

The League of Women Voters of Canton is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to encourage the informed and active participation of all citizens in government and politics. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It does publish and distribute factual information, such as this Voter's Guide, to help prepare the voter to cast an informed vote.

League membership is open to all women and men of voter age. If you are interested in joining the League of Women Voters of Canton, please write for information to P.O. Box 1021, Canton, CT 06019 or contact membership chair Nancy Donoghue at nance627@gmail.com.

For this guide, candidates for each office were asked the same questions. The League of Women Voters of Canton board members formulated the questions. Candidate responses are printed exactly as they were submitted to us with no editing.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name within the office for which they are running.

Due to space constraints, questions were not submitted to candidates for Board of Assessment Appeals and Constable.

Republicans:

Democrats:

Board of Assessment Appeals Candidates:

Paul F. Volovski

George W. Thimot

David P. Sinish

Constable Candidates:

Republicans:

Democrats:

Micky W. Barlow

Patti P. Maulucci

Louis M. Daniels

Richard A. Zommer

Larry D. Minichiello

Gregory M. Sims

Karen L. Berry

Thomas James Bush

Questions for Board of Selectmen Candidates:

Mark Cerniglia – Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

My qualifications to be a selectman include experience in the private and civic sectors, a broad education, and having a sound philosophy to guide me. Most notable is my training and experience as a generalist and leader whose knowledge and experience give me the ability to see the big picture and understand how things relate to one another. I value immensely the broad liberal education that I received at West Point as it has permitted me to see how things relate to one another, look broadly at issues and decisions while being mindful of short- and long-term considerations, and maintaining an awareness of the law of unintended consequences. This education has permitted me to draw lessons from my experiences that would otherwise take years of practical experience to acquire. The running joke is that a West Pointer's education is so broad that he can only talk about anything for two minutes. While the best comedy always has a bit of truth to it, the point is that all organizations need the proper mix of generalists and specialists to succeed in their mission. The selectman's role is, I believe, by definition a generalist position that requires the ability to synthesize a variety of diverse facts and issues when taking decisions: One must see the big picture and not, as is often the case in government, view issues as existing solely in a vacuum.

Education and Professional:

- U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, B.S., 1984.
Nominated by the Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York
- University of Virginia, Darden School of Business, Charlottesville, Virginia, M.B.A., General Management, 1991
- E.I.T., Commonwealth of Virginia
- F.A.A. Certified Private Pilot

Experience:

- Owner of elevator consultancy since 1998, Ascent Service & Technology, headquartered in Collinsville since 2004
- Management Consultant, Booz & Company, formerly Booz • Allen & Hamilton
- Executive and Director of North American Field Operations, The Stanley Works Access Technologies Division
- Field Operations and Strategic Planning Manager, Otis Elevator Company
- U.S. Army Officer

Civic Service:

- U.S. Army, Armor and Cavalry Officer, 1984 – 1988
- U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve, 1988 – 2005
- Selectman, Town of Canton, 2009 – Present
- Alternate and Regular Member, Canton Planning Commission, 2005 – 2009
- Canton's representative on the Capitol Region Council of Government's Planning Committee, 2005 – 2007
- Member, Canton Chamber of Commerce 2004 – 2008
- Cherry Brook Primary School P.T.O.:
 - Vice President 2007 – 2008
 - Treasurer 2008 – 2009
- Member, Congressman Nancy Johnson's Service Academy Selection Committee
- U.S. Military Academy Liaison Officer
- Catechist, Church of St. Ann, Avon

Philosophy:

- Approaching spending from a "wants" vs. "needs" perspective
- Basing fiscal decisions on the facts and not simply on important sounding, but unsubstantiated arguments
- Believing that individual property rights are the cornerstone of freedom

- Being always mindful of the scope of government power and a selectman's role as a servant leader for the people
- Keeping government small and responsible
- Belief that politics and government are not an end in and of themselves, rather they ought to occupy a modest place in our lives and should not be elevated to a more important place

Personal:

- Married to the former Kristina Monaco of Manchester, Connecticut
- Two children Joseph, 7, and Olivia, 6, both enrolled at Cherry Brook Primary School
- One dog, a yellow Lab named Shelby
- Moved to Canton in 2004 and plan on staying for a long time
- Played intercollegiate lacrosse

What follows are some of my accomplishments and goals as a selectmen as well as a brief personal statement that will help you develop a better sense of my qualifications.

Board of Selectmen Accomplishments:

- Reduced Board of Selectmen's budget by approximately 3% with 0% tax increase for 2009-2010
- Established per call incentive program for volunteer firemen and emergency medical technicians
- Established ethics ordinance
- Received \$2.2-million funding for Phase III of the Farmington Rails to Trails project
- Acquired Grange property between Maple and Simonds Avenues at East Hill Road for open space
- Approved revised charter for public vote
- Received \$100,000 state grant to study Collinsville impoundment
- Joined capitol region electricity consortium to decrease electricity costs and purchased three years of clean "green" energy to meet town's commitment of 20% by 2010
- Established hydro-electric generation project

- Committed additional money to road maintenance
- Reduced town hall workforce
- Entered into a shared information technology services agreement with Simsbury to reduce spending
- Received regional grant from state for trail maintenance

Goals:

- To spend only money that we have budgeted and allocated and not rely on “finding” money at the end of the year
- To maintain taxes at their current level, if not lower
- To establish spending priorities and criteria to best manage fiscally
- To focus on improvement and maintenance of town infrastructure and facilities
- To improve continually the delivery and quality of town services
- To enter a regional consortium of towns to save money for the disposal of solid waste through increased purchasing power by the end of 2011
- To achieve accreditation of police department by the end of 2011
- To maintain and support professional-quality volunteer fire and E.M.S. services
- To keep Canton a great and beautiful place to live and work
- To be completely transparent

Personal Statement

Ronald Reagan once said that government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other. We cannot afford this kind of behavior today and our children should not have to pay for it tomorrow. Keeping the public safe, maintaining our infrastructure, and educating our children are the three most important roles that local government fulfills for its citizens. Put simply, government should do these things well without spending too much of your hard-earned money, and it should do so while remaining small and responsible. I served in the U.S. Army’s First Infantry Division, the famous Big Red One, and its motto was and is “Duty first!” This is what serving my fellow citizens of Canton is all about: The impartial discharge of my selectman’s duties while staying true to the oath I have taken to protect and defend the constitutions of Connecticut and the United States. I intend to serve responsibly by being

ever mindful of the extent to which government should involve itself with people's affairs, making decisions based on those powers that the people have conferred on a selectman as an elected official, and listening to the citizens of Canton irrespective of whether we are on the same side of an issue. I have a broad background in both the private and public sectors and in businesses large and small. It is this experience coupled with a broad education that will allow me to do what is necessary for Canton to remain a great place to live and work.

2. What should the Board of Selectmen do to make the town more “Green” – including the operation of town buildings, programs and properties?

Things to Consider to Make the Town more “Green”: We can do many things that make both environmental and fiscal sense.

1. Purchasing renewable energy
2. Investigating how the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification— LEED — may be used with town facility projects
3. Digitizing to reduce paper use
4. Purchasing recycled paper with a high percentage of post-consumer content and the minimum of chlorine bleaching
5. Using green materials
6. Redesigning the Workspace: Compact fluorescent bulbs, greater use of natural light, modernize HVAC systems and controls
7. Purchasing cleaner vehicles for town fleets
8. Planting trees

In considering these issues, one must always remain mindful of the costs and benefits that taking any action entail. Things must make sense both environmentally and economically as one of the two is neither necessary nor sufficient by themselves to justify an action.

3. The role of volunteers on boards and commissions in Canton is very important, yet there continue to be vacancies on these boards and commissions. What do you think the Board of Selectmen should do to make sure these vacancies are filled?

Filling Vacancies on Boards and Commissions: I believe that the board of selectmen should be more active personally in identifying and recruiting volunteers. Local civic service requires usually some sort of sacrifice usually in terms of time. Selectmen must get out and persuade qualified people that they do indeed have a civic duty to fulfill that will keep Canton a great place to live. One must both believe in the value of civic service and be a salesman who is willing to “dial for the dollars” to get people involved. On a more point, selectmen should regularly assess the number of seats on each board and commission as well as quorum requirements and move purposefully to make the changes necessary to maintain effective boards and commissions.

David W. Gilchrist – Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

My education in Engineering and business experience managing a large manufacturing company has provided an extensive background in people management, budgeting, finance, capital expenditures and unionized labor relations.

I was educated in Canton, have been on the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Municipal Building Committee and have served on the Board of Selectmen for four years.

This background provides the knowledge and skills required to understand and achieve the results that the residents of Canton desire.

2. What should the Board of Selectmen do to make the town more “Green” – including the operation of town buildings, programs and properties?

The Board of Selectmen has mandated that 20% of our electrical energy be green and is currently examining replacing all of the windows in the Town Hall with energy efficient glass. Reestablishing the hydroelectric power of the Farmington River at Collinsville will provide a significant reduction in power generated by fossil fuels.

We should also examine the possibility of employing solar power in our major buildings.

3. The role of volunteers on boards and commissions in Canton is very important, yet there continue to be vacancies on these boards and commissions. What do you think the Board of Selectmen should do to make sure these vacancies are filled?

We need to do a better job in communicating our need for volunteers and we do not do a good job in clearly defining the duties of the positions or the desired skills needed.

I believe that we need to do much more in publicly recognizing the contributions of our present volunteers; many serve for years with no public recognition.

Stephen J. Roberto - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I believe I possess a broad range of qualifications and talents that I look forward to sharing to benefit the town of Canton if elected as a member of the Selectmen. My parents moved to Canton in 1966. I have lived in Canton my whole life. I have been a student, a young adult, a parent, an employee of local business, and a Canton business owner for over ten years. I have experienced almost every aspect of Canton....it's schools systems, it's community events and projects, it's town services and the dynamics of social groups at varying stages of life. I was an all state wrestling champion in high school as well as the team captain. I have been employed by a large world wide corporation and am now a small business owner. These experiences have taught me how to excel as an individual to benefit a team. I also share my time with many civic organizations and clubs. Vice President of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, member of Rotary Club of

Avon/Canton, Gifts for Canton, Sam Collins Day Committee, Youth Sports coach and supporter, Trinity Episcopal Church, President of Ratlum Mountain Fish and Game Club. This participation has allowed me to interact with a broad spectrum of people. I have learned a lot about our community's wants, needs and desires by observing the lives and opinions of members of these different groups. I am a confident leader as well as a team player who can be productive even when the group decides to go in a direction contrary to mine. I educate myself to the issue at hand and can present facts clearly as they relate to any policies, regulations, or other application. And finally I choose Canton. I am currently looking to move from my current home on Pine Acres Drive to another in Canton. Just out of curiosity I have looked at homes in other nearby towns. I may be able to get more for my money outside of our community but it just isn't home. I choose Canton. Please choose me.

2. What should the Board of Selectmen do to make the town more “Green” – including the operation of town buildings, programs and properties?

There are many opportunities for making Canton more “Green”. I am excited to see the town studying the feasibility and practicability of re-development of the Collins Company Dams for the generation of hydroelectric power. I would also urge this concept to be considered if the Department of Public Works garage is relocated. I feel that being “Green” should be a criteria in all cases where doing so is determined reliable, and fiscally effective.

3. The role of volunteers on boards and commissions in Canton is very important, yet there continue to be vacancies on these boards and commissions. What do you think the Board of Selectmen should do to make sure these vacancies are filled?

Vacancies on Canton's boards and commissions are a serious concern. The Board of Selectmen should take an active role in helping to fill these vacancies. If elected I hope to encourage informed, educated participation in town, especially from our young adult community. Many of our citizens are unaware of the governmental structure of our town and the duties performed by our boards and commissions. I also believe that at times our board and commissions could do a little better considering a proposed action only as it applies to existing policy and regulation. This would make many processes

quicker, more predictable, and fairer to applicants. If this was accomplished it may be less intimidating for volunteers to commit their time.

Arthur E. Fournier, Jr. - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

“My familiarity with the Town of Canton, its residents, its officials, and its governmental structure, which I have derived from the following: my wife, Betty, and I have been residents of the Town of Canton since 1965; our 7 children have all gone through the Canton School System and are all graduates of Canton High School; formerly served on a number of boards and commissions in the Town of Canton including, but not limited to the following: Chairman of the Canton Board of Appeals – 10 years, and Elected member of the Canton Board of Education – 1 six-year term; and presently serving in the following capacities: Chairman of the nine-member Canton Charter Revision Commission, and as one of the Canton representatives on the Temporary Hydro Power Advisory Committee. As a member of the Canton Board of Selectmen, I would hope in the interest of the betterment of Canton’s Town Government to be able to continue to put to use the knowledge, which I acquired from those people, officials, and employees, who took the time to come forth to share with the members of the Canton Charter Revision Commission their views regarding the present state of operation of Canton’s Town Government.

2. What should the Board of Selectmen do to make the town more “Green” – including the operation of town buildings, programs and properties?

“Continue to provide their support for projects like determining the feasibility of restoring the hydro power operation at the upper and lower dams on the Farmington River in Collinsville that is currently being studied by the Temporary Hydro Power Advisory Committee, the continued extension of the biking and walking trail through Canton, and obtaining where possible a GREEN designation for the Town’s facilities.”

3. The role of volunteers on boards and commissions in Canton is very important, yet there continue to be vacancies on these boards and

commissions. What do you think the Board of Selectmen should do to make sure these vacancies are filled?

“This problem was the subject of considerable discussion by the members of the present Canton Charter revision commission. A number of ideas as to how to possibly overcome this particular problem were suggested not only by the Commission members themselves but also by various people, officials, and employees, who appeared before the present Canton Charter Revision Commission. Unfortunately, primarily for lack of certainty that any one or more of these ideas would in fact work to overcome this particular problem, the Canton Charter Revision Commission did not feel that it was in a position to incorporate any of such ideas into the Revised Charter that will be on the ballot here in Canton in this year’s election on November 3rd.”

Bruce A. Lockwood - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I am a native of Canton, having worked and volunteered here most of my adult life. As the past Fire Marshal/Director of Emergency Management I have an intimate working knowledge of our town government, boards, commissions, department and agencies. I understand the budget process and the need for fiscal responsibility. As a homeowner and small business owner, I understand how taxes and fees impact our residents at the most basic level. As a parent, I understand the need to provide education and youth programs.

2. What should the Board of Selectmen do to make the town more “Green” – including the operation of town buildings, programs and properties?

Currently the majority of Canton’s facilities are “old” as it relates to energy efficiency. As a town we have historically put off true preventative maintenance or established a replacement schedule for items such as boilers, windows and doors. For example the large glass doors at the firehouse on River Rd are original to the building. Replacement of these doors alone would reduce heating costs. Items such as solar electric panels should be consider and invested in when it makes sense. Any future construction or

renovations need to make “green” a priority.

3. The role of volunteers on boards and commissions in Canton is very important, yet there continue to be vacancies on these boards and commissions. What do you think the Board of Selectmen should do to make sure these vacancies are filled?

These are tough times, volunteerism on a broad level is down. I have spent most of my adult life in Canton volunteering in some capacity and been part of programs that relied on volunteers. Whether boards, commissions, youth sports programs, PTO's, or community organizations, we need to engage the community as a whole. Outreach to our residents and businesses is critical, and their participation is crucial. We must think outside the box, and be open to change. I do not see a quick fix and can only promise to work hard to engage as many as possible.

David C. Shepard – Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I have served the Town of Canton on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for the past 5 years, and I believe, shown that I am prepared for all meetings and that I ask all of my questions to make sure that I, and any interested townspeople, have answers upon which to make an informed and fair decision. I have shown that I work professionally and courteously with other Agency members, town staff, developers and citizens of the town. I also feel that my service on the Wetlands Agency gives me an appreciation for the challenges facing our boards, commissions and agencies and the work that makes them function.

I am an attorney and have practiced in Connecticut and Michigan for eleven years. Since 1998, I have operated my own practice and, as a sole proprietor and sole employee of my business, have a very disciplined approach to spending money. I understand that the town, like my business, must live within its means and that revenue and taxes can not be forever increased to meet all of our wants. A Selectman must be ready to make difficult decisions about spending to make sure the people's money is prudently spent to meet our needs.

I believe that attorneys have a unique professional approach to many problems (similar to engineers or scientists) that would be very beneficial to the Board of Selectmen. As a lawyer, I believe my approach to problem solving, questioning, negotiation, and weighing evidence would be a benefit to the Board of Selectmen.

2. What should the Board of Selectmen do to make the town more “Green” – including the operation of town buildings, programs and properties?

One reason why many of us decided to move to Canton is because of its natural environment, including its farms, rivers and open spaces. Conducting town business in an environmentally friendly way can take many forms. Current BOS inquiries into possible power generation at the Collins Company is one way, though I question if that idea is cost-effective. A better idea might be to take advantage of solar energy generation rebates and incentives to make town building greener without investing tens of millions of dollars that it might cost to restart the Collins Company generators. On a smaller scale, a thorough review of how the town uses resources, including things such as energy audits and paper use, might reveal other ways to be greener, though I think the Board of Selectmen would be better advised to set "green" policy, rather than micro-manage exactly how the town should be greener. I believe that the Board of Selectman can discourage extensive copying and mailing by encouraging increased use of the town's website, especially in terms of advertising events of public interest.

3. The role of volunteers on boards and commissions in Canton is very important, yet there continue to be vacancies on these boards and commissions. What do you think the Board of Selectmen should do to make sure these vacancies are filled?

As a town board volunteer, I know how important these boards and commissions are. I believe one reason why so many vacancies exist is because many people believe they must have specific experience or knowledge to serve on a board or commission. The Board of Selectmen should educate the public that the only qualifications to serve on a board or commission (other than residence) are the interest in serving the town and the people of Canton and an interest in learning about the work of the board they choose. Also, the members of the Board of Selectmen should

specifically ask people they know to serve on these boards. Nothing inspires a person to volunteer to do a job nearly as much as being specifically asked.

Questions for Board of Finance Candidates

Brian D. First - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I have the strong leadership and financial experience necessary to continue to deliver responsible budgets where we control spending and keep taxes low while still enjoying a high quality of life in Canton for all of our residents. I was selected from a pool of candidates earlier this year by the current Board of Finance members and immediately engaged in the budget development process for this fiscal year. I am a fiscal conservative and proud of our noteworthy result – we passed a budget with reduced spending and no tax increase. My professional qualifications include my experience as a national insurance company senior executive responsible for budgets in excess of \$100 million and my education with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Miami University, Oxford, OH. This experience provides me with the skills needed to understand the complexities of our town's many revenue and expense items and make decisive value judgments when needed. My proven ability as a creative problem solver is also an important qualification for the Board of Finance during these challenging economic times. Equally important, I am dedicated to being involved in our community. As residents since 2000, my wife and I have enjoyed raising four children in Canton schools and developed a deep appreciation for all that Canton has to offer. We recognize that the character and strength of a community come from the donated time and diverse talents of its citizens. In addition to my current term on the Board of Finance, I am actively involved with the Canton Youth Basketball Association as a coach and board member, including 3 terms as President. My wife Kristin continues to be extensively involved with our schools including PTO committees, Board of Ed liaison for the PTO, and the Schools Strategic Planning Committee. As an elected representative, I believe that our town budget should fairly reflect the needs of all of our town residents and not overly burden the taxpayers. I understand the value of maintaining a balance between a

healthy business base in established commercial areas and protecting the quality and character of our community. We can achieve this by controlling unnecessary spending while investing in the long-term benefits of quality schools, open space, town services, public safety, infrastructure and public use facilities.

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

The budget summary mailer comes at the end of a process where I believe we try to operate as openly as possible. If there are further suggestions for public engagement, I am certainly open to considering any ideas. We follow posted monthly meeting schedules that offer opportunities for public attendance and questions and comments at every meeting. These meetings are very informative and typically include updates from the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen allowing one to gain an even more comprehensive view of Canton's major budget components. Minutes of these meetings are posted regularly on the town website. Once the Board of Finance recommends an annual budget, we have a pre-announced town meeting for the presentation, discussion, and public vote on the budget. Since we are talking about the taxpayers' money, I believe the process should be very open and detailed.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

The easy answer is "yes" to support the **concept** on the basis that it is clean, renewable energy that may generate more revenue than it costs and relies at least partially on an existing infrastructure. However, to perform my duties effectively on the Board of Finance, I would need to understand the final details and overall costs vs. benefits related to ownership/licensing, construction and maintenance expense, timing, source of funding, environmental impact, future energy savings and anticipated revenue. I do not support funding this solely as a town project with town funds only.

Kenneth S. Humphrey - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your

talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I feel I bring a understanding to the decisions that the Board of Finance have to make and the impact those decisions have to the tax payer of Canton. I have a Master of Art in Managerial Economics [Management and Economics combined] from the U of Oklahoma and would very much like to uses this knowledge towards Canton, a town I have been a resident of my whole. My am retire Air Force and I'm currently building my second career. It is now time for me to gave back to Canton.

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

I would request a simpler version of the budget be sent out along with the full report. Some people want the full version and some people just want the simpler version without the deep detail. The the board finance meeting are open to the public for asking of any questions dealing with the budget.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

I do support hydroelectric power, it is free clean energy with no carbon fuel involved. If the project can help Canton and its tax base, then I very much I support.

Lawrence D. Litton - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I am currently employed as the president of Six Flags New England and have 31 years experience in the private business sector, including owning my own business. I am very active in the Massachusetts business community and sit on several volunteer boards including the Chamber of Commerce, the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Corporation, and the Greater Springfield Visitors and Convention Bureau. I am on the finance committees of two of the boards I serve on.

I am also very active in the philanthropic organizations in our area. In May of this year I was awarded the Star of Hope by the Northern

Connecticut/Western Massachusetts branch of The Juvenile Diabetes research Association at their annual gala at the Hartford Civic Center. I am proud to say I am on the JDRF Board of Directors as well. I also work closely with The Gifts of Love in Avon, the Cure Kid's Cancer program at Baystate Hospital in Springfield, and the Massachusetts Melanoma Foundation.

I believe I will be a great asset to the board and the town based on my business finance experience. Because of the size of the business I currently run and the impact it has in the region I also have the advantage of having worked with both local and state government. I believe these experiences will also be of benefit to the Canton as we lobby for any state and federal funds that might be available to local government during these difficult financial times.

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

There are several ways this can be accomplished. The 1st and most important is the Finance Board members need to make themselves accessible to the people of Canton so we can answer any questions that come up. We owe that to the Canton residents. I have set up a separate email account to facilitate this for our residents. The email address is litton_1@yahoo.com.

It is also critical that anyone on the board be familiar with all areas and every detail of the budget. We need to ask tough questions during the process to insure there is no fat in it! We can't continue doing what we have always done. The reality is there won't be sufficient funds to do so. If every line in the budget is looked at and discussed in detail during the process there is no reason any one of us couldn't explain any item in the document in as much detail as is asked or required.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

Clearly alternative energy sources are going to be a critical component in reducing America's dependence on foreign product. It is also important for future generations that we look for sources of cleaner energy to protect our environment. For those reasons I have no problem with the concept, but it would be premature at this point to support it. Funding needs to be found

and research needs to be done before I would do that. Canton is not in a position to self fund any of the necessary research. Grants and other sources for money would need to be acquired in order to take this critical 1st step. If we are able to find the funding through outside sources then I think we should absolutely study the concept and sort through the pros and cons of it.

Richard Ohanesian - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

Since moving to Canton twenty- five years ago, I have served the Town in various capacities. I was a member of the Cherry Brook School Building Committee and the Pension Committee prior to being elected to the Board of Finance. Since then, I have served on the Finance Board for a total of fifteen years, and as Chairman for nine.

I believe the talents I bring to the Town are my organizational skills, my depth of knowledge of the town's finances as well as my ability to listen and reach consensus with my fellow Board of Finance members. I try to take a common sense approach to anticipating and solving the Town's financial problems. Many times this involves asking questions of residents, volunteers and town employees in order to fully understand the problem and what the best solution should be.

For over thirty years, I have worked in the finance field, serving clients significantly larger than the Town of Canton. I believe my professional expertise, skills and talents have greatly benefited the residents of the town.

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

The summary of the budget is mailed to every household in Town. In addition to the summary, the BOF holds open meetings with the BOE and the BOS in order to fully understand their budgets. The BOF then hosts a Town hearing with the residents so we can hear their concerns. This is followed by the annual budget meeting, during which the budget is

presented to the residents who are free to ask questions. Regular meetings of the BOF are held the third Monday of every month; the meeting begins with an unrestricted public comment session. Minutes of these meetings are available at Town Hall and on the Town's website for anyone who would like to read them.

In addition, a representative from the Canton Schools Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) attends all BOF meetings to keep the membership up to date on all budget issues.

Further, we are more than willing to meet with any other group of concerned citizens to discuss the budget in greater detail. For residents who are unable to attend meetings, such as some of our seniors, we would be happy to attend daytime meetings at the Senior Center and provide budget information in the Senior Scribe newsletter. We would also consider starting a blog to create a dialogue with Town residents about Board of Finance related issues.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

I support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River. Hydroelectric power is clean and renewable and if done correctly will greatly benefit the community. Historically, the Farmington River provided energy to numerous businesses along its banks including The Collins Company, which provided employment and housing to hundreds of residents. The Farmington River is a wonderful resource for our community; one which we must work diligently to protect. The river provides scenic views and recreation to thousands of fisherman, boaters and walkers. An essential component to this hydroelectric project is the use of fish ladders to ensure that generations to come may enjoy the wildlife of the river. The project needs to co-exist with the users of the river in every respect.

Currently the hydro project is undergoing a study to determine what realistically can be done and what the net benefits to the community will be. I was an early supporter of the study to determine the feasibility of this project and I will carefully review the findings when they are available.

Michael A. D'Apice - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your

talents will benefit the town of Canton.

Canton deserves stewardship toward the highest level of meaningful services with least tax burden to residents. Currently seated on Canton's Board of Finance for four years, my hope to remain in service to Canton seated on the BOF stems from my desire to share the fruits of my BOF experience which include four annual budgets, long-range modeling and union negotiation observation.

During this tumultuous economic period in which Canton witnessed near double-digit year-on-year Grand List growth plummet to near zero, there is an advantage that the day-to-day skill sets of my financial planning practice help people to refine their vision for the future and to then allocate dollars commensurate with that vision. I am confident that my practical professional knowledge in business and finance can foster continued optimal financial health for Canton. Asking thought-provoking questions, analyzing financial data and delivering recommendations which do more without spending more are skill-sets which are entirely congruent with and transferable to Canton's macro-issues around taxes and services.

I have labored most of my adult life around O.P.M. (Other People's Money)...performing masterfully in a financial planning environment where the cost of any mistake, gap in knowledge or hint of impropriety would be measured in millions of dollars and could be a career and public service ender.

I'm overexcited as a candidate this year because I've come to realize that serving others from my place of strength (from my sweet spot) is an extremely important facet of my life's purpose and is especially beneficial to Canton as we evolve into a chapter of our future in which BOF responsibility has grown to two significant areas. The BOF will manage the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust. And if the proposed Charter revision is approved on Election Day, the Capital Improvement Fund will reside within the BOF budget to assure it is expended properly.

But beyond the numerical gymnastics, rate of return calculations and mind-spinning spreadsheets, Canton is a 'living' balance sheet. A balance sheet with flesh on. We Canton residents hold real feelings, fears and future desires around our money. I will neither settle nor become content with any achievement made on behalf of our Canton which is less than excellent and I

vow to serve our highest good.

Voters have a difficult decision to make this November. Face it, Canton is a small town. A small town with big connections. You probably know something about each candidate's life outside of our public service. We all work, play or worship together. To further complicate your decision to choose between friends and acquaintances, there are BOF candidates whose careers are centered around finance, those who've previously served on the BOF and those who've contributed to the life of Canton on other boards or organizations. All poster-kids deserving of reelection!

But you're looking for that one characteristic, that differentiating attribute, that 'he/she is perfect for the job' feeling that makes your choice an effortless, natural selection.

But you're doubting the wisdom of the proverbial yank of "YOUR party" lever as you ink and insert your bubbles at the voting machine.

Perhaps you'll pay heed to the following.

Who knows 'money'? I do, for 26 years. Who has learned how Canton 'does money'? I have, for 4 years. Who loves people? I do, for 50 years of how Sunday worship and love of God transform a heart. Other-person centered giving and loving beyond reason without a hiccup in behavior is like a one thousand page ethics manual already residing in head and heart. Most of us know right when we see it. Wrong when we see it. Some of us can even smell it. But it is nature for many to go the next step and want beyond what one has and make plans to obtain what belongs to another. Viewing another's achievement and abundance often triggers covetousness. This is Ground Zero of any ethics issue. I am blessed with personal contentment which nurtures ethical behavior. I care about others too much to long for what is another's. I will not take 'the low road'.

During these past four years of BOF service I have helped address many of the issues I'd outlined as crucial at the time I'd accepted nomination to become a candidate: a LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLAN is utilized and shared among boards...BOND RATING has kept high... DEBT MANAGEMENT in terms of what lays ahead for 2011 and out has been considered repeatedly in budget seasons...ECONOMIC DIVERSITY within Canton's tax base has become a focus...CANDID DISCOURSE between

boards and openness with citizens has been embraced...FIDUCIARY SEPARATENESS continues with the BOF beholden to no board or interest group...STRONG AND MEASURABLE 'BEST PRACTICES' CONTROLS is the culture in which Canton boards labor...BALANCED TAXES AND SERVICES have resulted from recent budgets.

Much more remains to be addressed as part of and apart from the purview of the BOF as Canton grows beyond its small-town agricultural roots into the pride and joy of the Farmington Valley. Among them, encouraging economic growth while protecting Canton's small-town character and historical and environmental resources. Your Canton BOF is but one of several arrows in your fiscal quiver. When the BOF authentically, caringly and in wisdom, connects with other boards, organizations and you, solutions are found and town pride grows. I can best help you accomplish this if I resist merely 'running a race' to stay ahead of the other candidates! No matter where they are, I'd prefer running alongside you, less hurried, fully present for you in the here and now. I cannot serve you without the intention to know you, an intention from which all else flows. Let them have distance, I'll take relationship. So, I am open to wisdom from those whom already serve and from those residents and businesses wishing to be heard. Only in this way can I effectively work for our community's best interest. Be in touch at moneymindfulness@comcast.net

I have a mind for money and a heart for service. I respectfully ask you to support my candidacy with your vote November 3.

About Michael D'Apice

- > Married and too happy / Father, son age 19 / Stepfather, stepdaughter age 13
- > Connecticut resident 50 years
- > Business owner, Financial Planning Representative, 26 years / Counsel individuals and businesses to build and protect more wealth through money-mindfulness teachings intended to reduce taxes paid over a lifetime, minimize market risk and eliminate 'lost opportunity costs'; often within currently budgeted allocations.
- > Canton resident, 17 years

Current Service

- > Canton Board of Finance, 4 years
- > Canton Chamber of Commerce (formerly Metro-Hartford), 10 years /

Director and Membership Chairman

- > Valley Community Baptist Church Middle School faith formation youth leader, 2 years
- > St. Patrick's Church Human Needs Committee Soup Kitchen volunteer, 8 years

Past Service

- > Coach, Canton Youth Athletics soccer, basketball, baseball, 7 years
- > Friends of Canton Football initiative, 3 years
- > Kids' Car(e) Wash fundraising

Education

- > College, University of Rochester, NY / BA Economics, Certificate of International Relations / Newman Community Parish Council / Theta Chi Fraternity "The Helping Hand" / Varsity Baseball
- > High School, Kingswood-Oxford School / Primus Medal – contributed most to school life / Senior class Prefect – student-faculty liaison / Scholar-Athlete, National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame / Drafting and Design academic award / EPIC student literary magazine – published works / Football, Basketball, Baseball / Most Valuable Player awards – Football, Baseball / Basketball, first American secondary school invited behind the Iron Curtain, won Prague Cup, Czechoslovakia – play/tour France, Spain

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

You've likely set new procedures in motion simply by asking your question. Much goes unattended or much stays on the drawing board if not for gentle whispers or tumultuous clamor of townsfolk seeking to be heard. I hasten to say with a servant's heart that if this issue is found to be in need of improvement, I will do anything to meet the needs of Canton. I consider it a real duty to build an informed citizenry since such is crucial to Canton's well-being.

But please stay with me and let's first examine this question by throwing words at it before expending labor hours or dollars. I know there exist well-informed Canton residents, so this question seems to suggest that an uninformed or underinformed population exists as well. So, this same

concise summary (which is merely a financial reporting synopsis of nearly nine to twelve prior months of detailed labor) is understood well enough by some to gain their support and by others enough to create their resistance. Yet the exact same concise summary, others bemoan as inscrutable. If the very same concise summary is judged in two different ways by two different populations, perhaps we need observe the differences in populations before overhauling the concise summary/reporting medium?

One might likely discover that those residents wishing the concise summary to be altered in order to become better informed had actually chosen to remain uninformed or underinformed throughout the months-long budget process, while those who make no complaint regarding the adequacy of this concise summary have come to greater budget-understanding because they have availed themselves of one or more of several community resources available to all.

Any one meeting attended, any one meeting minutes read, any engagement early on would be the variable which would flesh out this bare-bones concise summary which is a standard financial reporting practice employed by myriad municipalities and businesses. Two attendances, or a third, really increase familiarity. Further, one can learn much of operations in Canton by reading the audited past-year's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Akin to reading a business' Annual Report it contains financial entries supplemented with prose. All material and meetings which empowered me to accelerate from 'zero' to 'hero' during four years of BOF service are also available to each Canton resident interested in a similar evolution.

You've heard the phrase "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink". Numerous waterholes exist for those longing to drink deeply of budget information. The occasions, venues, and differing mediums of budget presentation before, during and after a budget is passed are opportunities for dialogue. Written reports employing prose, graphs, numerical representations, PowerPoints and forums from all boards abound. Material can be emailed or mailed to residents who find it too difficult or impossible to attend. All budget informational resources are intended expressly for the edification of Canton voters and climax at the Public Forum where questions are encouraged from an interested audience wishing to receive deeper understanding. And who can stay away from the Annual Budget Meeting? Yet some residents bypass each oasis and choose to stay thirsty.

All board meetings are announced well in advance, special meetings and forums are arranged by the boards. There are the early budget rollout events at which public question and input is encouraged. Budgets are explained in real-time as they are crafted. And there are working meetings/sessions in which boards toil and at which the Canton public may observe without input.

Additionally, all public servants on elected boards are available for questions at any time merely by referring to Canton's town website or the Little Red Phone Book for board members' contact information.

In closing, when one reads any classic work of literature, if one chooses to skip the character-developing intro, the plot-thickening drama and hair-raising climax of the first eleven chapters, and instead dives in at the twelfth and final chapter, much is lost to that reader. It is the same experience of someone who discounts the importance of the first eleven monthly chapters of a budget year, ignores the building budget-plot yet hopes against hope to understand the nuances lay hidden within earlier chapters by merely reading the twelfth month's final budget chapter in concise summary form.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

October 8th was a mild New England Thursday evening enjoyed by Canton. Each resident at relaxation or labor. Some most certainly paused to muse upon the potential for alternative renewable green energy sources and felt convicted to reduce their carbon footprint (don't we all?). Others made wishes for Canton to discover an additional revenue source to lessen its reliance upon personal property taxes (who doesn't?). For me, October 8th was 'fun with engineers night' at the Community Center, Room E...exactly where those two types of thinking converge and may become reality! The Canton Hydro Electric Project Advisory Committee met with three GZA engineers. I was the sole person from the public in attendance.

Therefore, the freshest information you'll receive is contained in the following lines.

Canton's Hydro Project has neither cleared, nor tripped over, a single operational, environmental or economic hurdle thus far. Hire for a first-

pass, reduced scope, pre-feasibility study has just occurred with analysis yet to begin. In order to arrive at the Go/No Go recommendation to the BOS for which the Committee is charged, all hydrology and financial components of such operation must be researched for potential positive returns, negative impediments which may be worked-around or any fatal-flaws without remedy which would kill the project.

Even though many of us have a crystal ball to accurately divine both the state of our economy and energy prices 15 years from now (don't you?), we must wait 60 days for engineers and economists and flow duration curves and mins-maxs-means calculations and sensitivity studies.

Will there be a three-community partnering of Canton, Avon and Burlington? Will Clean Energy contribute? Many stakeholders wish to weigh-in and influence this project from the energy generated to the fish ladders to the educational component to the recreational aspect. Some wish it will not come to pass at all.

With so many issues yet unassessed and ease or difficulty of moving forward still a question...and because 'hope' is not a prudent financial strategy, no reasonable person should issue a premature 'yes' or 'no' related to supporting a project for which there is not yet one piece of data.

Let me ask you. Would you tie the matrimonial knot – a lifetime vow – prior to having investigated potential results during a 'pre-feasibility' phase? To put everything you have into a person just after "hello"? Years of 'labor' and 'investing' in that person without a thought given to a rudimentary 'relationship' Go/No Go process? The "hello" went well so the heck with the potential for impediments requiring work-arounds or existence of a fatal-flaw...let's do it!?

However, if what you ask can be rephrased "do you support projects with payback to Canton in which revenue generation will exceed cost of development and ongoing maintenance?" Then my answer is "YES." For that matter, if what you ask can be rephrased "do you support repairs or improvements with payback to Canton in terms of increasing efficiency (better water boilers at the schools) or which prevent larger future costs by taking action today (i.e. a \$150,000 town building roof repair which prevents \$2,000,000 of potential water damage to contents)?" Then my answer is "YES." If what you ask can be rephrased "do you support the concept of

shifting to green, renewable energy sources and energy independence from traditional outlets if there is a reasonable payback period and there are no injurious ripple effects to our environment?" Then my answer is "YES."

Back to The Canton Hydro Electric Project Advisory Committee's charge. While my BOF service does not involve issuing polls or policy and this project will sink or swim on the decision of others, as a resident I eagerly await viewing all financial estimates in the form of rate of return calculations, cash flow analysis or simple payback period numbers. Let me ask you – if the hydro project shows potential for revenue beyond costs, reduces our reliance on traditional energy sources and extends Canton's green footprint with this renewable resource...what if Canton bonds for this project and is required to pay back borrowed money with interest within 20 years, but the project payback period is 40 years? Would you support it or shelf it?

My sincere hope is that Canton's hydro electric aspirations are fulfilled and become a success! Success defined as a reasonable payback period in concert with robust environmental protection (the Farmington River is an unadulterated jewel into which fishermen from around the nation cast).

If this hydro project is canned because of a fatal-flaw which cannot be overcome by planning or pennies, we must cope with that outcome. We should try to learn about No Go issues as early as possible before investing precious budget dollars. It's almost impossible to get something for nothing, but it's all too easy to get nothing for something.

Yet I worry about a side of human nature which might doom the project. I see it all the time and you do too. Gasoline at \$4+ and we flap lips about green and renewable energy but don't put our money where our communal mouth is. "We can't afford to spend an additional \$X for that!" Then gas drops to a more comfortable \$2 and though our budgets experience less stress and we could shake loose a few dollars for development of alternatives, but "We don't need to spend an additional \$X for that!" We sense that there's no hurry, no need...then take no action.

Let's not lose our passion and persistence...let's not fall asleep at the (turbine) wheel.

Thank you for reading...and be well!

Richard W. Eickenhorst - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your talents will benefit the town of Canton

I have been a resident of Canton since 1985 and a member of the Board of Finance for the past 10 years. I served 2 years as Chair of the board. During my time on the BOF I've striven for accessibility, candid communications with residents, interest groups and boards, prudent debt management, businesslike operating budgets and long term budget planning. While these policies are always valuable, they will be especially needed in the near future.

The budget process has never been easy and always seems more difficult than in previous years. This year will be especially arduous. Reduced revenues from non-tax sources such as fees, permits and interest will impact the amounts needed to be raised through taxes. Aid from the State of Connecticut will be flat at best. Limited building and depreciation of personal property (cars) may cause our Grand List to be reduced from the prior year. These factors will cause difficult decisions to be made in developing and passing the 2010-2011 town budget.

The upcoming budget season will bring difficult discussions, competing priorities and probably strong emotions. Choices may be between bad and worse, not good and bad. My in-depth knowledge of Canton's finances, understanding of the operating boards, fiscal prudence and willingness to listen will allow me to make a strong contribution to helping Canton through this stressful period.

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

The budget mailer may be a remnant of a prior time when more people participated in our Town Meeting form of government. By design and intent, the budget mailer has always been a summary of the Recommended

Budget. It is further limited by the costs of printing and materials, mandated information, time limitations and mailing costs.

The mailer is designed to prepare the taxpayers to listen, learn about and question the budget at the Annual Budget Meeting. In prior years many people attended these meetings, there were discussions of the decisions and a vote was taken. In short, the entire process was more participatory.

In recent years there has been little attendance at the Board of Finance's budget forum. The number of citizens not holding office or employees of the town is often less than twenty. The Board receives little input from the taxpayers and few taxpayers take the opportunity to hear about current budget issues.

By Town Charter the Recommended Budget is presented to the taxpayers in the mailer. This process was adopted with the expectation that the taxpayers would participate in the Annual Budget Meeting. The final budget is to be adopted at the Annual Budget Meeting or at referendum.

I would urge people to be far more involved in the entire budget process. This should begin early in the process before either the Boards of Selectmen or Education adopt their budgets. It is at this point that people can influence the details of these budgets. Early participation also allows for greater understanding of the decisions that were made in forming the budgets. It is important to attend Board of Finance meetings and forums to express views and learn about issues. All who are able should attend the Annual Budget Meeting and participate in adopting the Town Budget.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

At this point I do support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River. However, it is important to note that this is still a concept filled with assumptions and speculation. Much needs to be done before the entire scope and impact of the project is known. Only at that point will anyone be able to make an informed decision.

There is great attraction to bringing hydroelectric generation back to the river. From a Board of Finance view the most obvious attraction is the potential revenue stream that would be developed. The projected numbers

have varied over the months, but all are substantial. Much of this depends on the start-up costs that hopefully can be met through grants from a variety of sources.

More needs to be learned about the environmental impact of the project. Trade-offs concerning the existence of dams and potential effect on fish versus non-polluting generation of power need to be studied. The goal would be to find ways of mitigating the adverse effects while moving forward with the power generation.

I would not recommend that the town engage in power transmission or direct distribution. However, I would be interested in looking at ways in which the power or revenue could be used to induce development at the Collins Company. It is vitally important to Canton that this complex be re-developed. Perhaps credits could be passed through the power company to developers or tenants that make long-term and substantive investments in the location. Increased property tax revenues from improvements could offset the lost revenue and give Canton the benefit of an improved complex of buildings and a more vibrant Collinsville.

Mark H. Quattro - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

As a member of the Board of Selectmen, where I served as Deputy First Selectman and chaired numerous subcommittees, as Chairman of the Economic Development Agency and Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, I have learned how our local government “works” and understand the process of developing and passing a budget. A resident of Canton for over 23 years, and a board member of numerous local philanthropic and eleemosynary organizations such as FOCUS on Canton, the Canton Historical Society, the Chamber of Commerce, Sam Collins Day, and the Collinsville Arts Initiative which sponsors our Halloween Parade, I have seen Canton from many different perspectives and have developed a sense of the wants and needs of our community. As an attorney with experience as bond counsel to many municipalities, I understand the world of municipal finance. Balancing the need to keep taxes down while continuing to provide essential services to our residents and a top tier education to our children in

order to maintain our quality of life, is the greatest challenge in local government today. I believe that I can contribute significantly.

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

This is a trick question, right? Because the Board of Finance CANNOT make sure that all voters understand the budget. Let me digress to explain. The issue that “timid” politicians seem reluctant to address is that a critical element of democracy is understanding the responsibilities of the electorate. The voters have an obligation to inform and educate themselves about issues affecting them. Jefferson wrote, “The best defense of democracy is an informed electorate”. Sadly, given the pressures of day to day life, especially in these difficult economic times when folks are struggling to maintain the lifestyles to which they have become accustomed, people are taking less time to inform, and involve, themselves in local government. Now, back to the question. The annual mailer from the Board of Finance presents a concise snapshot of the budget. The use of graphs, charts and other visual aids is helpful, and generally, the mailer is comprehensive and easy to understand. Making financial data available on-line and developing an outreach program by having a member of the Board of Finance appear before local organizations such as the League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce, and C.A.R.E. to explain the budget and the budget process would also be helpful.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

I strongly support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River. The days of nuclear and coal-fired electric generation are reaching their eschaton and it is time to let the dinosaurs rest in peace. Nationally, we are experiencing a slow but persistent paradigm shift towards utilization of renewable resources and conservation of natural resources. Using the flow of water (and the sun and the wind) to generate power, quite simply, makes sense. There is no byproduct to dispose of, and with careful planning to protect the “Wild and Scenic” characteristics of this wonderful river, and construction of fish ladders and the like, no resources are destroyed to create it. The question that we may ultimately face is whether the Town of Canton should be in the business of generating and selling

hydropower. The capital costs will be staggering and the “payback” will be years or decades away. Is a municipality, especially one with about 10,000 residents, capable of financing and operating a hydroelectric plant? These are questions currently being reviewed by our newly empanelled Hydro Project Advisory Committee, and their findings will help guide us to the next step.

Mary B. Tomolonius - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I have considerable experience in understanding government structures and financial reports, with an in-depth knowledge of the town accounts, fiscal policies, and debt management structure. I am also adept at translating that knowledge to the larger community; during my six years as Canton's First Selectman, I was responsible for presenting and explaining the Board of Selectmen budget to town residents at the Annual Budget meetings and to the Board of Finance on a monthly basis. In addition to serving as a member of the Board of Selectmen, I have been president of several community organizations (including the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Farmington Valley Visitors Association (FVVA), Canton Youth Soccer Association (CYSA)) and Chairman of the Sam Collins Day Committee.

While I am well-versed in working with the needs of the town and its constituents and community groups, I also understand finance and budgeting from a position of small-business owner. Concurrent with working for the town and serving on boards, I ran a small design business for 23 years.

2. Every year the Board of Finance mails out a concise summary of the budget. What further steps should the Board of Finance take to make sure that all voters understand the budget?

The format of the Board of Finance annual budget mailer has remained unchanged for many years. I believe that the mailer must undergo significant changes in order for town residents to have a better understanding of the budget, how the decisions were made and - most importantly - how the budget impacts residents, town services and programs. The town budget should be accessible and comprehensible to the most important stakeholders: *its residents*. Given the kind of economic turmoil we've seen over the past several years, which continues to reverberate with many businesses and

people in town, the budget is now that much more important for residents who want to ensure that even in a depressed economy, the town can support its most important mandates and projects.

The first changes to the mailer would be superficial, but are incredibly important for readability. Foremost, the budget mailer should be in a larger, more readable type. The format should include charts and graphs as a way to visually understand the budget (given that not all people process information the same way and visuals help flesh out the text). The mailer should include quotes from the Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen succinctly outlining the reasons for increases and or decreases. The mailer should be designed in a format friendly design that encourages residents to want to read the information.

Since the annual Board of Finance Budget Public Hearing and the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen budget meetings in January and February are typically not well attended, I believe these should all be videotaped and aired on Nutmeg TV and via the town website so town residents have a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of the annual budget. Too often elected boards are frustrated with a lack of public interest, but it is incumbent upon the boards to reach out to the taxpayers in as many mediums as possible.

3. Do you support the concept of hydroelectric generation from the Farmington River? Why or Why not?

The Farmington River is a signature feature of our community and needs to be managed and maintained for future generations.

The Canton Hydro-power Project (Canton, Avon, Burlington) has the potential to provide electricity to upwards of 2000 homes based on initial analysis. This renewable resource was successfully utilized by The Collins Company until it shuttered its doors in 1966. A thorough study and analysis is being undertaken now to determine total cost, feasibility, operation structure and payback, but given our dependence on oil, anything that will lessen this makes good economic sense. I believe in taking the opportunity to continue to participate in programs - such as the Clean Energy program the town committed to through CL&P - and any other initiatives that will help reduce our long-term energy costs, re-invest and utilize renewable energy sources.

We need to be cognizant about the visual look and potential sound impact of the hydro-electric facility. And we need to be sure the future sustainable energy for our children maintains the town gem that is the Farmington River,

which has been a haven for fishers, bird-watchers, kayakers, etc. since it has been cleaned of pollution.

Questions for Board of Education Candidates

Leslee B. Hill - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and state how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

My professional background as an attorney has been a valuable asset in my service to the Board of Education. I was admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1993 after attending law school at night and working full time as a paralegal. With this experience, I am able to understand the impact of constantly changing education law on our district. My background has been particularly helpful in my work on the Board's policy subcommittee. Board of Education policy governs every aspect of the management of our school district, and state or federal law dictates much of this policy. It is critically important that policies are up-to-date and readily accessible to administration, parents, and students. My legal analysis and writing experience enables me to update existing policies and draft new policies that are thorough, but also readable and user-friendly. One example is our recent updating of the bullying policy to comply with changes in state law. My work benefits the town of Canton by helping to reduce our reliance on outside legal counsel for routine language review. I also am able to review the work of counsel representing the Board in any matters before the courts, ensuring that we are getting value for our legal budget dollars.

Being an attorney has also proven valuable in my work on the negotiations subcommittee. The Board is currently negotiating contracts with three bargaining units, and this work requires a risk versus reward analysis that I have engaged in many times while advising clients engaged in complex commercial litigation. I am working to benefit Canton by balancing our desire to attract and retain top professionals with the need to stay within a budget that Canton taxpayers can afford.

The other significant asset that I now bring to the Board of Education is simply my time. The work of the Board is time-consuming, with many evening meetings of various subcommittees. In September, I retired from my law practice, and I am excited about the additional time that I am now

able to devote to Board goals and initiatives. I plan to become more involved in CAFE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education), particularly in the area of government relations and advocacy. I also intend to dedicate time to a Board goal of hosting a collaborative event with neighboring smaller school districts, to discuss regionalization and shared services in an effort to cut costs. The Board constantly looks for new ways to provide the best educational value for our tax dollars. I am confident that having time available during the day to pursue these goals will benefit the town immensely.

2. What must be done to insure that there is adequate instructional space at all grade levels?

Ensuring that there is adequate instructional space at all four of our schools must remain an ongoing agenda item for the Board. The Board must continue to engage in constant dialogue with the administrators, teachers, and parents at each school, as was done during the space study and multiple public hearings held during the 2007-2008 school year. By utilizing the research and projections that are available, we can continue to plan for shifts in school populations and address space needs before they reach a critical stage. This will allow us to take advantage of opportunities for cost savings and find long-term solutions rather than a quick fix. I supported the changes made at Cherry Brook this past summer, creating tutoring space in an area previously used for storage, and moving the computer lab to space within the library. These relatively low cost changes enabled us to provide much needed space within the existing building without committing to fund a major building project at a time that we simply could not afford it. A growing student population also has impact on school grounds outside the walls of the building. Last spring, I advocated for changes to the drop-off procedures and parking space at Cherry Brook. These low cost changes have dramatically improved the safety of our youngest students.

3. In light of ever increasing demands and expectations in education, where do you stand on the question of a longer school year and full day kindergarten?

There is no doubt that our schools are constantly being required to cover more subject matter over the course of the school year. However, both the significant lengthening of the school year and full day kindergarten come at a high cost due to extended hours for teachers and staff currently under

contract, building and infrastructure alterations and expansion, and additional transportation. Due to these factors, I do not believe we can significantly lengthen the school year, or institute full-day kindergarten, unless the state was to provide additional funding for those purposes, and that does not appear likely at any time soon. Therefore, the Board must continue to find ways maximize the efficiency of instructional time while working within the parameters of our current calendar and budget. We have taken steps such as increasing the length of the school day, and reducing the number of early release days for conferences at the high school. This year we also changed the high school schedule to disallow seniors from leaving school early every day. We must continue to scrutinize every request for early release professional development days, and ensure that time our staff spends away from instruction is time that will ultimately benefit student learning. With regard to full day kindergarten, I believe that while many children are ready for this experience, many are not, and parents know best what is appropriate for their children. If funding and space were not an issue, I would want to explore support a system that allowed parental choice on whether to enroll their child in full-day or half-day kindergarten, such as a lottery system.

Beth Kandrysawtz - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

My strong educational background, with an MBA from Wharton School, provides a solid foundation in management and finance. As owner/CFO of Motorlease Corporation, I have 25 years' experience managing a staff of 30 employees and a \$25 million budget.

In my four years on the Board of Education, I have been able to use my skills to:

- Chair the Brick-by-Brick Efficiency Study which has created a format for Canton's BOE to evaluate the financial impact of new proposals.
- Chair the CBPS Space Study where innovative solutions to space shortages and evaluation of the enrollment trends have allowed the BOE to control expenditures while meeting the needs of our students.
- Chair the Finance Committee which has presented a budget with smaller increases for each of the past 3 years including the

current year budget which is a 1.19% increase over last year. Through strong financial controls and better communication with the other town Boards and the community, the BOE has created a more efficient annual budget process.

In addition to my present role as Vice Chair for the BOE, I have also served on the communications, facilities, negotiations, and curriculum committees. This combined experience has given me a broad understanding of the role of the Board of Education. In addition to being a parent of two children in Canton's schools, this experience, my career and my educational background give me a unique perspective as a candidate and will help me continue to meet the challenges facing Canton's schools.

2. What must be done to insure that there is adequate instructional space at all grade levels?

Canton's schools have experienced rapid growth in the past five years. The state projections for Canton's enrollment are for the incoming class sizes to level off and start to decline starting in 2011. If this is true, our goal is to maximize the use of space in innovative ways to manage the bulge of students as they move through each of our school buildings. The original BOE plan had been to use portable classrooms at CBPS which is the school with the largest enrollment. Instead, two new instructional spaces were created this year; the combination of the computer lab into the library has created a great new media center while freeing up a classroom and the unused stage area attached to the gymnasium has been enclosed as a tutoring center. This was an effective way to serve our students while avoiding increasing the tax burden on the citizens of Canton during the present financial crisis facing our country. Innovation will continue to be the answer to our need for instructional space in each of our school buildings so that we prioritize existing space to be used for student learning.

3. In light of ever increasing demands and expectations in education, where do you stand on the question of a longer school year and full day kindergarten?

Canton's student achievements are among the top in the state of Connecticut. The Board of Education and the community of Canton continue to work in partnership to raise the bar for all of our students. However, our town's taxpayers increasingly have been asked to bear a heavy

burden in order to provide quality education for Canton's students. In order to control taxes we must fund new initiatives by cost savings or increased efficiencies in other areas. The operating costs and infrastructure improvements that would be required by either of these initiatives would require a substantial reduction in other programs that are presently an integral part of Canton's education.

Mark B. Lange - Republican

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

My background and capabilities make me uniquely qualified to contribute to the Canton Schools success as a member of the Board of Education. In particular, I possess the following skills and experiences that will benefit our schools:

- *Leadership* – I have considerable experience in leading organizations, including those that are large and complex. In fact, before starting my own consulting business, my last corporate role was as a member of a small leadership team managing a \$2.7 billion business. As a result of these experiences, I have the ability to develop and execute strategy and vision, work as a productive member of a high-performing team, improve organizational performance, collaborate effectively with colleagues, and engage others to implement initiatives. All of these skills will enable me to make significant contributions to the Canton Board of Education.
- *Financial Acumen* – As a Certified Public Accountant, I have substantial experience in developing and managing budgets. In addition to my corporate roles, I have practice working with non-profit organizations, including municipalities. This experience gives me the unique ability to play an important role in the financial management of our schools as a member of the Board of Education.
- *Interest in the Success of Canton's Youth* – I have extensive involvement in helping Canton's youth, particularly through coaching numerous children in Canton Little League and Canton Youth Basketball Association. In fact, many people

know me in town as “Coach Lange”. As a coach, I have demonstrated a consistent interest in the best interest of the children I have worked with. As a result, many parents of children I have coached are supporting my campaign for the Board of Education. My agenda as a member of the Board of Education will be focused on the well being and success of our students.

- Member of Canton Schools Strategic Planning Committee – I have been fortunate to be a participant on the Canton Schools Strategic Planning Committee for most of 2009. This experience has given me valuable insight into our schools, and enabled me to help shape the vision of our schools’ future. It has also demonstrated my willingness to invest my time in this important topic, plus an eagerness to gain knowledge about our schools to help set the future direction. This experience and approach will be valuable to the Board of Education.

2. What must be done to insure that there is adequate instructional space at all grade levels?

The Board of Education has an obligation to provide our students with an environment that is conducive to learning. This includes the safety, comfort, and adequacy of the facilities, as well as the overall educational climate established by the leadership of the district. In addition, the Board of Education has an obligation to responsibly manage the financial resources entrusted to it by the taxpayers of the town. As a result, evaluation of the space situation is complex and requires a thoughtful approach on a regular basis that includes steps such as the following:

- Assessment of near and long-term demographic projections and the resulting implications on school enrollment by grade level.
- Understanding of estimated future school enrollment and comparison to facility capacity at targeted class sizes.
- Identification of any short and long-term space deficits or excesses.
- In the event of excess space, a couple of alternatives can be pursued:
 - o Evaluate the opportunity to lease this excess space to

- outside organizations with youth or educationally-oriented areas of focus.
 - o Consider accepting additional students from other towns or school districts to absorb excess capacity and generate additional revenue.
 - o Convert excess space into facilities that will enable us to offer new and innovative programs currently unavailable.
- In the event that space needs exceed the current capacity, an assessment of the duration of the need should be made. Different solutions may exist for short-term needs versus long-term requirements.
 - o Short-term/temporary needs – creative solutions need to be identified that do not require permanent expansion of facilities and are less costly in nature, such as converting other space to classrooms (similar to what has been done this year), using leased locations, utilizing temporary classrooms, considering innovative scheduling (such as shifts) that permits all students to use current facilities.
 - o Long-term/permanent requirements – if space needs will exist for numerous years, the physical presence of our schools may need to be expanded. This can include construction of new classrooms, or converting non-classroom space (such as gymnasiums) into classrooms and constructing new space to replace those facilities.
- Obviously, the cost of any expansion, temporary or permanent, needs to be evaluated relative to the financial capacity of the town to absorb the costs. Creativity will be required to minimize the costs.

3. In light of ever increasing demands and expectations in education, where do you stand on the question of a longer school year and full day kindergarten?

The primary objective of our schools should be to prepare our students to succeed in the present and future. Therefore, the Board of Education should consider any credible idea that will help us achieve this goal. This includes adding more days of school or extending the kindergarten

program to the entire day. While such moves could have great benefit to the children, the additional costs could be significant and would need to be considered relative to the gains expected. Once that evaluation has occurred, a well-informed decision could be made by the Board of Education and presented to the town.

Andrew D. Pidgeon - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

As a financial advisor I focus on long term goals for my clients and understand the challenges that many families face. This focus allows me to see the big picture and gain a deeper understanding of how a decision today affects our future. I have a child in each of our public schools and know of the many challenges our schools face and am excited to bring my perspective to assist with needs that go beyond budget and touch on space requirements, experiential learning opportunities, and our school leadership. Civic involvement is also an important area for me. I am an active member of the Avon/Canton Rotary, a member of the Open Space Commission, and president of the newly formed Canton Youth Football and Cheer organization.

2. What must be done to insure that there is adequate instructional space at all grade levels?

To create adequate instructional space Canton must create a long term growth plan for our schools. This long term plan must account for population growth as well as economic diversity. This plan must be one that is consistently modified to incorporate changes in Canton while striving to maintain the physical appeal that we now enjoy.

3. In light of ever increasing demands and expectations in education, where do you stand on the question of a longer school year and full day kindergarten?

Longer year and kindergarten- I welcome a discussion of this topic and value the input of the community on this concern. My youngest son is in first grade at Cherry Brook. I do not believe he would have benefited from "full day" kindergarten. We need to keep in mind that these children are

only young for so long. They need to enjoy what time they have to just be a kid. Play time is a very important developmental tool for children and one they need to utilize.

I also am not in favor of a longer school year. What I am in favor of is kids learning while at school. Of the 183 days on the school calendar for 90-10, we have 6 days of conferences and 6 days of professional development. We also have early release on 4 days. Each of these days are considered days within the 183 days of school per year. So each child gets 167 full days of school. Staying in school till July is not the issue, the issue should be having them in school for 183 days.

Carlene Rhea - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton

As a nine year Resident of Canton, and an eight year member of the Canton Board of Education, I believe that I have the skills, passion and ability to serve the town of Canton as a Board of Education member.

I currently serve as the Chair of the Board, having served as Vice Chair for the past five years. My committee work has been focused on Finance, Negotiations, and Policy. I currently am serving as a Board representative to our Strategic Planning Committee which is focused on the next five year plan of our school district. My time on this Board has been well spent, and it is that span of time that allows me to see firsthand the progress that our school community has made.

My professional work as the Director of an Assisted Living community in Farmington allows me to bring direct experience with budget management, personnel oversight, and a sense of strategic vision to the Board of Education table. My former job as Director of Senior Services for the Town of Canton allowed me to see and understand the needs of our senior citizens and how all town boards must be aware of the impact of all financial decisions that are made. My role of being a mother of three (two of who have graduated from Canton High School) helps me realize the incredible impact a well run school system can have on a child.

In conclusion, I believe that I have demonstrated a strong desire to serve my community on this Board, as well as an ability to take on leadership roles. I would be honored to have the voters of Canton return me to the table.

2. What must be done to insure that there is adequate instructional space at all grade levels?

A main role of the Canton Board of Education is to maintain adequate instructional space. This is certainly always a topic on our radar and one that our Superintendent of Schools is charged with overseeing. Last year, due to budget constraints, the Board was not able to fund portable classroom space to help with space constraints; we were not able to fund portable classrooms at Cherry Brook Primary School. Our Superintendent along with our Facilities subcommittee did however address this issue in a creative way. A computer classroom was turned into a regular classroom, the school library was re-configured to accommodate a computer lab, and unused stage space in a gym was converted to tutor space.

Each year school census numbers are studied and combined with population projections from the State Department of Education, our Superintendent projects our enrollment figures. At the present time, we have adequate instructional space. If we did not, our Board would look closely at grade reconfiguration and/or creative uses of space at our other schools.

3. In light of ever increasing demands and expectations in education, where do you stand on the question of a longer school year and full day kindergarten?

I believe that the time for a longer school day, and perhaps a longer school year, especially for our older students, has come. This decision would certainly have many financial implications, scheduling concerns and personal impact on families, as well as our staff. Our model for an education school year has been in existence for a very long time, and certainly should be compared to other countries that operate in a very different fashion.

Full Day Kindergarten is a topic that has been talked about almost every year that I have been a member of the Board. We are currently not in a position both space wise and dollar wise to move forward with this concept.

If the State of CT ever mandates full day Kindergarten, it would be my hope that it would be a mandate funded by the State and not by our town.

Patricia R. White - Democrat

1. Please state your qualifications for this office and how your talents will benefit the town of Canton.

I am in my fourth year as a board of education member, and am the Board's elected Secretary. I am chair of the negotiations subcommittee and a member of the facilities subcommittee. Our negotiations subcommittee has successfully negotiated three union contracts during my tenure, and we are now in the process of simultaneously negotiating three contracts. My prior work in a labor and employment law environment was very helpful in this capacity. In addition, I have worked diligently with the facilities subcommittee to deal with the space issues impacting our district. As a resident of Canton for 20 years I am always aware of the impact of our budget on Canton taxpayers. Being a member of the BOE is a huge commitment of time and energy, and I am hopeful that I will be given the privilege of serving another term.

2. What must be done to insure that there is adequate instructional space at all grade levels?

The facilities subcommittee has been working on the space issues facing our district for the past four years. We were able to convert a computer lab at CBPS into classroom space while utilizing part of the library for computers and providing laptops on a cart for our students. We also converted unused space at the back of the gymnasium into tutoring space at that school. I believe we were able to find extremely cost-effective solutions to immediately provide additional instructional space without the cost of building or purchasing portables. We also continue to look at where we may have space available in other buildings, the possibility of moving grades, etc. I believe we are very thorough and look at every option available and work to find the solution that works best for our students and our community. This will be an ongoing item of discussion for our board.

3. In light of ever increasing demands and expectations in education, where do you stand on the question of a longer school year and full day kindergarten?

I would love to see full day kindergarten in Canton; however, we do not have the space to accommodate full day kindergarten. This is always a concern of our board as one day the State may well mandate full day kindergarten. In addition to space issues, there would be a budget impact with the hiring of additional kindergarten teachers. This is certainly a 'front burner' issue for our board.

I would not want to see a longer school year, however I would like to continue to explore the possibility of a later start for our high school students. We have seen much research that shows the benefits to a later start, and this is something that we will continue to look at as we go forward.

