

Town of Canterbury, NH  
Board of Selectmen  
Date: 2025 January 13  
Location: Sam Lake House

Selectmen: Scott Doherty (Chair), Kent Ruesswick, Beth Blair  
Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

1. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.
2. 2025 Budget
  - a. See Selectboard minutes 1/7/25 for previous discussion.
  - b. The latest draft of the budget shows a 4.5% increase. That is down from the 5.3% presented at the meeting on 1/4/25. Some numbers have gone up because of previous calculation errors, most have gone down from cuts. Because of the errors, it really started around 7%.
  - c. At that meeting, the Budget Committee requested aiming for a 2% increase, so the increase still needs to be cut from \$150K to \$68K.
  - d. In Canterbury, the Budget Committee is advisory only, but historically the Selectboard have gotten the blessing from the Budget Committee before going to Town Meeting.
  - e. The School District worked very hard on their budget and was able to stick to a 1.7% increase of \$462K.
  - f. The tax increase from 2024 isn't going away, but in 2025, that amount will be divided equally between the 2 tax bills.
  - g. The Selectboard discussed if it was necessary to get it down to 2%. The consensus was that regardless of what percent it comes in at, they need to be able to justify every single line at Town Meeting.
  - h. Ken talked about how he visited with every cost manager and went through each line. They were all able to come down a bit, even those who were already going down.
  - i. Hazardous Waste Day has now been broken out into a warrant article instead of a built in line.
  - j. The Selectboard and Ken proceeded to go through every line of the budget. They discussed the reasoning behind each number and if it could be cut further. In the end, they were only able to get it down to 4.4%. The Selectboard agreed that they couldn't find anything else without impacting quality of service.
  - k. They also discussed the proposed warrant articles: Capitol Reserve Deposits, Gold Star Bond (this is the last year), Ballot Counting Device, Sam Lake House Garage Renovation (should be no tax impact), Petitioned WA for Electric Compactor at Transfer Station, Voting Equipment Capitol Reserve Account, Accept Sam Lake House Trust Funds.
  - l. There may be additional Warrant articles before the deadline. The Board will review the proposed Warrant Articles and discuss any additional ones at the meeting on January 20th
  - m. To get down to an even 4% increase, another \$17K would need to be cut. Ken will figure out what that would mean per department and see if it is doable.
  - n. The first public hearing for the budget will be February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Selectboard will discuss this at their next regular meeting (1/20) and have a final work session on 1/21, to make the posting deadline for the hearing.
3. Adjournment
  - a. Kent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Kathleen McKay and Ken Folsom