$847,784 to partially fund improvements to Bridge No. 023001 – Washburn Road over Jim Brook?

Seconded by William Newkirk.

Discussion:

Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner presented. At the last election, there was a successful referendum question on the ballot regarding funding half the cost of this bridge. This grant will fund the remaining half. It is a local bridge grant whose funding is mostly federal, but also comes from some state funds.

Comments:

Walt Anderson – East Hill Road

There being no further comments, the question was called.
The motion passed with a voice vote.

Bob Bessel made a motion to adjourn.
Warren Humphrey seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Linda Smith, Town Clerk
Received for record 9/27/21

**TOWN OF CANTON
WARNING AND NOTICE OF
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - OCTOBER 20, 2021
CANTON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
76 SIMONDS AVENUE, CANTON, CT
7:00 PM
REFERENDUM – NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Canton, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that a special town meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at Canton High School Auditorium, 76 Simonds Road, Canton, Connecticut, for the following purposes:

Item 1. To discuss and consider a resolution (a) authorizing an appropriation of \$5,400,000 to fund the costs of the construction of new fire station at 51 River Road, including testing and analysis, demolition of the existing fire station, site work and other related improvements (the “Fire Station Project”), and authorizing the Town to issue of general obligation bonds or notes and temporary notes in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$5,400,000 to finance the appropriation, (b) authorizing the Board of Selectmen to determine the scope and particulars of the Fire Station Project, to reduce or modify the scope of the Fire Station Project, including deletion of components thereof, and spend the entire amount of the appropriation on the Fire Station Project as so reduced or modified; (c) authorizing the First Selectman and the Treasurer to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, form and other details of the bonds or notes and temporary notes; (d) authorizing the First Selectman, Chief Administrative Officer or other proper officers of the Town to apply for and accept federal or State grants, if available, to help finance the appropriation and to enter into any grant agreement in connection therewith; and (d) authorizing the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Treasurer, the Chief Administrative Officer and other proper officers of the Town to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to complete the Fire Station Project and to issue the bonds, notes and/or temporary notes.

Item 2. Pursuant to Sections 7.7, 9-369 and 9-369d of the General Statutes of Connecticut, to adjourn said special town meeting at its conclusion and to submit the resolution contained in item 1 of the call of the meeting to referendum vote on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., in conjunction with the election to be held on that date.

Voting for electors will take place at the following polling place: Canton High School, 76 Simonds Avenue, Canton, Connecticut. Persons qualified to vote in Town meetings that are not electors shall vote at Room # 208 at Canton High School, 76 Simonds Avenue, Canton, Connecticut.

The aforesaid resolution will be placed on the ballots under the following heading:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF CANTON APPROPRIATE \$5,400,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION AT 51 RIVER ROAD, INCLUDING TESTING AND ANALYSIS, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FIRE STATION AND SITE WORK AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS OR NOTES AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,400,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”

Voters approving a resolution will vote “Yes” and those opposing a resolution will vote “No”.

Application for absentee ballots shall be made at the Town Clerk's office.

The complete text of the resolution to be presented under Item 1 of this Notice is on file and available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk during regular business hours, or, when requested, will be made available by mail.

Dated at Canton, Connecticut, this 1st day of October, 2021.

Board of Selectmen

Robert Bessel, First Selectman

William Volovski

Gail Deutsch

Warren Humphrey

Timothy LeGeyt

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on October 1, 2021, I left a duplicate of the attached warning and notice of a Special Town Meeting and Referendum of the Town of Canton, Connecticut with the Town Clerk of the Town of Canton, Connecticut.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I caused a copy of said warning and notice to be published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a general and substantial circulation in said Town, on October 5, 2021.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I caused a copy of said warning and notice to be posted on the Town's website at www.townofcantonct.org on October 1, 2021.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on October 1, 2021, I caused to be set upon all the signpost or other exterior place nearest the office of the Town Clerk and at all other places designated by the Town a written copy of said warning and notice.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said Special Town Meeting on October 20, 2021 (excluding from the day count the day of the notice and the day of the Special Town Meeting).

Robert Bessel
First Selectman

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
AND ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF CANTON
OCTOBER 20, 2021**

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Canton, Connecticut, was held at Canton High School Auditorium, 76 Simonds Ave, Canton, Connecticut on Wednesday, of October 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

David Leff served as moderator of the meeting and Linda Smith acted as clerk.

The Clerk read the notice for the meeting which was published in the Hartford Courant on October 5, 2021, and which is recorded in these records immediately preceding these minutes.

Item 1.

The Moderator called for the presentation of the resolution for the Fire Station Project warned in item 1 of the call of the meeting.

First Selectman Robert Bessel presented the following resolution which was seconded by William Volovski:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF CANTON APPROPRIATE \$5,400,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION AT 51 RIVER ROAD, INCLUDING TESTING AND ANALYSIS, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FIRE STATION AND SITE WORK AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS OR NOTES AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,400,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”

Mr. Bessel started the presentation by introducing Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner and Fire Chief John Gotaski. He began with some of the history of the project going back to 2014 when the Plan of Conservation & Development Strategic Plan recommended that Collinsville Fire Station be improved or replaced. In 2015 a Temporary Fire/EMS Facility Study Committee was established and a year later they submitted a report to the Board of Selectmen recommending a new station. In 2018 the BOS referred the issue to the Permanent Municipal Building Committee. In 2019, a site plan, floor plan and estimates were determined by Silver Petrucelli & Assoc.

Fire Chief John Gotaski explained the fire station’s history. It goes all the way back to the late 1800s and the Collins Company when the factory needed protection. They provided protection not only to the factory but also to the surrounding village houses. This continued until the factory closed in the 1960s. There still being a need for fire protection in the town, the Collins Company gave their equipment to what is now the Collinsville Fire Department. They operated out of a building on Front Street. In 1972 the current station was built on River Road and housed 2 fire engines, one ambulance and one small duty rescue vehicle. By 1978 additional equipment maxed out the bay space in the fire house. Call volume eventually increased requiring bunk space for volunteers of the ambulance. In 2015 we went to a fully staffed paramedic program. They are housed overnight. There is a minimum of 4 people at any time in the fire house.

CAO Skinner reported the study committee's findings:

1. Fire Station is unchanged since original construction. Department has grown significantly with larger apparatus and more vehicles.
2. Original 1972 building not set up for 24/7 housing and staff requirements.
3. Inability to install vehicle exhaust system.
4. Structural supports in bays hinder access to equipment.
5. Limited storage space affects call readiness.
6. HVAC system inefficient, poor heating/cooling.
7. Lack of elevator & entrances/exits - not ADA compliant.
8. Administrative Offices currently located in Town Hall.
9. Existing SF: 9,483

Chief Gotaski compared the amount of equipment housed in the station in 1972 vs 2021.

Gerry Holland, Executive Officer of the Town of Canton Volunteer Fire and EMS, asked the audience to imagine a scenario in which they were a victim of an accident or health situation in which help is needed. He logistically explained how emergency response to that trauma occurs and demonstrated with Power Point (attached) how seconds count. Existing interior conditions and results of limited space were discussed. Renovation issues, combining of stations and response times were discussed.

CAO Skinner explained that the back of the proposed station would have a row of trees, with no access to Dyer Avenue. The old station will remain to the far left of the property while the new building is being constructed. In addition, badly needed parking space for the police Department would be added to the plan. Additional benefits of the proposed site location were discussed.

Gerry Holland walked through the proposed schematic floor plan. It was emphasized that the new fire house would be a community building. The Training room would be available to the community for CERT, Scouts, CPR training, etc.

The Dyer Softball field will be moved to the Canton High School complex and its expenses have been taken out of this project.

CAO Skinner reviewed how we would use bonding to pay for this project. He reviewed our debt service, historically low interest rates, refinancing our old bonds with new lower interest rates, the additional tax effect on the median household, and next steps/time line.

The Moderator then stated that the meeting was open for discussion of the foregoing resolution.

Comments were made by:

1. Sylvia Cancela – 49 Sunset Terrace
2. Kevin Witkos – 15 High Ledge Road
3. Alan Weissman – 71 Bart Drive
4. Beth ? – Morgan Road
5. Glenn Powell – 49 Sunset Terrace
6. Linda Spiers – 3 Whirling Dun
7. Kristin Oswald – 138 Torrington Ave

8. Andrew Ziembra – 12B Dunham Road
9. Mary Tomolonius – 148 Bahre Corner Road

Kevin Witkos made a motion to call an advisory vote in favor of the question. William Volovski seconded. The advisory vote passed unanimously with a voice vote.

There being no further business before the meeting, Myles Angell moved that the town meeting be adjourned to a referendum vote on the resolution, which motion was seconded by Glenn Powell.

The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Filed 10/21/21

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF CANTON
WARNING AND NOTICE OF
ELECTION AND REFERENDUM – NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

The Electors of the Town of Canton, Connecticut are hereby warned to meet at their polling place in the Town on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, for the following purposes:

1. To cast their votes for Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education (full term), Board of Education (to fill a vacancy), and Board of Assessment Appeals.
2. To vote on the following local question at referendum for the approval or disapproval of a resolution approved by the Board of Selectmen on August 25, 2021 and considered at Special Town Meeting held on October 20, 2021, which question will be placed on the ballot under the following heading:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF CANTON APPROPRIATE \$5,400,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION AT 51 RIVER ROAD, INCLUDING TESTING AND ANALYSIS, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FIRE STATION AND SITE WORK AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS OR NOTES AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,400,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”

The vote on the above local question will be taken under the authority of Sections 7-7, 9-369 and 9-369d of the General Statutes of Connecticut. A vote of “Yes” will be a vote for approval of the resolution, and a vote of “No” will be a vote of disapproval of the resolution. The full text of said resolution is on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

Electors shall vote on the question at their polling place which is Canton High School, 76 Simonds Avenue, Canton, Connecticut. Persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town who are not electors shall vote at the following polling place: Room # 208 at Canton High School, 76 Simonds Avenue Canton, Connecticut.

Application for Absentee Ballots shall be made at the Town Clerk’s office.

Absentee Ballots will be processed on November 2, 2021, at the Canton High School beginning at 10am.

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at 6am and remain open until 8pm.

Dated at Canton, Connecticut, this 21st day of October, 2021.

Linda Smith
Canton Town Clerk

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on October 21, 2021, I left a duplicate of the attached warning and notice of an Election and Referendum of the Town of Canton, Connecticut with the Town Clerk of the Town of Canton, Connecticut.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I caused a copy of said warning and notice to be published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a substantial circulation in said Town, on October 26, 2021.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I caused a copy of said warning and notice to be posted on the Town's website at www.townofcantonct.org on October 21, 2021.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on October 21, 2021, I caused to be set upon all the signpost or other exterior place nearest the office of the Town Clerk and at all other places designated by the Town a written copy of said warning and notice.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days but not more than fifteen day, before the holding of said referendum on November 2, 2021.

Robert Bessel
First Selectman
Canton, Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of Canton and those qualified taxpayers lawfully entitled to vote in Canton Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes that the Annual Town Meeting will be commenced on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level multi-purpose room located at the Canton Public Library & Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Canton, Connecticut, to:

Accept the Annual Report pursuant to Charter Section 3.04 and to dedicate the Annual Report to the Farmington Valley Health District in recognition of its hard work and dedication during the COVID 19 pandemic.

In accordance with the Town Charter, no binding votes will be taken.

Dated at Canton, Connecticut this 13th day of January, 2022

Board of Selectmen

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on January 13, 2022, a copy of the foregoing warning and notice was left with Linda Smith, Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on January 18, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in said Town.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on January 13, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was posted on the Town's website, and all other places designated by Charter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said meeting on January 26, 2022.

Robert Bessel
First Selectman

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, January 26, 2022

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. David Leff acted as Moderator. Mr. Leff called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

A motion to accept the Annual Report was made by Robert Bessel. Seconded by Ken Humphrey. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

First Selectman Robert Bessel then dedicated the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Report to the Farmington Valley Health District. He emphasized the fact that the FVHD is a very important agency of the Town which also benefits other towns of the Farmington Valley. We've always known of their value to the community but we didn't fully recognize their value until these past two years. When government officials first heard that we might experience a pandemic and the Director of the FVHD, Jennifer Kertanis, started talking about preparations and measures that would be taken we were in shock. Wearing masks, waiting for vaccines, experiencing deaths, etc were what the conversation was about. Through all of this we have had a steady hand in the FVHD. They have given us facts, given us capability and vaccines, have educated us about mask mandates and have guided us through every stage

of this pandemic. As much suffering as we have gone through, it would have been much worse without the FVHD's steady source of facts, resources, good science and willingness to roll up their sleeves.

Jennifer Kertanis, Director of Health of the FVHD, accepted a commemorative display on behalf of her team. She stated that despite the course this pandemic has taken, she wanted to highlight the positives that have come out of the past two years. The strength and partnership built with so many community members, municipal officials, school systems, daycares, businesses, and the public works department, have given them the ability to do what they've done for the past two and one half years. As much as they appreciate this recognition, the FVHD also appreciates the support they have received from the town.

There being no further business or discussion, Robert Bessel made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tim LeGeyt.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Linda Smith, Town Clerk
Received for record Jan 27, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
January 26, 2022

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of Canton and those qualified taxpayers lawfully entitled to vote in Canton Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes that a Special Town Meeting will be commenced on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 7:00 PM (immediately following the Annual Town Meeting) in the lower level multi-purpose room located at the Canton Public Library & Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Canton, Connecticut to consider and take action on the following question:

Shall the Town of Canton approve the ARPA Assistance Plan which outlines \$2,535,863 of expenditures for COVID 19 relief and various municipal projects, to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA).

The ARPA Assistance Plan can be located on line at www.townofcantonct.org and in the office of the Town Clerk and at the Canton Public Library.

Dated at Canton, Connecticut this 13th day of January, 2022.

Board of Selectmen

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on January 13, 2022, a copy of the foregoing warning and notice was left with Linda Smith, Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on January 18, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in said Town.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on January 13, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was posted on the Town's website, and all other places designated by Charter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said meeting on January 26, 2022.

Robert Bessel
First Selectman

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 26, 2022

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. immediately following the Annual Town Meeting in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. David Leff, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

4. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:

Shall the Town of Canton approve the ARPA Assistance Plan which outlines \$2,535,863 of expenditures for COVID 19 relief and various municipal projects, to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA).

Seconded by Tim LeGeyt.

Discussion:

Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner explained the American Rescue Assistance Act was signed into law in response to the pandemic. Over three million dollars was appropriated to Canton. We have already received the first half of the funding last June and will receive the second half this June. They must be encumbered by the end of 2024 and spent by 2026.

ARPA can be used to address the negative impacts created by COVID, including impacts to businesses and families

- Premium pay for essential workers
- Investment in Sewer, Water and Broadband
- Replacement of government revenues lost due to the COVID Pandemic

The Treasury Department was tasked with defining each category through interim rules. Basically they stated that the first ten million dollars each municipality gets (which is all of ours) can be used for lost revenue to spend on government services. This gives us freedom to spend the money with some exceptions. ARPA funds cannot be used to directly off-set taxes, be paid into a pension fund, be used for debt service, or be used to pay legal settlements or judgements.

While there is no set process in the statute for the approval process, Canton is following the same appropriation process specified in our Charter:

- Approved by Board of Selectmen and referred to Board of Finance
- Approved by Board of Finance and sent back to Board of Selectmen to schedule Town Meeting
- Town Meeting for Final approval

Our process over the past six months has been:

- July 2021 – Matter referred to CIP Committee to Develop ARPA Assistance Plan
- September 2021 – Plan is reviewed by Selectmen and referred to BOF for review and comments
- October 2021 – Plan reviewed by BOF and sent back to the Selectmen
- 11/23/2021 – Selectmen hold a Public Hearing and take comments from the general public.
- 12/20/21 – BOF approves the Plan and refers back to Selectmen to schedule Town Meeting
- 12/22/21 – Selectmen set 1/26/2022 as Town Meeting date to approve the plan

The overall theme of ARPA is how can these funds be utilized to enhance the quality of life for our residents, especially considering the impacts of COVID. The team came up with five categories and 22 projects in the areas of health and well-being, safety, outdoor recreation, support for non-profits (tourism), small business, and facility improvements.

Other considerations involved limiting the mill rate increases by funding capital expenditures and limiting future expenses by supporting non-reoccurring costs such as staffing.

The projects are:

Health / Wellness

- Social Service Fund \$60,000
- School Psychological Services \$40,000

Safety

- Fire Department Air Packs \$360,000
- Public Offices Security Improvements \$70,000

Outdoor Recreation

- Bike Trail Improvements \$359,000
- Renovate CIS Field \$65,000
- Splash Pad \$125,000
- Outdoor Exercise Equipment \$25,000
- River Access \$340,000
- Replace Pool Shell \$90,000
- New Little League Field \$250,000
- Mills Pond Park Playground Equipment \$75,000

Nonprofit / Tourism and Business Support

- Local Shuttered Tourism Grant \$70,000
- Artist Support Grant \$20,000
- Support Main Street Fund \$25,000
- Business Stability Fund \$100,000

Facility Improvements

- HVAC for Town Hall Auditorium \$152,863
- HVAC for High School Auditorium \$150,000
- CBS Broadband Improvements \$49,000
- Town Technology Support \$50,000
- Community Center Furnishings \$35,000.00
- Showers at the Community Center \$25,000.00

Total ARPA Funding \$3,034,667

Total ARPA Expenditures \$2,535,863

Total Reserve \$ 498,804

Reserves will be appropriated using the same Charter process.

The process of accounting for funds would be very similar to the Town’s current CIP. Each fund would have its own line item and expenditures would be documented. Similar to CIP, unexpended funds could be re-designated to existing or new projects.

Next steps:

- Social Service/Psychological Services fund could be set up immediately.
- Capital Expenditures will have to go through normal competitive procurement process.
- Non-profit / Business grant application process will need to be further developed and finalized.
- Continue to monitor and pursue other grant opportunities.
 - Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - State ARPA Grant Opportunities

Comments:

Fred Swan – 39 Case Street

There being no further discussion, the motion vote was passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Robert Bessel made a motion to adjourn. Ken Humphrey seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record January 27, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of Canton and those qualified taxpayers lawfully entitled to vote in Canton Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes that a Special Town Meeting will be commenced on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM in Room F located at the Canton Public Library & Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Canton, Connecticut, to consider and take action on the following questions:

1. Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$25,000 to the Department of Revenue Services on behalf of the ARC of the Farmington Valley for the purpose of funding energy efficiency measures?
2. Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$145,000 on behalf of New Horizons, Inc. for the purposes of funding energy efficient windows at the Cherry Brook Health Care Center?
3. Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$43,574.44 on behalf of FOCUS Center for Autism, Inc. for the purpose of funding energy efficiency measures?
4. Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$48,000 on behalf of The Roaring Brook Nature Center of The Children's Museum, Inc. for an electric SUV delivery vehicle.

Copies of the Neighborhood Assistance Act applications can be located on line at www.townofcantonct.org and in the office of the Town Clerk and at the Canton Public Library.

Dated at Canton, Connecticut this 25th day of May, 2022

Board of Selectmen
Robert Bessel
First Selectman

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on May 25, 2022, a copy of the foregoing warning and notice was left with Linda Smith, Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on June 1, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in said Town.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on May 25, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was posted on the Town's website, and all other places designated by Charter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said meeting on June 8, 2022.

Robert Bessel
First Selectman

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 8, 2022

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. Melissa Zils, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

1. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:

Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$25,000 to the Department of Revenue Services on behalf of the ARC of the Farmington Valley for the purpose of funding energy efficiency measures?

Seconded by Bill Volovski

Discussion:

Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner explained that the Neighborhood Assistance Act allows businesses to donate money to non-profits and get tax credit for doing so. In order to be able to do that the non-profit programs have to be approved by the local town and then the Department of Revenue Services. Once the approvals are attained, businesses can donate to these non-profits and get a state-based tax credit. The town of Canton's role in the process is purely administrative. None of the funding comes from Canton.

The ARC of the Farmington Valley hopes to replace windows at their group homes. Existing windows will be replaced with energy efficient windows, an allowable program under the NAA rules.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

The motion vote passed unanimously with a voice vote.

2. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:

Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$145,000 on behalf of New Horizons, Inc. for the purposes of funding energy efficient windows at the Cherry Brook Health Care Center?

Seconded by Tim LeGeyt

Discussion:

CAO Skinner explained that the windows at cherry Brook Health Care Center are 25 years old and will be replaced with energy efficient windows. This request is eligible under NAA.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

The motion vote passed unanimously with a voice vote.

3. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:

Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$43,574.44 on behalf of FOCUS Center for Autism, Inc. for the purpose of funding energy efficiency measures?

Seconded by Bill Volovski

Discussion:

CAO Skinner explained FOCUS Center for Autism is looking to replace electric baseboard heating and window air conditioning units with a new system of furnace, gas water heater, heat pumps, and duct work.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

The motion vote passed unanimously with a voice vote.

4. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:

Shall the Town of Canton approve submitting a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant application in the amount of \$48,000 on behalf of The Roaring Brook Nature Center of The Children's Museum, Inc. for an electric SUV delivery vehicle.

Seconded by Tim LeGeyt

Discussion:

CAO Skinner explained that Roaring Brook Nature Center intends to purchase of an electric Nissan Leaf SUV vehicle to transport staff and materials to schools, libraries and community centers throughout Connecticut Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The purchase would also include a charging station and decals for the vehicle. This project is in compliance with the rules of the NAA.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

The motion vote passed unanimously with a voice vote.

There being no further business of the Warren Humphrey made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Bill Volovski.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record June 9, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of Canton and those qualified taxpayers lawfully entitled to vote in Canton Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes that a Special Town Meeting will be commenced on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the lower level multi-purpose room located at the Canton Public Library & Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Canton, Connecticut, to consider and take action on the following question:

1. Shall the Town of Canton appropriate \$160,000 from the Town's undesignated fund balance for the purpose of purchasing a 1.53-acre parcel known as 37 Bridge Street and to fund various site improvements. The land transaction will also include the acceptance of approximately .13 acres from the Waterfront Preservation and Management Corporation to the Town of Canton and the Town of Canton conveying two parcels which total approximately .28 acres to the Waterfront Preservation and Management Corp. along with various easements as indicated on survey map titled MAP SHOWING PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE, Between Land of THE TOWN OF CANTON & WATERFRONT PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT Corp. dated June 7, 2022.

A survey of the proposed transactions can be located on line at www.townofcantonct.org and in the office of the Town Clerk and at the Canton Public Library.

Dated at Canton, Connecticut this 13 day of June 2022

Board of Selectmen
Robert Bessel
First Selectman

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on June 13, 2022, a copy of the foregoing warning and notice was left with Linda Smith, Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on June 16, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in said Town.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on June 13, 2022, a copy of said warning and notice was posted on the Town's website, and all other places designated by Charter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done at least five days before the holding of said meeting on June 22, 2022.

Robert Bessel
First Selectman

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 22, 2022

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT. Melissa Zils, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. and reviewed guidance for a fair and orderly Town meeting. The goal of a town meeting is to enable all who wish to speak an opportunity to do so in a session that lasts a reasonable time so all can hear what their fellow citizens have to say. Since the topic tonight has been subject to a high level of interest, it is important that everyone know the following procedure in advance:

1. Speakers will be limited to three minutes.
2. No one will be recognized to speak for a second time until all those wishing to speak for the first time have spoken.
3. No one will be recognized to speak more than twice.
4. Speakers cannot yield their unexpired time to another speaker.
5. All comments must be germane to the merits of the town garage. Remarks on other matters may be important or interesting, but if not directly related to the garage they are irrelevant to this town meeting.
6. Absolutely no personal attacks or innuendos will be tolerated. This includes questioning anyone's motives.
7. Speakers should not address one another directly with comments or questions. All remarks must be addressed through the moderator who will then recognize the subject of the comment or question.

The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

5. Robert Bessel moved that the meeting consider and take action on the following question:

Shall the Town of Canton appropriate \$160,000 from the Town's undesignated fund balance for the purpose of purchasing a 1.53-acre parcel known as 37 Bridge Street and to fund various site improvements? The land transaction will also include the acceptance of approximately .13 acres from the Waterfront Preservation and Management Corporation to the Town of Canton and the Town of Canton conveying two parcels which total approximately .28 acres to the Waterfront Preservation and Management Corp. along with various easements as indicated on survey map titled MAP SHOWING PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE, Between Land of THE TOWN OF CANTON & WATERFRONT PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT Corp. dated June 7, 2022.

Seconded by David Sinish

First Selectman Robert Bessel began the presentation with a review of the motion. The decision before the Town Meeting is for the expenditure of \$125,000 to the State of CT from the allocated fund balance; \$35,000 for improvements to the property to manage operations; and, an exchange of land of the boat ramp area and lark land for the driveway and parking immediately east of 41 Bridge Street. 37 Bridge Street is narrow arc that runs from near 41 Bridge to the boat ramp. This is an oddly shaped piece of land because back in the day it was used for railroad purposes. Our focus has been to provide public access to the river. The exchanges of land and easements will eliminate 'orphan' pieces of land, making

the 'park' area whole, give the town full access to the water, and give benefits to the tenants of 39 & 41 Bridge Street. The easements will run with the land so there will be assurances with the present and future owners of the land. It is the business of Canton not to make a profit off of this transaction, but to benefit the entire town, both those who want to get to the river and those who want to conduct business. The improvements would consist of a small, low fence which would designate the public from the private parking area. Signage will also indicate public vs private parking.

If the question is approved, the town will gain legal ownership of the boat launch; tenant of 39 Bridge would gain an easement to use the boat launch; the Town increases public parking and access over the entrance drive; and, 41 Bridge Street retains parking to support their tenant businesses. If the question is not approved, this State land would go to public auction; the Town loses legal access to the boat launch; the Town would lose public parking possibilities; the owners of 39 & 41 Bridge could propose very different development; and, 37 Bridge could become a very different with a new owner.

Discussion:

- Frank Barton – 636 Cherry Brook Road
- Mike Gotaski – 236 Barbourtown Road
- Maureen Lovejoy – 29 Center Street
- Beth Lingenheld – 98 Morgan Road
- Peg Berry – 115 Robin Drive
- John Peck – 264 Barbourtown Road
- Phil Phillbrick – 17 Noja Trail
- Barry Deutsch – 2 Frey Road
- Joe Casioppo – 18 Dyer Ave
- Marilyn Wright – New Road

Richard Barlow called the question.

Sarah Faulkner seconded.

A voice vote was not conclusive in making a determination. A show of hands was asked for by the Moderator.

YES – 56

NO – 18

The motion to call the question passed.

Although not unanimous, the motion passed with a voice vote.

There being no further business of this Special Town Meeting, Tim LeGeyt made a motion to adjourn. Ken Humphrey seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record 6/23/22



PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

TOWN OF CANTON
PRINCIPAL TOWN OFFICIALS
June 30, 2022

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Robert Bessel, First Selectman

Warren Humphrey
William Volovski

Timothy LeGeyt
Stephen Sedor

BOARD OF FINANCE

Kenneth S. Humphrey, Chairman

Andrew Lavery
Thomas Blatchley
Katie Kenney

Andrew Ziemba
Sarah Faulkner

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lou Daniels, Chairman

Kim Sullivan
Russell Bush
Felicia Jordan
Cindy Moeller

Erika Hayes
Ryan O'Donnell
Peggy Steinway
Joe Scheideler

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Chief Administrative Officer
Chief of Police/Director of Emergency Management
Finance Officer/Treasurer
Tax Collector
Assessor
Town Clerk
Project Administrator
Director of Planning and Community Development
Director of Public Works
Library Director
Parks and Recreation Director
Building Official
Fire Marshal
Senior/Social Services Director (Interim)

Robert Skinner
Christopher Arciero
William Geiger
Christine Silansky
Paige Walton
Linda Smith
Glenn Cusano
Neil Pade
Robert Martin
Sarah McCusker
Taryn Schragger
Rand Stanley
Timothy Tharau
Tonoa Jackson

EDUCATION

Superintendent of Schools
Assistant to the Superintendent for Financial Affairs

Kevin D. Case
Donna Miscikoski

Town of Canton Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2021-2022



AUDITOR'S REPORT

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND (UNAUDITED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)
	Original	Final		
PROPERTY TAXES				
Current year tax collections	\$ 36,756,045	\$ 36,756,045	\$ 36,625,097	\$ (130,948)
Prior year tax collections	106,000	106,000	91,524	(14,476)
Tax interest and liens	100,000	100,000	148,164	48,164
Total property taxes	<u>36,962,045</u>	<u>36,962,045</u>	<u>36,864,785</u>	<u>(97,260)</u>
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES				
Town aid road	256,218	256,218	256,405	187
Education cost-sharing	3,412,918	3,412,918	3,499,330	86,412
State PILOT - disabled	793	793	726	(67)
State PILOT - veterans	2,198	2,198	2,106	(92)
State PILOT - State property	9,325	9,325	9,325	-
State PILOT - manufacturing	-	-	7,994	7,994
Housing Authority	12,000	12,000	42,154	30,154
Total intergovernmental revenues	<u>3,693,452</u>	<u>3,693,452</u>	<u>3,818,040</u>	<u>124,588</u>
CHARGES FOR SERVICES				
Telecom tax	20,000	20,000	18,237	(1,763)
BOE tuition fees	335,000	335,000	334,484	(516)
Hunting and fishing licenses	100	100	59	(41)
Town clerk miscellaneous permits and licenses	10,000	10,000	9,507	(493)
Dog licenses	1,300	1,300	1,254	(46)
Fire Marshall permits and fire reports	600	600	165	(435)
Building licenses and permits	210,000	210,000	327,920	117,920
Land use licenses and permits	1,500	1,500	1,541	41
Zoning license & fees	4,700	4,700	2,500	(2,200)
Zoning applications	6,000	6,000	4,645	(1,355)
Aquifer Protection applications	400	400	200	(200)
Planning applications	800	800	250	(550)
ZBA appeal fee	200	200	450	250
Inland wetlands	1,500	1,500	1,100	(400)
BOE miscellaneous revenue	10,000	10,000	1,060	(8,940)
Town clerk conveyance tax	240,000	240,000	272,696	32,696
Tax and town clerk printing services	12,000	12,000	12,854	854
Bad check fees	200	200	260	60

(Continued)

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND (UNAUDITED) *(Concluded)*
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
CHARGES FOR SERVICES <i>(Continued)</i>				
Police printing and duplicating services	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 618	\$ (582)
Private duty - administration	90,000	90,000	126,510	36,510
Police gun permits	5,500	5,500	5,110	(390)
Police raffle tickets	100	100	-	(100)
Alarm registration fees	300	300	150	(150)
Vendor permits	500	500	660	160
Traffic fines	4,500	4,500	3,797	(703)
Police miscellaneous	1,500	1,500	2,140	640
Dog license/shelter fee	10,000	10,000	10,408	408
Dog adoption fee	10	10	-	(10)
Insurance rebates	14,000	14,000	28,292	14,292
Rental town property	9,000	9,000	4,980	(4,020)
AT&T tower	23,000	23,000	25,584	2,584
BOS miscellaneous revenue	3,000	3,000	12,485	9,485
Dial-a-Ride tickets	2,500	2,500	1,665	(835)
Swimming pool fees	26,000	26,000	25,659	(341)
Pool daily attendance fee	9,000	9,000	6,032	(2,968)
Building printing and duplicating services	-	-	28	28
Land use printing and duplicating services	75	75	25	(50)
Library printing and duplicating services	1,000	1,000	1,349	349
Library income	4,500	4,500	138	(4,362)
Total charges for services	<u>1,059,985</u>	<u>1,059,985</u>	<u>1,244,812</u>	<u>184,827</u>
INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>77,850</u>	<u>77,850</u>	<u>62,499</u>	<u>(15,351)</u>
Total revenues	<u>41,793,332</u>	<u>41,793,332</u>	<u>41,990,136</u>	<u>196,804</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Appropriations of fund balance	<u>100,000</u>	<u>206,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(206,730)</u>
Total revenues and other other financing sources	<u>\$ 41,893,332</u>	<u>\$ 42,000,062</u>	<u>\$ 41,990,136</u>	<u>\$ (9,926)</u>
				<i>(Concluded)</i>

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND (UNAUDITED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Board of Selectmen	\$ 32,726	\$ 32,147	\$ 32,147	\$ -
Chief Administrator	275,711	259,088	259,088	-
Election	34,660	31,564	31,564	-
Probate court	4,024	4,350	4,350	-
Town counsel	60,000	34,594	34,594	-
Town clerk	145,100	144,589	144,589	-
Information technologies	109,060	109,186	109,186	-
Total general government	<u>661,281</u>	<u>615,518</u>	<u>615,518</u>	<u>-</u>
FINANCE				
Board of Finance	67,800	67,800	63,830	(3,970)
Finance	474,154	474,571	474,571	-
Assessor	104,542	73,869	73,869	-
Tax collector	85,855	76,728	76,728	-
Total finance	<u>732,351</u>	<u>692,968</u>	<u>688,998</u>	<u>(3,970)</u>
PUBLIC SAFETY				
Police	2,236,336	2,305,738	2,305,558	(180)
Service incentive	34,730	33,542	33,542	-
Fire services	416,150	401,017	401,017	-
Fire marshal	63,607	62,575	62,575	-
Emergency services	195,419	195,419	195,419	-
Total public safety	<u>2,946,242</u>	<u>2,998,291</u>	<u>2,998,111</u>	<u>(180)</u>
PUBLIC WORKS				
Town hall	312,581	339,543	339,543	-
Park department	128,067	126,116	126,116	-
General highway	1,175,150	1,273,224	1,273,224	-
Town garage	37,235	45,422	45,422	-
Utilities	231,200	233,064	233,064	-
Community center	92,875	116,670	116,670	-
Total public works	<u>1,977,108</u>	<u>2,134,039</u>	<u>2,134,039</u>	<u>-</u>

(Continued)

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND (UNAUDITED) (Concluded)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
HUMAN SERVICES				
Community agencies	\$ 106,808	\$ 106,984	\$ 106,984	\$ -
Senior/Social services	228,046	207,453	207,453	-
Park and recreation	208,344	203,476	203,476	-
Library	659,990	649,161	649,161	-
Total human services	<u>1,203,188</u>	<u>1,167,074</u>	<u>1,167,074</u>	<u>-</u>
INSURANCE	<u>320,616</u>	<u>326,763</u>	<u>326,763</u>	<u>-</u>
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT				
Building official	66,847	78,114	78,114	-
Town planner	342,142	337,695	337,695	-
Total planning and development	<u>408,989</u>	<u>415,809</u>	<u>415,809</u>	<u>-</u>
FRINGE BENEFITS	<u>2,409,486</u>	<u>2,457,220</u>	<u>2,457,220</u>	<u>-</u>
CONTINGENCY	<u>82,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
EDUCATION	<u>28,349,791</u>	<u>28,349,791</u>	<u>28,339,109</u>	<u>(10,682)</u>
DEBT SERVICE				
Principal	1,365,000	1,365,000	1,365,000	-
Interest	392,750	392,750	392,750	-
Total debt service	<u>1,757,750</u>	<u>1,757,750</u>	<u>1,757,750</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditures	<u>40,848,929</u>	<u>40,915,223</u>	<u>40,900,391</u>	<u>(14,832)</u>
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Transfers out:				
Emergency Services Fund	174,091	184,527	184,527	-
Youth Services Bureau	11,300	11,300	11,300	-
Capital and Nonrecurring Fund	859,012	889,012	889,012	-
Total other financing uses	<u>1,044,403</u>	<u>1,084,839</u>	<u>1,084,839</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditures and other financing uses	<u>\$ 41,893,332</u>	<u>\$ 42,000,062</u>	<u>\$ 41,985,230</u>	<u>\$ (14,832)</u>
				<i>(Concluded)</i>

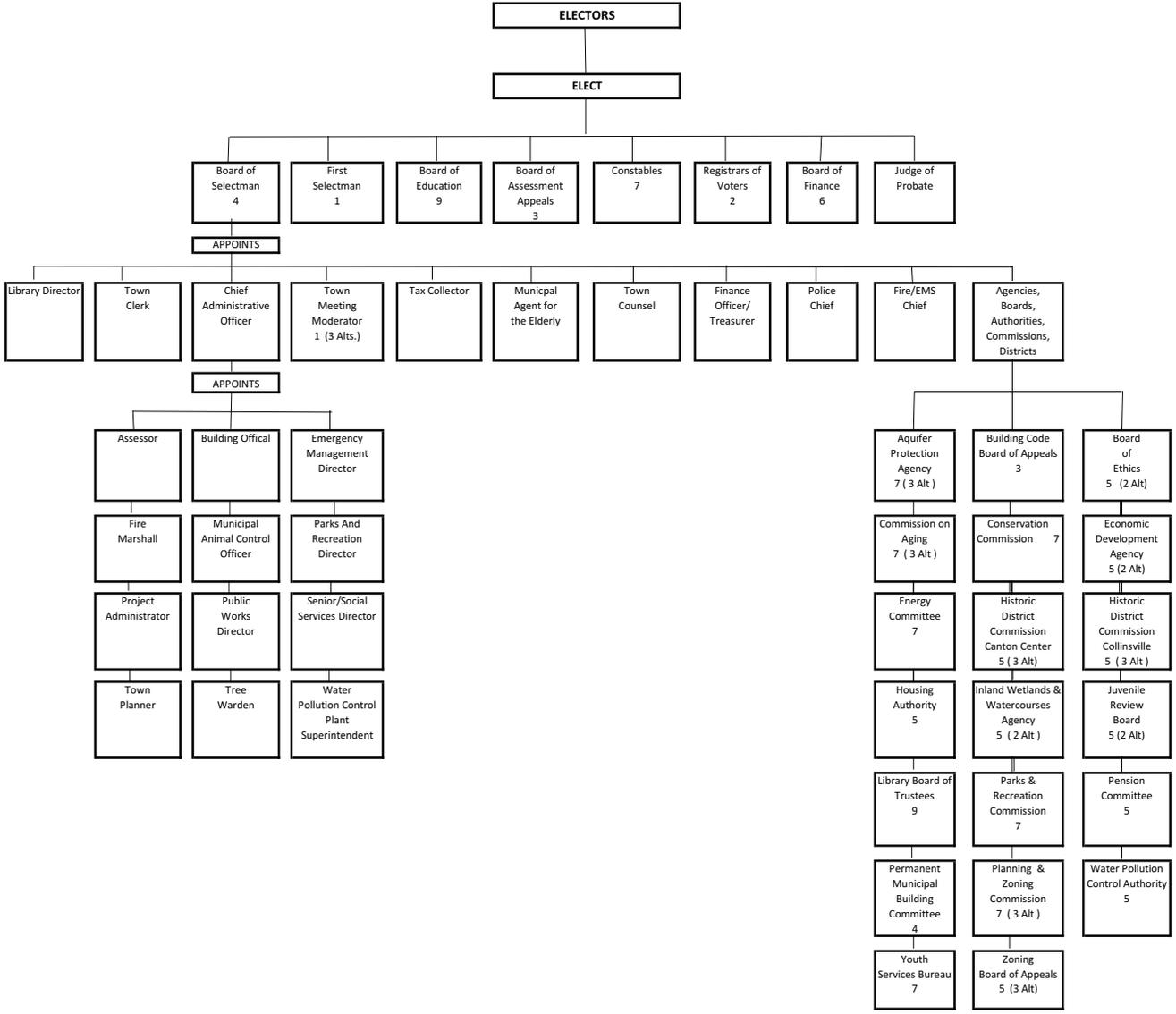
TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED, COLLECTED AND OUTSTANDING
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Grand List Year	Balance Uncollected June 30, 2021	Current Levy	Lawful Corrections		Transfers to Suspend	Balance To Be Collected	Collections			Balance Uncollected June 30, 2022
			Additions	Deductions			Taxes	Interest and Lien Fees		
								Total		
2020	\$ -	\$ 37,019,024	\$ 64,100	\$ 194,254	\$ 870	\$ 36,888,000	\$ 36,607,926	\$ 110,833	\$ 36,718,759	\$ 280,074
2019	276,712	-	5,265	10,847	613	270,517	97,984	24,451	122,435	172,533
2018	99,575	-	-	3,432	1,431	94,712	27,927	15,266	43,193	66,785
2017	63,090	-	-	-	2,917	60,173	2,989	3,125	6,114	57,184
2016	53,399	-	-	-	5,345	48,054	5,151	2,219	7,370	42,903
2015	35,565	-	-	-	540	35,025	571	518	1,089	34,454
2014	34,208	-	-	-	-	34,208	454	316	770	33,754
2013	33,033	-	-	-	-	33,033	-	-	-	33,033
2012	31,126	-	-	-	-	31,126	-	-	-	31,126
2011	30,559	-	-	-	-	30,559	-	-	-	30,559
2009	30,178	-	-	-	-	30,178	-	-	-	30,178
2008	29,407	-	-	-	-	29,407	-	-	-	29,407
2007	23,792	-	-	-	-	23,792	-	-	-	23,792
2006	23,393	-	-	-	-	23,393	-	-	-	23,393
2005	22,604	-	-	-	22,604	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 786,641	\$ 37,019,024	\$ 69,365	\$ 208,533	\$ 34,320	\$ 37,632,177	\$ 36,743,002	\$ 156,728	\$ 36,899,730	\$ 889,175



**TOWN OF CANTON
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**





ANNUAL REPORT

AQUIFER PROTECTION AGENCY

The Aquifer Protection Agency ("APA") is a registration and permitting agency charged by the State of Connecticut to review, evaluate, and take action on existing and proposed regulated activities potentially having an adverse environmental impact on public drinking ground water supplies.

During fiscal year 2021-2022, the APA held 3 regular meeting and no special meetings.

The APA has an Authorized Agent who reports to the Agency the status of and compliance with all permits and registrations issued under its authority and to also acts as the APA's enforcement officer.

The APA operates with seven (7) regular members and three (3) alternates.

The APA holds regular quarterly meetings and special meetings on an as-needed basis on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The primary function of the Assessor's Office is the discovery, listing and valuation of all taxable and tax-exempt property. The Grand List is a complete listing comprised of three property categories; real estate, motor vehicle and business personal property. In compiling the annual grand list office staff regularly reviews and inspects ongoing improvements made to real property, conducts reviews and audits of business personal property equipment and maintains and values all vehicles located within the Town of Canton as of the October 1st assessment date.

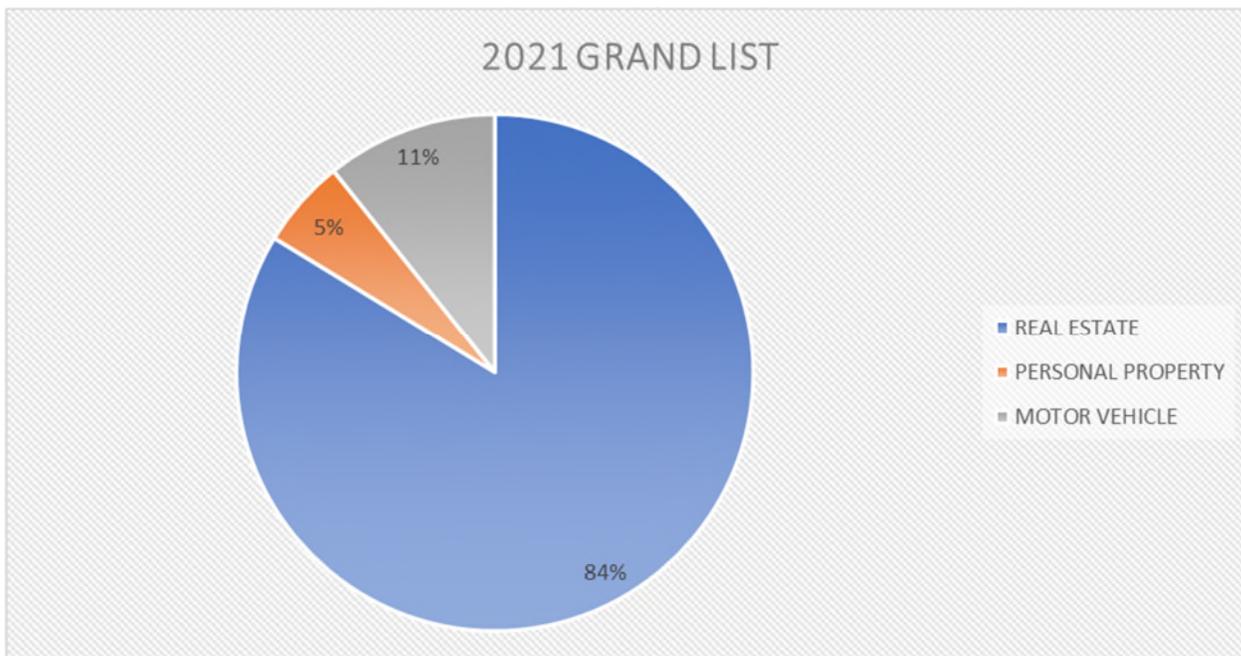
The Assessor's Office is also responsible for the administration of numerous state-mandated and local option tax exemptions and abatements such as the Tax Relief for the Elderly, Veterans, Blind and Disabled programs. In addition to the appraisal, classification and recording of all property the Assessment division must analyze and properly reflect all property transfers and ownership changes in order to maintain an accurate and current CAMA database.

Our goal is to perform responsible assessment, appraisal and administrative work to ensure uniformity and an equitable distribution of tax burden. As well, we strive to ensure that computerized records are regularly and efficiently updated to permit prompt public access to data and to enable statutory and statistical revaluations to proceed proficiently. This includes the maintenance of accurate tax/GIS maps which requires processing and recording changes resulting from subdivisions, assemblage, boundary agreements and surveys.

Before corrections and Board of Assessment Appeals adjustments the 2021 Net Grand List totaled \$1,137,635,507. The Board of Assessment Appeals met in the month of March and reduced the Net Grand List by \$3,858. The final 2021 taxable net Grand List as reported to OPM was:

\$1,137,631,649

2021 GRAND LIST OF TAXABLE AND EXEMPT				
TYPE OF ACCOUNT	# OF ACCOUNTS	GROSS ASSESSMENT	TOTAL EXEMPTIONS	TOTAL NET VALUE
REAL ESTATE REGULAR	4211	\$ 939,023,400	\$ 952,765	\$ 938,070,635
REAL ESTATE ELDERLY HOMEOWNER	100	\$ 14,798,560	\$ 340,500	\$ 14,458,060
TOTAL REAL ESTATE TAXABLE	4311	\$ 953,821,960	\$ 1,293,265	\$ 952,528,695
REAL ESTATE EXEMPT	209	\$ 89,561,310	\$ 89,561,310	
REAL ESTATE TOTALS	4520	\$ 1,043,383,270	\$ 90,854,575	\$ 952,528,695
PERSONAL	862	\$ 64,611,860	\$ 1,555,693	\$ 63,056,167
MV	10123	\$ 122,327,905	\$ 277,260	\$ 122,050,645
TOTAL MV & PP	10985	\$ 186,939,765	\$ 1,832,953	\$ 185,106,812
FINAL TOTAL		\$ 1,230,323,035	\$ 92,687,528	\$ 1,137,635,507
FINAL TOTAL TAXABLE M13		BAA CHANGE	\$ (3,858.00)	\$ 1,137,631,649



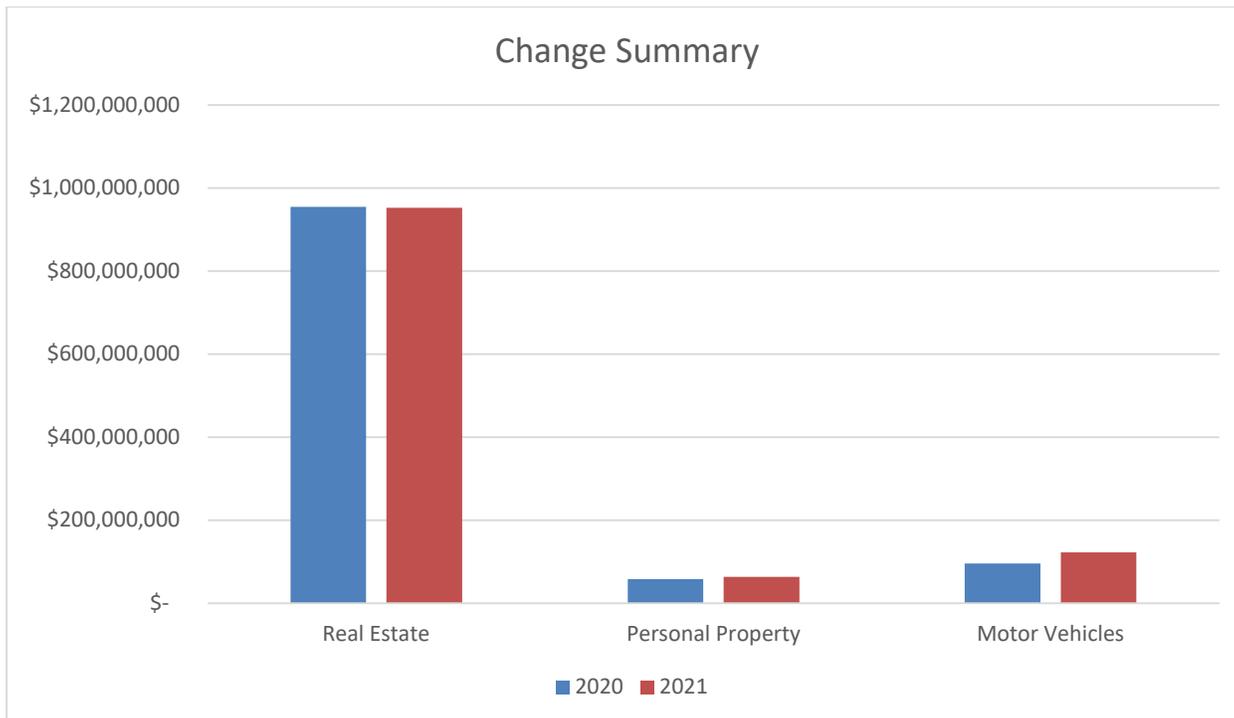
Summary of Change

The 2021 Assessor's Grand List realized a net increase of **\$29,955,149** or a net change of 2.70%. The 2021 Grand List Growth is due primarily to an increase in declared business personal property as outlined below and a marked increase in motor vehicle values as compared to last year.

2021 Grand List change by component:

- Personal Property – Values increased by 9.14% led by equipment additions by Eversource (\$4.62M); Connecticut Natural Gas (\$43k) and Squirrel Enterprises Inc. (\$630k).
- Motor Vehicle – The 2021 Grand List increased by 28.26%. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of the motor vehicle industry including manufacturing, computer chip shortages and mandatory shutdowns. The significant interruption in the consumer supply chain resulted in both an increase in demand and value across all vehicle classes.
- Real Estate – Net Real Estate decreased slightly by 0.23%.

Component	2020	2021	% Change
Real Estate	\$ 954,744,595	\$ 952,528,695	-0.23%
Personal Property	\$ 57,770,080	\$ 63,052,309	9.14%
Motor Vehicles	\$ 95,161,825	\$ 122,050,645	28.26%



Distribution of Grand List

The Grand List is comprised of 3 Stratum; Real Property, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles. The percentage distribution historically remains consistent. The charts below illustrate our Grand List structure overall and compares each sub-category of real estate and its contribution to the total net grand list.

2021 Grand List

2020 Grand List

Total Real Estate	83.73%	Total Real Estate	86.19%
Personal Property	5.54%	Personal Property	5.22%
Motor Vehicles	10.73%	Motor Vehicles	8.59%
	100.00%		100.00%

Net Grand List Comparison 2020 to 2021							
Category	2020 Grand List AFTER BAA & COCs	Grand List PRE BAA	2021 Grand List Post BAA	\$ Variance	% Variance	% GRAND LIST	
Net Real Estate							
Residential	\$ 792,355,280	\$ 795,776,800	\$ 795,776,800	\$ 3,421,520	0.43%	69.95%	
Commercial	\$ 150,975,890	\$ 145,071,800	\$ 145,071,800	\$ (5,904,090)	-3.91%	12.75%	
Industrial	\$ 12,894,770	\$ 12,973,360	\$ 12,973,360	\$ 78,590	0.61%	1.14%	
Total Gross Real Estate	\$ 956,225,940	\$ 953,821,960	\$ 953,821,960	\$ (2,403,980)	-0.25%	83.84%	
Exemptions	\$ (1,481,345)	\$ (1,293,265)	\$ (1,293,265)	\$ 188,080	-12.70%		
Total Net Real Estate	\$ 954,744,595	\$ 952,528,695	\$ 952,528,695	\$ (2,215,900)	-0.23%	83.73%	
Personal Property	\$ 58,909,170	\$ 64,611,860	\$ 64,608,002	\$ 5,698,832	9.67%	5.68%	
Exemptions	\$ (1,139,090)	\$ (1,555,693)	\$ (1,555,693)	\$ (416,603)	36.57%		
Total Net Personal Property	\$ 57,770,080	\$ 63,056,167	\$ 63,052,309	\$ 5,282,229	9.14%	5.54%	
Motor Vehicles	\$ 95,387,535	\$ 122,327,905	\$ 122,327,905	\$ 26,940,370	28.24%	10.75%	
Exemptions	\$ (225,710)	\$ (277,260)	\$ (277,260)	\$ (51,550)	22.84%		
Total Net Motor Vehicles	\$ 95,161,825	\$ 122,050,645	\$ 122,050,645	\$ 26,888,820	28.26%	10.73%	
Total Net Grand List	\$ 1,107,676,500	\$ 1,137,635,507	\$ 1,137,631,649	\$ 29,955,149	2.70%	100.00%	

Top Ten Taxpayers 2021 GL Combined

SFV CANTON OWNER LLC	49,859,600
EVERSOURCE	28,270,690
CONNECTICUT WATER CO THE	4,584,710
CPIMF1 UCHSCCT LLC	4,518,500
BOULDER RIDGE ASSOC LIMITED PRTN	4,303,030
CT SVC LLC	4,200,000
CANTON VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER LLC	3,030,090
PERRY LANSFORD W	2,588,540
MAPLE GLEN ASSOCIATES	2,515,260
CANTON REALTY LLC	2,466,050

REAL ESTATE

SFV CANTON OWNER LLC	49,859,600
CPIMF1 UCHSCCT LLC	4,518,500
BOULDER RIDGE ASSOC LIMITED PRTN	4,303,030
CT SVC LLC	4,200,000
CANTON VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER LLC	3,028,050
PERRY LANSFORD W	2,588,540
MAPLE GLEN ASSOCIATES	2,515,260
CANTON REALTY LLC	2,466,050
TECH CENTER LLC	2,290,360
COLLINSVILLE BANK	2,133,230

PERSONAL PROPERTY

EVERSOURCE	28,270,690
CONNECTICUT WATER CO THE	4,584,710
SHOPRITE OF CANTON	2,047,420
CONNECTICUT NATURAL GAS CORP	1,645,130
SQUIRREL ENTERPRISES INC	1,376,090
SUBURBAN SANITATION SERVICE	936,740
CANTON VILLAGE CONSTRN CO INC	825,820
COMCAST OF CT INC	648,400
REMEDY ONE	646,210
HORTON ELECTRICAL SERVICES LLC	623,240

Assessment Administration

The Board of Assessment Appeals convened in March to conduct appeal hearings for the 2021 Grand List. Assessment staff assists the board by performing the following duties: appellant appointment scheduling; legal ad postings; records and files meeting agendas and minutes; updates assessment changes in the CAMA and QDS system and mails action notices to all appellants per state statute.

In total, the Board heard **5** appeals and made **2** changes to value.

Total 2021 GL BAA Reductions by category

	# Appeals	# Changes	# No Changes	Total BAA Reductions
Real Estate	3	0	3	0
Personal Property	2	2	0	(\$ 3,858)
Motor Vehicle**	0	0	0	0
*2020 Supplemental				
	5	2	3	(\$ 3,858)
		<u>Total 2021 Reductions</u>		(\$ 3,858)
Not Heard	0			
Incomplete/Late Filings				
Total Not Heard	0			

The Board also meets each year in September to hear motor vehicle appeals. A total of 4 petitions were received by the BAA for the September session. The Board made reductions to one motor vehicle account in the amount of **(\$7,365)**.

Real Estate:

Sales questionnaires are sent to all new owners of real estate. The returned forms assist staff in determining the validity of sales as a reflection of the current real estate market. Staff continues to review listings of properties for sale and update real estate data as warranted. The sales validation process is recorded both locally, in the town's CAMA system, and at the state level through the OPM sales ratio database, which is integral to the state's annual compilation of the Equalized Net Grand List.

Transfers of real estate title for tax billing and ownership records are processed on an ongoing basis in the Assessor's office. From October 2021 through September 2022 a total of **400** changes to title were processed.

Number of Documents	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Totals
Valid Transfers	59	32	48	68	207
Change or Transfer \$0	57	43	56	37	193
Transaction Totals	116	75	104	105	400

Income and Expense forms were mailed on March 15, 2022 to all owners of commercial, income producing real estate. The deadline to file the 2021 I&E forms was June 1st, 2022. Returned forms are utilized Assessor to establish economic income tables relevant to the 2023 state-mandated revaluation.

The upcoming 2023 town-wide revaluation will be conducted by Vision Government Solutions, commencing in February 2023 with the mailing and collection of data mailers to all residential property owners followed by property site visits in the Spring of 2023.

Preliminary values resulting from the 2023 revaluation will be established and impact notices mailed by December 15th, 2023 to all property owners. Informal hearings will be conducted in mid-January for all property owners wishing to discuss their newly established valuations. The revaluation is anticipated to be finalized and certified by January 31st, 2024.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Assessor's Office is responsible for the preparation of the Town's annual Grand List. The Grand List is a complete listing of all properties in town, their ownership and assessed value as of October 1st each year. The 2020 Grand List as of October 1, 2020 was \$1,107,802,290. The overall 2020 Grand List increased by \$15,896,116 or 1.46%. This information is then used by the Board of Finance to help determine the mill rate and in preparing the July tax bills. The Town is required to revalue all real estate assessments once every five years to 70% of their fair market value. The revaluation took place in 2018; the next is in the fall of 2023.

Listed below are the three categories that make up the Grand List. The amounts reported are prior to any adjustments made by the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Real Estate Increased from \$947,455,115 to \$954,848,835 or 0.78%. Real estate increased due to residential and commercial development. Canton had seven newly constructed buildings completed and ten partially constructed buildings. In addition, discrepancies found when comparing our data to Realtor.com increased the list by \$554,800. Homes are assessed at 70% of their market value, as done in all CT municipalities.

Personal Property increased \$51,794,460 to \$57,791,630 or 11.58%. Items that make up personal property include business furniture, fixtures, office equipment, computers, leased equipment, industrial and construction equipment, utility poles, pipes, cables and conduits. Personal Property is assessed each year at 70% of its value. Additionally, a 15% increase penalty was instituted for non-filers.

Motor Vehicles increased \$92,656,599 to \$95,161,825 or 2.70%. Included in this figure are all motor vehicles registered and garaged in Canton on October 1st of each year. Motor Vehicles are valued using the NADA Pricing Guide unless they are registered as a Historic Vehicle.

In preparation of the Grand List, tax maps are kept current. Extensive fieldwork is completed to update our records for building changes. This office is also responsible for the administration of the veterans, blind and disabled exemption programs and the State and Town elderly tax relief program. This year a total of \$247,768.80 was granted in elderly tax relief tax relief to 131 property owners.

As required by State law, the Board of Assessment Appeals meets in March concerning all appeals for Real Property from the Grand List of October 1, 2020 and in September to hear Motor Vehicle appeals only. Any property owner who felt the assessment of their property due to the Revaluation was inaccurate could appeal to the Board.

A total of sixteen (8) appeals were heard; (6 Real Estate, 2 Personal Property, and 1 Motor Vehicle).

The results of these appeals were:

Real Estate	2 Granted	4 Denied
Personal Property	0 Granted	1 Denied
Motor Vehicles	0 Granted	1 Denied

Final Grand List after the Board of Assessment Appeals

<u>Gross</u>	<u>Exemptions</u>	<u>Net</u>
1,194,861,095	87,184,857	1,107,676,500

Board of Assessment Appeals Members

David Sinish, Chairman
 Joe Pelehach
 Brad Parliman

BOARD OF ETHICS

During FY2021-2021 all scheduled regular meetings of the Board of Ethics were cancelled. The Board received four notices of recusals for possible conflicts of interest from town officials, two from Planning and Zoning, two from the Pension Committee and one from the Board of Education. There is one alternate position remaining be filled to complete the Board of seven members.

The Board of Ethics meets when needed at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at the Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue unless scheduled otherwise. The Board of Ethics meeting schedule, meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Town of Canton website: www.townofcantonct.org. The public is welcome to attend.

David R. Kubas, Chairman
 Canton Board of Ethics
 December 30, 2022

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes sets forth the need, duties, requirements and conditions for the Building Department. Chapter 541, part 1.a. of the CGS also states that all towns, cities and boroughs in the State of Connecticut shall use this code as their Building Code. This department is responsible for issuing all building and associated permits. Plan review, various inspections and the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy or Completion are among the duties of the office. The Building Official transitioned from a part-time position to performing the duties of the office on a full-time basis. This transpired for the final quarter of FY 21-22. The Building Department will continue in its efforts to provide customer service while promoting building safety and general welfare in the construction environment while seeking compliance to the building codes.

Permit Statistics

Type	Count	Fees	Cost Of Construction
Building - Commercial - Alterations	26	\$14,492.00	\$1,087,427.80
Building - Commercial - Demolition	6	\$2,898.00	\$206,800.00
Building - Commercial - Electrical	34	\$12,362.00	\$1,170,440.97
Building - Commercial - Fit-out	9	\$15,918.00	\$1,136,400.00
Building - Commercial - Mechanical	21	\$15,652.00	\$1,142,704.24
Building - Commercial - New Construction	6	\$58,128.00	\$4,182,000.00
Building - Commercial - Plumbing	12	\$11,130.00	\$719,200.00
Building - Commercial - Roofing	8	\$7,140.00	\$533,700.05
Building - Commercial - Siding	1	\$1,050.00	\$75,000.00
Building - Commercial - Signage	8	\$1,134.00	\$79,510.00
Building - Commercial - Sprinkler System	8	\$6,874.00	\$489,313.00
Building - Residential - Alterations	58	\$28,742.00	\$2,035,376.26
Building - Residential - Chimney Liner	9	\$686.00	\$43,585.25
Building - Residential - Deck	20	\$3,752.00	\$302,340.00
Building - Residential - Demolition	4	\$626.00	\$53,800.00
Building - Residential - Electrical	175	\$12,265.00	\$875,695.84
Building - Residential - Finished Basement	13	\$3,857.00	\$255,250.00
Building - Residential - Gas Log Insert	6	\$350	\$20,945.00
Building - Residential - Mechanical	237	\$42,714.00	\$2,987,526.73
Building - Residential - New Construction	19	\$20,187.00	\$1,616,628.00
Building - Residential - New Home	6	\$27,951.00	\$2,164,000.00
Building - Residential - Photo-voltaic	29	\$11,634.00	\$821,637.00
Building - Residential - Plumbing	100	\$4,886.00	\$323,514.85

Building - Residential - Roofing	101	\$16,315.00	\$1,148,807.15
Building - Residential - Shed	5	\$966.00	\$69,000.00
Building - Residential - Siding	3	\$924.00	\$65,079.00
Building - Residential - Swimming Pool	12	\$6,768.00	\$492,727.00
Building - Residential - Window Replacement	34	\$8,162.00	\$566,758.90
Building - Residential - Woodstove/Pellet Stove	12	\$854.00	\$54,010.30
Total:	982	\$338,144.00	\$24,719,177.34

Total Inspections	646
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Canton Conservation Commission is authorized under CGS 7-1319 and Chapter 149 of the Town of Canton code. The primary functions of the Conservation Commission are to monitor and make recommendations regarding the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources including water resources in the Town of Canton. The Commission conducts research into the utilization of land areas of the municipality, prepares maps and publications, inventories natural resources and keeps an index of all open space areas, publicly or privately owned, including marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas. From time to time, the Conservation Commission makes recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, and other municipal agencies regarding plans and programs for the development, protection, and other use of such areas, as well as on proposed land use changes, land protection plans, and management of municipally-owned open spaces or natural areas.

The Conservation Commission takes the lead role for the community in identifying, evaluating, and recommending open space lands for acquisition. In 2019-2020, the Commission completed the Town of Canton's Natural Resources Inventory, continued to make progress on initiatives recognized in Canton's Plan of Conservation and Development, and provided input to other Town commissions with regard to wetlands and other development-related issues.

During 2021-2022, the Conservation Commission met eleven (11) times. The Commission currently consists of seven (7) members and meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Canton Economic Development Agency (EDA) continued to work diligently to remove obstacles to responsible development in town. The Agency provides recommendations for events designed to enhance economic activity in town, and has been working on re-designing the town's website to improve access to information/resources for residents and visitors.

The EDA is an all-volunteer agency appointed by the Board of Selectmen with a mission to:

- Conduct research into the economic conditions and trends of the town;
- Make recommendations to appropriate officials and agencies of the town regarding actions to improve economic conditions and development; and,

- Seek to coordinate the activities of and cooperate with unofficial bodies organized to promote such economic development.

The EDA is comprised of five regular members and one alternate member appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Members of the local business community and the general public are welcome to attend. The EDA held ten (10) regular meetings during this fiscal year.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department administers the Town’s financial activities, including accounting, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, pensions and other employee benefits. Detailed audited financial statements are published annually in the Town’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is on file in the Town Clerk’s office and available on the Town’s website in December of each year. The Finance Officer & Treasurer prepares monthly reports for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance on revenues and expenditures, identifying and analyzing variances to budget as they arise. In addition, the Finance Officer works with the Chief Administrative Officer and school Superintendent to develop the Town’s annual operating and capital expenditure budgets.

The Finance Department of the Town and Board of Education are merged to create a more streamlined organizational structure. The Town also implemented the same Infinite Visions accounting software platform that the Board of Education has used for many years to further build continuity.

In September 2022 we were informed that the Town of Canton received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year 2020-21 from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the 22nd consecutive year. As of the writing of this summary, the Finance team is working diligently with our external auditors to extend the award streak to for our 2021-22 financial results.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL 2021-22 (UNAUDITED)

- The Town’s adopted General Fund budget for 2021-22 totaled \$41,893,332.
- The Town’s actual General Fund expenditures were \$41,985,230 and actual revenues totaled \$41,990,136.
- The mil rate was 33.22.
- The Town maintained a credit rating of AAA from Standard & Poor’s.
- The Town’s unallocated fund balance at year-end was approximately \$7.6 million.

A recap of the Town’s long-term debt outstanding appears below:

Use of Proceeds	Maturity	Outstanding Amount (000)
School Construction – Refinance	10/15/24	855
Capital Projects – Aug 2013	08/15/33	3,875
Capital Projects – June 2015	06/01/35	3,600
Highway Dept. Garage – October 2017	10/15/37	3,045
3 Bridges (Rattlesnake, Cherry Brook, Jim Brook)	06/01/42	2,475
Collinsville Fire House	06/01/42	5,400
Total		\$19,250

FIRE/EMS

The Town of Canton Fire and EMS Department is responsible for fire & emergency medical services within the Town of Canton. The Department routinely provides and receives mutual aid through mutual aid agreements with surrounding towns, as well as supports the State fire taskforce plan. The Department also provides hazardous material response, coverage of large public events, as well as fire prevention education services. Fire Department Operations is a combination of both volunteer and paid part time staff. The Department current has twelve part time firefighters who supplement response Monday through Friday.

The EMS Operations is also a combination of both volunteer staff and subcontracted personnel to staff the primary ambulance. Paramedic coverage is on a 24 hour basis. The second ambulance is staffed by volunteer personnel when available. Total volunteer membership is 50 members, 30 are assigned to the fire division, 6 are assigned to the fire police division, and 14 are assigned to the EMS division. The Department also has 3 administrative positions. In fiscal year 2021/2022 the Department responded to a total of 1664 calls for service, a 7.35% increase compared fiscal year 2020/2021. Fire only calls totaled 388, a 4.86% increase compared fiscal year 2020/2021 & EMS only calls totaled 1276, a 8.31% increase compared to fiscal year 2020/2021. The Fire Department responded to seven structure fires & four water rescues during the fiscal year of 2020/2021. Mutual aid response for both Fire and EMS were up this year. Fire Responded mutual aid forty times, while EMS responded mutual aid two hundred and one times.

Training for the entire Department is provided through a combination of in-house and out-sourced methods. All members are currently up to date with all State and OSHA requirements. The Department has also begun to train more frequently with surrounding mutual aid partners for better fire-ground operations. The Department added a new vehicle to the fleet with the addition of a duty officer vehicle this year, the primary focus of this vehicle is incident command. The Department responds from three firehouses & utilizes 15 pieces of equipment.

- 3 - Class A Engines
- 1 – Engine/Tanker
- 1 – Tanker
- 1 – Quint Aerial Ladder
- 2 – Utility Pickup Trucks
- 2 – Ambulances
- 1 – Paramedic Fly Car
- 1 – Fire Police Vehicle
- 1 – Rescue Boat
- 1- ATV
- 1- Duty Officer Car

FIRE MARSHAL

The Office of the Fire Marshal is responsible for the following services to the Town of Canton:

- Conduct fire and life safety code inspections in accordance with the Connecticut General Statute 29-305 and the Connecticut Fire Safety Code.
- Investigate all fires within the Town of Canton in accordance with CGS 29-302.
- Review plans for new construction and existing building renovations/alterations for compliance of the Connecticut Fire Safety codes.
- In compliance with Connecticut Regulations grant permits for open burning and blasting.
- Provided fire prevention and code enforcement education to the residents and business owners of the Town of Canton.

The main goal of the inspection is to provide the residents and business owners with safer buildings. The Fire Marshal position is part-time 25 hour a week. This office will continue in its efforts to provide fire and life safety presentations to residents, schools and businesses within the Town of Canton.

FIRST SELECTMEN AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

High vaccination rates among adults allowed businesses to reopen and events to go forward. Children's vaccines were approved mid-year, eliminating much of the fear of contamination among Canton's youngest residents.

As businesses reopened, employment skyrocketed, creating a labor shortage throughout town. "Help Wanted" signs appeared in business after business. Iconic restaurants, such as the LaSalle Market, curtailed hours. Worker shortages also impacted supplies of key construction materials, driving up costs for building projects.

Adding to the pressure on labor and materials was the release of new funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. Canton received \$3,034,667.30 in ARPA funding in Fiscal 2021-22. The Town approved a plan to allocate these funds to long-standing infrastructure projects in support of community well-being. Nearly all of the resulting 23 projects were impacted by the shortage of labor and materials as they competed with a nation full of ARPA-funded projects.

Against this backdrop of labor and materials shortages, the Town progressed with its long-awaited Streetscape II project in downtown Collinsville. Originally approved in 2015, construction did not begin until 2021 due to an extremely lengthy approval process overseen by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Materials shortages plagued the project from the start, beginning with a lack of granite curbing and long delays in the delivery of lighting fixtures. As the year ended in June 2022, Streetscape II was months away from completion – seven years after funding had been approved!

Outdoor recreation continued to be a strong point for Canton with crowds aplenty on the fields, trails and river. The Parks and Recreation Department resumed its full schedule of programs over the summer, replenishing COVID impacted shortfalls from the previous year. Cool weather and unusually high rainfall dampened the

number of kayakers and tubers on the river. Attendance was strong at the Canton Main Street Farmers Market into November 2021.

Aggressive driving became a major issue this year. The Town received a steady stream of complaints about excessive speed, vehicles passing stopped school busses, and aggressive driving more suitable for movie screens than town roads. Recognizing the issue, the Selectmen approved overtime traffic patrols, the purchase of additional radar devices and the Town's first speed tables on Case Street, and authorized a road safety audit on Maple Avenue. Hopefully these measures will quell Canton's speeding epidemic. Since 2017, the Town has experienced 1637 motor vehicle accidents – one per day for the last five years. Nearly 10 percent of those crashes resulted in serious injury to occupants of vehicles involved.

Other issues before the Town were redevelopment of the axe factory, commercial development, replacement of the Collinsville Fire Station, reconstruction of the Canton hydroelectric plant, inflated home prices, sewer capacity, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Axe Factory Redevelopment was stalled again when the latest sales contract expired. Unlike the year before, no new developer came forward to execute another contract. The Town continued its efforts to reduce development risks by applying for state funds to survey the site for contaminants and generate a complete remediation plan. The state accepted Canton's application, an environmental engineer was hired and work commenced on the contaminant survey and remediation plan.

Commercial development accelerated throughout the year. Albany Turnpike saw the construction of a new car dealership, bagel shop and gas station/convenience store. Apartment construction at 5 Cherry Brook Road moved forward and several additional proposals for apartments and restaurants came to the Land Use department.

Grand List Growth - The Town's Grand List increased 2.69% in 2021 following an increase of 1.44% in 2020 and 1.07% in 2019. This was largely due to a 29% increase in the assessed value of motor vehicles. Without this increase, the Grand List would have been flat. Thanks to commercial projects nearing completion, the Town is well positioned for future Grand List growth.

Canton Hydro completed construction of its power plant and began generating electricity this year. In December, the plant produced 195,066 Kilowatt hours (KWh). Production increased to 470,919 KWh in March, about half of the plant's expected capacity. The plant shut down for installation of the crest gates on the dam just north of the Route 179 bridge. These gates will control the level of the river, which will steady the water flow through the power turbine. Full production is scheduled for the fall of 2022.

Fire and EMS House - Five years of study and planning for Canton's future fire and EMS needs resulted in a proposal to build a 14,080 square foot Fire and EMS House at a cost of \$5.4 million. The bonding question was put to voters during the 2021 election and it passed by a wide margin (2061 to 834). The town successfully bonded for the entire construction amount before interest rates spiked later in the year.

Sewer Capacity - After discovering the cause of Canton's sewer capacity issue, the Water Pollution Control Authority engaged a company to re-line the Town's major sewer main. This work was done with a minimum of disruption to the public and should stop the system leaks and infiltration.

PFAS Chemical - Authorities continued to assess the damage caused by PFAS at Cherry Brook Primary School. The spill was the result of a fire training drill conducted by the Canton Fire Department in 2014. The drill focused on the use of fire retardant foam which contained PFAS compounds, a common practice among fire departments at that time. Samples were taken from soils and water wells on site and at abutting properties. Test results indicate the wells were not impacted by the contamination. State health officials continued to monitor the situation and assess methods for remediation.

Town Bridge - On a rainy day in July, 10 trucks delivered pieces of town bridge, fresh from repair, galvanizing and initial painting in Allentown, Pennsylvania. By December, the bridge was back in place, reassembled, painted and paved for an opening ceremony. A procession of cars and trucks passed across the bridge, each commemorating a decade of service that the bridge provided. The final vehicle was all-electric, pointing toward a long and vital future.

David Leff - Canton lost several beloved members of its community this year, but few as storied as David Leff for whom this report is dedicated. David was a poet, naturalist, historian, originator of the Collinsville Historic District, tireless promoter of the 'working village' now known as one of the 10 coolest towns in America, and so much more. His book "The Last Undiscovered Place" inspired countless readers to find magic in their own communities.

The election of 2021 resulted in changes on the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education. Stephen Sedor replaced Gail Deutsch as Selectman, Thomas Blatchley and Andrew Ziembra replaced Jennifer Rottkamp and Jonathan Webb on the Board of Finance, and Lou Daniels, Felicia Jordan, Cynthia Moeller and Peggy Steinway replaced Julie Ausere, Margaret Berry, Ana Cavanaugh and Jack Powell on the Board of Education. Following the election, Ken Humphrey was elected chair of the Board of Finance, and Lou Daniels was elected chair of the Board of Education.

Following the election, the First Selectman invited the new Board of Education and Finance Chairs to join the monthly leadership meeting of the Board of Education Chair, Superintendent of Schools and the Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Daniels and Mr. Humphrey accepted the invitation and have contributed greatly to the effectiveness of these meetings.

The First Selectman continued to publish the monthly First Selectman's Corner on the town website. This column helped bridge the gap in local news coverage caused by staffing reductions at the Hartford Courant and Valley Press.

The Chief Administrator's Office continued to perform the many duties of his office, including hiring of Town staff, union negotiations, contract administration for capital projects, acting as purchasing agent and carryout all the policies and directives of the Board of Selectmen. These tasks could not be performed without the dedicated staff of the Chief Administrator's Office, CAO Executive Assistant Melissa Denton.

INLAND WETLAND & WATERCOURSES AGENCY

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (“IWWA”) is a permitting agency charged by the State of Connecticut to review, evaluate, enforce and take action on proposed regulated activities potentially having an adverse environmental impact on wetlands and/or watercourses.

During fiscal year 2021-2022, the IWWA held ten (10) regular meetings, three (3) site walk, and two (2) special meetings. They processed fourteen (14) applications, no Jurisdictional Determinations, and held two (2) Show Cause Hearings.

Show Cause Hearing Violations:

1. Property owner conducted a regulated activity within a watercourse and/or wetland soil more than what the agency had approved.
2. Property owner conducted a regulated activity within a watercourse, wetland soil, and/or the Upland Review Area. Photos indicated the cutting of trees, deposition of material, erection of a structure without permits, and the possible use of land in violation of the Conservation Easement agreement held by the Town of Canton.

The IWWA has an Authorized Agent who is allowed to permit minor activities in upland review areas but not within wetlands or watercourses themselves. The Authorized Agent reports to the Agency all permits issued under its authority at regular meetings and also acts as the IWWA’s enforcement officer. The wetlands agent issued seven (7) authorized agent approvals under this authority during the fiscal year.

The IWWA is currently functioning with full complement of five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members. The IWWA holds its regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. In addition to its regular meetings, the Commission holds special meetings/site-walks as needed. All meetings are open to the public.

LAND USE OFFICE

Description of Department Functions and Services:

The Land Use Office assists the Town land use and development commissions to adopt plans, policies, regulations and programs to promote the sound long-range development, general welfare and safety of the community. This includes the preservation of property values, conservation of natural resources, and preservation of historic resources, in balance with the development of a strong economic base. These changes are guided by the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development, Zoning Regulations, Inland Wetland and Watercourse Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations. The Commissions served by the Land Use Office include the: Planning and Zoning Commission; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency; Zoning Board of Appeals; Economic Development Agency; Conservation Commission; Aquifer Protection Agency; Canton Center Historic District Commission; Collinsville Historic District Commission; and POCD Plan Implementation Committee. The Land Use Office also manages a public help desk that provides guidance to developers, private citizens and other interested parties in regard to land use and development policies and regulations in pursuit of improving the future sound development of the Town.

Commission Achievements:

The Land Use Commissions processed a total of (42) applications and/or referrals as follows: Zoning Board of Appeals (5); Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (16); Aquifer Protection Agency (0); and Planning and Zoning Commission (21).

Also, this year the Assistant Planner/Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer continued the process of consistently enforcing regulatory approvals of Land Use Commissions, as well as overseeing general compliance with the regulations.

During this past year, the position has issued:

- 16 Sign Permits
- 2 Temporary Use and Activities Permit
- 3 Mobile Vendor Permits
- 1 Form-Based Code Type 1 Permit
- 7 IWWA Authorized Agent Applications
- 50 Zoning Permits
- 3 Minor Site Plan Modifications
- 1 Certificates of Zoning Compliance
- 0 Notices of Violations
- 0 Observation of Violations
- 3 Cease and Desist Orders
- 3 Municipal

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Canton Parks and Recreation Department is to provide a wide range of recreational and leisure opportunities in an effort to enhance the quality of life for all Canton residents and promote positive physical, social and emotional experiences. In our effort to achieve this goal we will continue to provide safe, attractive and well-maintained facilities. The slogan of our department is “Creating Community through Parks, Programs, and People”, and we encourage new program ideas and interests to be shared with us.

The department main office is located in the Canton Community Center, and is overseen by the Parks & Recreation Commission; a full-time Parks & Recreation Director, Taryn Schragar; a part-time Recreation Supervisor, Kellie Faust; and a full-time Recreation Coordinator, Claire Boughton. The Parks and Recreation Department employs approximately 60 seasonal employees, including aquatics, summer camp, maintenance and school year program staff, as well as dozens of contracted instructors and companies throughout the year.

Department programs and events are released in seasonal brochures, email blasts and Facebook posts. Additional information and program details can be found at the Canton Parks and Recreation website, www.cantonrec.org, and on Facebook, www.facebook.com/Canton-Parks-and-Recreation. The website also includes registration capabilities to allow for program registration 24 hours a day and a facility calendar and guide that gives information and schedules for Town parks and facilities.

The Canton Parks and Recreation Department has continued to adapt to the constantly changing health situation since spring 2020. Department staff worked to get as many programs that had been streamed online, including enrichment, dance and acting programs for kids, and adult fitness classes, back in person, while continuing to

offer online program opportunities for those who preferred that option. Working within state guidelines, the Canton Parks and Recreation Department was once again able provide safe camp programs, including the Explorers Day Camp, sports, enrichment and specialty camps; and a more expanded pool season that included measures to ensure that our staff and facility users were able to enjoy the pool while remaining as safe as possible, that also included returning swim lesson offerings to 2019 levels.

Programs

Canton Parks and Recreation offers programs throughout the year for all ages and ability levels. Activities include the popular Explorers Day Camp; Red Cross classes such as swimming lessons, lifeguard junior classes, a water safety aide program, babysitting and CPR/First Aid/AED certifications; Dusky Dolphins Swim Team; Beyond the Bell after school program; adult sports and fitness classes; youth sports programs, camps and clinics; enrichment classes and camps; a winter recreational basketball league; and a winter ski bus, just to name a few. The department has also added in Pickleball classes for players of all levels, and continues to work with Canton High School athletic coaches to offer sport-specific camps and training programs. The Department also began offering more programming specifically for children who need additional assistance, including an adaptive basketball program and adaptive swim lessons.

Events

The Canton Parks and Recreation Department offers many free or low-cost family special events throughout the year. Events normally include Spook-A-Palooza; Holiday House Lights contest; Holiday Sing-Along with Canton Public Schools music students; Canton Family Ice Skating Day; Spring Clean-Up; Spring Fling; Teen Night at the Pool; Sundae Funday; Pooch Plunge; and the 8-week Summer Concert Series.

Parks and Projects

The Canton Parks and Recreation Department provides oversight of town park facilities and athletic fields. Mills Pond Park is the town's primary recreation facility. The 40-acre park holds Mills Pond Pool, a 50-meter Olympic swimming pool; a smaller wading pool; a playground; a skate park; 2 full-size basketball courts; pavilion area; 4 tennis courts, all with pickleball lines; and a multi-use field space that hosts a range of sporting activities including baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, football and field hockey. The Canton Parks and Recreation Department also schedules and provides oversight to the Canton Community Gardens, Bicentennial Park, Dyer Field, Canton Green and Millennium Fields.

Future Initiatives

- Continue work on the development and building of a splash pad at Mills Pond Park
- Work on the design and installation of a new playground at Mills Pond Park
- Build an outdoor fitness space at Mills Pond Park to provide free outdoor fitness opportunities to residents
- Continue to partner with and support the Friends of Canton Dog Park
- Continue to develop and implement more indoor & outdoor winter programs
- Continue to develop and expand our virtual and hybrid programming opportunities
- Explore ways of funding projects and future initiatives outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Continue including the Canton Food Bank in events as a way to support the health of the community

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) carries out its usual delegated authority through regular monthly meetings with the aid of the Land Use Coordinator and the Town Planner. Approvals of the PZC are monitored and enforced by the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The Enforcement Officer also oversees and enforces general compliance with the zoning regulations, and reports monthly to the PZC and Zoning Board of Appeals.

In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the PZC held twelve (12) regular meetings, nine (9) special meetings, zero (0) site walk, processed twenty-one (21) applications and zero (0) requests for referral.

The PZC is comprised of seven (7) regular members and three (3) alternate members. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public and the Commission welcomes input from town residents and property owners for all public hearings.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department Description

The Canton Police Department (CPD) was established as a permanent police department in 1970. Currently, the CPD department has an authorized strength of 16 sworn officers (including 1 Chief, 1 Captain, 4 Sergeants, 9 officers and 1 Detective), 4 full-time communications/dispatcher positions, 6 part-time civilians (4 part-time dispatchers, 1 crossing guard) and 1 administrative assistant. All the CPD police officers are POST certified and are first responders in all medical and fire emergencies. All CPD Dispatchers are certified through the State of Connecticut Office of Emergency Telecommunications. CPD officers patrol over 25 square miles and serves a population of approximately 10,000 residents.

Dec. 2021-Dec. 2022 (to date) Highlights

1. The Canton Police Department (CPD) was successful in its efforts that resulted in over-whelming support at the town special meeting and vote to hire an additional officer. Two new officers were hired and approval was received to commence another hiring process for an academy start date in December of 2022. CPD officers were selected to participate in the North Central Accident Reconstruction Squad and the North Central EST (SWAT) Unit. The CPD Detective position was filled. Two additional part-time dispatchers were hired. A new Animal Control Officer was hired and will serve jointly with the town of Burlington.
2. CPD personnel continued its exceptional service to the community despite the ongoing COVID emergency. Noteworthy was the highly successful town-wide COVID Test Kit Distribution event.
3. CPD personnel participated in two (2) federally funded grant programs for highway safety (Distracted Driving and High-Risk Rural Road Speed Enforcement). In addition, Canton Police Officer participated in the annual State DOT Seatbelt WAVE campaign.
4. CPD administrative staff, Canton Police Union and CAO successfully negotiated the successor collective bargaining agreement.

5. CPD administrative staff, Canton Police Dispatcher Union and CAO successfully negotiated the successor collective bargaining agreement.
6. CPD commenced its body-worn and in-car camera program for all personnel.
7. Chief Arciero continued as chairman of the CIRMA Statewide Law Enforcement Advisory Council.
8. CPD personnel assisted with various grant programs-JAG Grants, Canton CCHF, State Bond Commission to obtain necessary police and emergency communications equipment.
9. CPD personnel responded to a major severe weather events and coordinated emergency responses with CFD, DPW, EMS and other state agencies.
10. CPD personnel were involved in an extensive community engagement process to address an impactful speeding concern on local roads. The efforts resulted in several community meetings, data collection, specialized equipment purchases, selective speed enforcement initiatives and ongoing safety planning for the area and other high-speed areas in town. CPD participated in two separate Road Assessment Surveys with State DOT.
11. CPD memberships continued with school safety initiatives including participation with CIRMA school safety assessments, response and monitoring of CODE RED Drills, revision updates to the mandatory Statewide School Security Plan, development of a crisis assessment evaluation response (C.A.R.E.) protocol and provision of safety training for new teachers and bus drivers.
12. CPD personnel continued to participate in many charitable/social assistance events: Ride to School, Bagging for Hunger, Toy Drive, Food Drive, Special Olympics Torch Run, Child ID and Car Seat Safety events, Baby Formula Shortage Drive, Youth Services Bureau meetings, CPD Building tours, and submission of safety articles/reminders on various social media platforms.
13. The Canton CERT Unit continued to support Canton Police, Fire and EMS regarding shelter operations and support at local events and during severe weather operations. Also, CERT assisted other area town CERT teams at those town's events. CERT continued its participation in the annual CIS STEP Training for Emergencies, food drive for the Canton Food Bank and the food/toy drive at Ocean State Job Lot to benefit Canton's Holiday Drive.
14. The CPD General Orders were revised, with respect to the following high-liability areas such as Use of Force, Officer Involved Shootings, Pursuit Policy and Use of Body Worn and In-Car camera systems.

FY 2023-24 Departmental Objectives

1. Monitor use and compliance of body worn and in-car cameras in accordance with the police accountability legislation.
2. Meet the additional mandates of the police accountability legislation to include, state accreditation compliance, behavioral assessment and drug-testing for all sworn employees.
3. Ensure CPD officers newly assigned to the various North Central Municipal Teams (SWAT team and Accident Reconstruction) receive adequate training and on-boarding assistance during transition

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fiscal Year 2022 was a year of transition for us, as we started the year still under a number of Covid restrictions but ended it with services approaching normal.

We continue to adjust our services as needed to deal with the ever-changing nature of the ongoing pandemic. Our priority is giving our patrons the ability to use library services while feeling as safe and comfortable as possible. Whether that means increasing our curbside pickup availability or being ready to offer remote support for digital library services, we are ready to pivot whenever necessary to ensure continued good service.

During the summer, we held as many programs outdoors as we could, as a means of easing back into in-person programming after more than a year of being exclusively virtual. These outdoor programs were exceptionally popular – particularly “storytime on the island” – and have since become a part of our regular programming repertoire. The rise of the Omicron variant led to a delay in our plan to return to in-person indoor programming, but we were finally able to restart in late February/early March. We have been very happy with our in-person attendance but are still presenting some programs virtually as a means of providing access to all (not to mention being able to host speakers who we would be unable to have in person!).

Demand for library services remains high. Our circulation was 4.46% higher than during FY21 – including a 5% increase in physical material circulation. People often ask “do people still read books?” and the answer, based on our data, is certainly a resounding YES.

In an effort to increase access to and equity of library services, we were part of the first wave of Connecticut libraries to make the decision to go permanently fine-free, with that change becoming official at the beginning of the fiscal year. As of this writing well over half of the public libraries in the state have gone fine-free, and we are proud of having been on the leading edge of this trend.

Sarah McCusker
Library Director
December

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Highway

The Highway Department is responsible for the repair and maintenance of 71.2 miles of improved and unimproved roads within the Town of Canton. This winter season once again challenged the department to keep the roads clear and safe. The department responded to 19 winter storm events. The Public Works Garage, with all the department’s equipment staged inside, allows the department to respond much faster to provide efficient and safer winter storm operations for the community. Following the Town Pavement Management Program, the Highway Department, along with several contractors, performed \$740,628.97 of roadway improvements this past year (see list below). The roadway improvements consisted of several repair strategies that included milling and paving with drainage improvements of Carriage Drive, Christmas Tree Hill, Elizabeth Road, Forest Lane, Noja Trail, Old Albany Turnpike, Ridge Drive, Silver Mine Acres Road, Trailsend Drive, Whitney Lane, and Woodland Drive. Crack seal work was also performed on seven town roads. To access information on roadwork please go to the Pavement Management Program link located on the town website: <https://www.townofcantonct.org/filestorage/19342/19345/19712/19727/2021-2.pdf>. The Town utilizes a Pavement Management Program called Road Manager Software that allows the department to track work performed and to determine future repairs to the Town’s roadway infrastructure. The Highway Department also performed extensive tree work on various Town properties and right-of ways throughout the year. The majority

of trees removed were ash trees that were injured or killed by the Emerald Ash Borer. The department also responded to numerous requests from residents to perform drainage and road improvements this year. Highway Foreman, Daniel Manyak, along with the dedicated department staff continue improving drainage features on several roads that eliminated ice buildup during the winter to keep Town roads open and safe.

Parks

The Parks Department is responsible for 110+ acres of maintenance and improvements to all Town walking trails, greens, parks, pool, athletic fields, building, and grounds including all school campuses. Parks Supervisor Henry Maskaitis and the committed Parks Department staff continue the use of excellent cultural practices, utilizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices and last resort pesticide use. This environmentally friendly management practice has shown excellent results in both field quality and lowering maintenance costs. The Town Pool continues to be maintained at a high level by the department including performing the spring opening of the pool, painting/repairing the pool, maintenance during the summer open times, and winterizing duties helping to save costs. The department continued to support the Collinsville Pollen Trail group consisting of citizens helping to bring back pollinators, birds and other wildlife to yards, towns and communities by creating a beautiful spot that runs adjacent to Rattlesnake Brook and the Farmington River Trail along Allen Place. This area is enjoyed by numerous daily visitors to this popular destination. Another accomplishment this past year was keeping the grounds and recreation areas clean and safe for the residents to enjoy. The department also was involved with planting several new trees at the Community Center/Library and along the Farmington River open space. The Farmington River Trail continues to be an area that the Parks Department has been working to improve public safety. This year, the department continued maintaining trail fencing and bridge decking along several sections of the walking trail. The department continues to work with the Cherry Brook Garden Club to maintain the landscaping at the Flower Bridge, Town buildings, parks, and recreational facilities to provide a pleasing appearance. This growing department continues to add new services to accurately reflect the needs of the community. The Parks Supervisor, Henry Maskaitis, along with department staff goal is to continue improving the quality of each facility and identify new ways of reducing maintenance costs.

Building Maintenance

The Building Maintenance Department is responsible for the maintenance and up-keep of 103,085 square feet of building space at the Town Hall, Library/Community Center, North Canton Fire Station, Collinsville Fire Station, Public Works, and Police Station. During this past year, the department responded to 208 service calls along with their regular duties. The Building Maintenance Department worked with a vendor to replace the 3,000-gallon underground oil storage tank on Market Street. Two new 400-gallon Roth oil tanks were installed in the basement of Town Hall to replace the underground storage tank. The installation of new HVAC Equipment at the Community Center Multi-Purpose Room was started with staff working with the contractor. Over the winter, staff painted the Police Station interior offices and entry spaces. Throughout the past year, the department continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic keeping residents and staff safe by performing extra cleaning in Town buildings. Building Maintenance Supervisor, Leonard Dupee, and the hard-working Building Maintenance staff's commitment to perform at a high level this past year was very evident in keeping the buildings clean and well maintained.

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station staff had another excellent year assisting the Town residents who bring their trash and recyclables to the facility. The Transfer Station sells over eleven hundred permits per year. The facility serves as the primary trash and recycling option for more than 1/4 of Canton's households. The recycling rate for the year turned out to be 30%, consistent with the previous year. The Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund was created and implemented in 2013 to finance the operating budget for the facility. The revenue generated through the selling of permits, tokens and recycling rebates stays in the fund to pay out the operational expenditures and future upgrades to the facility. The enclosure over the bulky waste containers continues doing an excellent job keeping water out of the containers resulting in significant tipping fee savings. A new Transfer Station Office was built with Special Revenue Fund balance replacing the old office trailer. This year the Town held three Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days with the Towns of Simsbury, Avon, Farmington, Suffield, and Granby. By sharing this service, the Town has been able to provide additional local collection dates and still maintain a lower cost than what was charged previously by the MDC. The credit card swipe option and acceptance of personal checks that allows residents to purchase tokens and pay for loads on-site continues to be a popular service that residents have taken advantage of. Transfer Station Supervisor, Brian Dean and the committed staff do a tremendous job keeping the facility clean and orderly for the residents. This busy department's goal is to continue making strides to improve trash and recycling services for our community.

Administrative

The Administration Department provides organizational support and oversight to the entire department to effectively manage the diverse infrastructure and related Capital Improvement Programs consistent with Town policy, industry standards and regulatory agency requirements. This year saw the continuation of the Board of Education custodial/ maintenance staff and facilities being managed by the department. Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Thomas Richardson, continued to do an excellent job managing both the Town and BOE building maintenance staff during the Covid-19 pandemic keeping the buildings clean and safe. Public Works Director Robert Martin, along with Project Administrator Glenn Cusano, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Thomas Richardson, and Administrative Assistant Heather Fritch, continued to work on many large-scale projects that included oversight on twelve of the Town ARPA Projects along with managing the Town Bridge Road Bridge Project. The historic bridge was removed for renovations on May 30, 2019 and opened for use in December 2021. Administrative staff also coordinated the West Road Bridge, Washburn Road Bridge and Old Canton Road Bridge Replacement Projects and the ensuing successful State Local Bridge Grants. The department also provided assistance with several Bids & RFPs for various Town Departments and the Board of Education. One of the larger projects included oversight of the Town of Canton's Streetscape II Project. This project is funded with a State of Connecticut Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant. New sidewalks and parking were also installed on the Town Green utilizing a State of Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant. Superintendent of Building and Grounds, Thomas Richardson, successfully helped with the replacement of the fire alarm system at Cherry Brook Primary School and new flooring was installed at Canton Intermediate School. Also, a new 200Kw Generator was under construction to supply emergency power to all the school emergency lighting and several additional rooms at the Canton High School. Project Administrator, Glenn Cusano, also continued an excellent job assisting the Land Use Office in providing development engineering reviews as projects were submitted.

The Canton Public Works Department’s motto is “Serving the Community with Pride”. The department’s goal is to “Search for Improved Methods to Accomplish our Work”. On behalf of the entire Department of Public Works, we are very thankful for the support shown to us by Town Staff, Boards, Commissions, Agencies, and especially to our wonderful Town residents and businesses.

Name	From	To	Length (linear feet)	Width	PCI	Actual Cost	Assigned Resources	Repair Strategy	Date Completed
Carriage Drive	East Hill Road	Woodland Drive	970	26	55	\$ 46,314.88	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Christmas Tree Hill	North Mountain Road	Cul-De-Sac	1420	26	65	\$ 57,638.40	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
East Hill Road	North Mountain Road	Dowd Avenue	13636	22	85	\$ 14,340.45	Vendor/DPW	Crack Seal	Summer
Elizabeth Road	Forest Lane	Secret Lake Road	633	20	60	\$ 15,876.84	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Forest Lane	Old Albany Avenue	Town Line	2533	20	60	\$ 69,613.16	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Hilltop Drive	East Hill Road	Sexton Hollow Road	1966	26	85	\$ 1,685.09	Vendor/DPW	Crack Seal	Summer
Main Street	Center Street	High Street	571	24	60	\$ 5,400.00	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	In-Progress
Main Street	Front Street	River Street	419	36	65	\$ 5,000.00	Vendor	Restore Stone Wall	Fall
Market Street	North Street	Main Street	284	22	63	\$ -	Vendor	Full Depth Patching/Partial Overlay	In-Progress
Noja Trail	Christmas Tree Hill	Cul-De-Sac	1222	26	65	\$ 46,528.66	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
North Mountain Road	Cherry Brook Road	Woodchuck Hill Road	6056	26	90	\$ 5,190.71	Vendor/DPW	Crack Seal	Summer
Old Albany Turnpike	Forest Lane	Cul-De-Sac	930	26	60	\$ 26,898.73	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Pine Acres Drive	North Mountain Road	North Mountain Road	2326	24	90	\$ 1,993.66	Vendor/DPW	Crack Seal	Summer
Ridge Drive	Trailsend Drive	Trailsend Drive	809	24	65	\$ 42,353.54	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Sexton Hollow Road	Woodchuck Hill Road	Gracey Road	0	27	90	\$ 4,407.00	Vendor/DPW	Guardrail Installation	Spring
Sexton Hollow Road	Woodchuck Hill Road	Gracey Road	3,633	27	90	\$ 3,113.91	Vendor/DPW	Crack Seal	Summer
Silver Mine Acres Road	East Hill Road	Carriage Drive	1000	26	60	\$ 57,893.57	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
South Street	Front Street	Spring Street	425	26	60	\$ 2,300.00	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	In-Progress
South Street	Spring Street	Center Street	259	26	60	\$ 2,300.00	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	In-Progress
Trailsend Drive	Albany Turnpike	Cul De Sac	3809	21	65	\$ 167,573.05	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Whitney Lane	Woodland Drive	Cul De Sac	268	26	65	\$ 17,095.11	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Woodridge Circle	Hilltop Drive	Cul De Sac	686	26	80	\$ 587.98	Vendor/DPW	Crack Seal	Summer
Woodchuck Hill Road	Orchard Hill Road	Town Line	3,603	24	90	\$ 3,088.20	Vendor/DPW	Crack Seal	Summer
Woodland Drive	Cul De Sac	Cul De Sac	2,357	26	55	\$ 131,385.28	Vendor/DPW	Mill/Overlay w Drainage	Summer
Various Town Roads/Facilities						\$ 8,080.00	Vendor/DPW	Full Dept. Patching/Misc. Drainage	
Various Town Roads/Facilities						\$ 3,970.75	Vendor/DPW	Testing and Engineering Services	
<i>Totals</i>			49,815	9.43	Miles	\$ 740,628.97			

SENIOR & SOCIAL SERVICES/COMMISSION ON AGING

The mission of the Senior & Social Services Department is to empower aging and older adults to live full, independent lives by promoting wellbeing through social, physical, and educational programming while helping residents meet basic human needs by providing support and services to maximize independence.

During FY2021- 2022, Senior & Social Services provided support to the community through federal, state and local programs to meet the needs of Canton residents. Communications about availability of assistance programs was provided both electronically and in print to keep Canton residents informed. Overall, requests for services increased and our office was able to meet the demand with funding not only provided by federal and state programs, but also the generosity of the Canton community.

From June 2021 through December 2021 the office operated with an Interim Director and a part-time Senior Center Coordinator. Services were still provided at the normal level during this time with applications for Food Bank, Renter’s Rebate, Dial-A-Ride, Energy Assistance, and the various annual Holiday programs still being processed. In late December 2021, the Interim Director was hired full-time along with a part-time Administrative Assistant to the Director, returning the office to its full capacity of employees.

Senior <i>SOCIAL SERVICES</i>	&	Social	Services	Statistics
		FY 21 / 22		FY 20 / 21
<i>Service Provided</i>		<i># of Participants</i>		<i># of Participants</i>
Total Number of Clients		2,109		Number unavailable

TAX COLLECTOR

The Tax Collector is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Collector is responsible for the billing, collecting and accounting of real estate, business/personal property and motor vehicle taxes, sewer usage fees, sewer connections/assessments and parking tickets. Office procedures are governed by the Connecticut State Statutes, Town Charter, various local ordinances and office policies.

For fiscal year 2021-2022, the rate of tax collection was 99.85% of the budgeted tax revenue and the sewer usage collection rate was 104.86% of the budgeted revenue. The details are charted below:

(Tax Figures)	21-2022 YTD	21-2022 % of budgeted <small>(as of 6/30/2022)</small>
Current Year Tax	\$36,136,791	99.18%
Current Year MVS	\$471,135	148.16%
Prior Year Tax	\$135,076	135.08%
Prior Year Suspense	\$1,866	31.10%
Interest/Liens/Fees	\$160,041	160.05%
Total % of budgeted amount for fiscal year		99.85%

(Sewer Figures)	21-2022 YTD	21-2022 % of budgeted <small>(as of 6/30/2022)</small>
Current Year Sewer Use	\$1,033,109	103.31%
Prior Year Sewer Use	\$29,275	146.38%
Interest/Liens/Fees	\$17,632	176.32%
Total % of budgeted amount for fiscal year		104.86%

Facing tough economic times and continued ramifications of the pandemic, Canton taxpayers continued to place a high priority on meeting their tax obligations.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

The Town Clerk's Office is responsible for the organization and safekeeping Town records that include land records, maps and surveys, vital records (birth, death, and marriage), election and referendum results, justice of the peace appointments, dog licenses, sport licenses, military discharges, town ordinances, meeting minutes & agendas, trade name certificates, notary public appointments, transfer station permits and liquor licenses. The public has access to a majority of these records during regular business hours.

Department activities during Fiscal Year 2021-2022 included:

- July: Hartford County Town Clerk's Assoc virtual meeting
- Numerous virtual meetings and training sessions with Simpleview for the 'Make It Canton' website

- Sept: Connecticut Town Clerk Conference
- Sept: Special Town Meeting regarding police officer staffing and bridge grants
- Oct: Special Town Meeting adjourned to referendum for new firehouse
- Oct: The 2004 CTDOT black and white aerial imagery of Canton was added to our GIS
- Oct: Shelving and other equipment purchased via the Historical Document Preservation Grant was delivered and installed
- Nov: Municipal Election and Firehouse Referendum
- Nov: Close vote recount for a Board of Finance position
- Nov & Dec: staff attended training sessions for new Department of Health Death Registry System
- Dec: new Department of Health Death Registry System goes live
- Dec: new Transfer Station stickers for 2022 became available and were sold via mail
- Jan: Annual Town Meeting; Annual Report dedicated to the Farmington Valley Health District in recognition of its hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Jan: Special Town Meeting regarding approval of the ARPA Assistance Plan
- March: Republican and Democratic delegates reported to Town Clerk
- April: Accepted \$5500 Grant from the Connecticut State Library for the purpose of Historical Document Preservation; codification of the Land Use regulations
- May: Budget Referendum
- June: Special Town Meeting regarding Neighborhood Assistance Act
- June: Special Town Meeting regarding 37 Bridge Street purchase
- June: Overseas ballots released for August 9th Primary
- Trained staff and new employees on website use
- Receipts:
 - Conveyance Tax/Land Records/Maps \$272,760
 - Hunting/Fishing (Sport) Licenses \$ 59
 - Miscellaneous Permits and Licenses \$ 13,824
 - Dog Licenses \$ 1,254
 - Copies \$ 12,409
- Communications: Managed the Town’s Facebook, Twitter & Instagram accounts.
 - Facebook Followers 3,100
 - Twitter Followers 957
 - Instagram Followers 1,542

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

The Canton Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), our current rating is for 950,000 gallons per day. The WPCF staff operates and maintains the facility, along with 3 sewage-pumping stations and approximately 26 miles of sanitary sewers.

The mission statement of the WPCF is *“To protect our natural resource, the Farmington River and give the community a place to enjoy nature at its best. We shall provide this service to the people of Canton while operating an efficient and economical facility within budget.”*

The WPCF was originally constructed in 1965 and received an upgrade in the 1990’s. Some of the original components are still in use today. Since the last upgrade, the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) has

developed and implemented a capital improvement plan to prepare for the future and was able to upgrade processes over time instead of an extensive major upgrade to the facility.

A couple of projects worked on this year included the investigation of excessive clean water, called Inflow & Infiltration, entering the sanitary sewer system in downtown Collinsville. The report was reviewed by the WPCA and its consultant engineer to evaluate the deficiencies of the sewer system. Phase I was implemented and approximately 3000 linear feet of Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP) lining was completed around May 1, 2022. Phase II is planned for next fiscal year with the grout sealing of leaking joints within the sanitary sewer system is to be performed. This will further reduce the Inflow & Infiltration in a cost-effective manner.

This past year the facility treated over 238 million gallons of wastewater, equating to an average flow of approximately 652,000 gallons per day. The WPCF consistently achieved advanced treatment as required by the NPDES permit, averaging pollutant removals of 98% for Biochemical Oxygen Demand and 99% for Total Suspended Solids. We continue to receive positive inspection reports from the Connecticut DEEP.

The WPCF is staffed with four well trained and experienced personnel including a Superintendent, a Chief Operator, an Operator III and Operator II. Plant personnel are certified and licensed in both treatment plant and collection system operation and maintenance. All four of the personnel are also certified in laboratory analysis. The operators participate in continuing education to stay abreast of the ever-changing rules, regulations and technology.

The Water Pollution Control Authority meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Library Community Center at 5:30 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and interested residents are encouraged to attend.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The purpose of the Zoning Board of Appeals is: to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement or decision made by the official charged with the enforcement of the Zoning Regulations as adopted under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes; to hear and decided all matters including special exceptions as may be duly authorized by the Zoning Regulations; and to determine and vary the application of the zoning regulations in harmony with their general purpose and intent and with due consideration for conserving the public health, safety, convenience, welfare and property values solely with respect to a parcel of land where a literal enforcement of the regulations would result in exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship so that substantial justice will be done and the public safety and welfare is secured.

The Zoning Board of Appeals carries out its usual delegated authority through regular monthly meetings with the aid of the Community Development Coordinator and the Assistant Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The Zoning Board of Appeals held eight (8) regular meetings and one (1) special meeting. They processed two (2) application for a variance to the Zoning Regulations, two (2) applications for Motor Vehicle Location Approval and one (1) application to appeal the decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The Zoning Board of Appeals has five (5) regular members, one (1) alternate member, and two (2) vacancies for alternate members. The concurring vote of four (4) members is necessary to grant a variance and to overturn an action of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The Zoning Board of Appeals meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.