

**Unapproved
Candia Budget Committee
Public Hearing Minutes
January 17, 2012**

Members Present: Lynn Chivers, Carla Penfield, Todd Allen, Kim Byrd, Judith Szot, Matt Broadhead, Carleton Robie, Selectmen's Representative, Ingrid Byrd, School Representative, and Cheryl Eastman, Secretary.

Members Absent: Christine Watson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00. Lynn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lynn Chivers explained the format for the meeting. There will be a public hearing on the town budget. After the close of the public hearing, the Committee will discuss the school warrant articles. Then they will discuss and finalize the town budget recommendation.

Public Hearing – Town Budget

Betsy Kruse, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, asked about the funding for the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission that the Board of Selectmen had reduced by 50% in their proposed budget. Lynn Chivers informed her that the Board of Selectmen had restored the full funding to the budget and the Budget Committee is OK with it. Kim Byrd said that the Board of Selectmen did an excellent job of level funding the budget and thanked them. With no comments from the public, Lynn Chivers closed the public hearing portion and asked for a motion on the town budget. Todd Allen made a recommendation to reaffirm the figure of \$2,313,861 for the town operating budget. Seconded by Matt Broadhead. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

School Warrant Articles

#3. Lynn Chivers advised the Committee that the figure that was printed in the sample warrant for the operating budget (the number voted at the public hearing on 1/12/12 by the Budget Committee) was incorrect. The correct amount is \$7,533,897. The warrant will be corrected.

#2. Shall the District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Candia School Board and the Candia Educational Support Professionals, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year 2012 – 2013

Estimated Salary Increase	\$5,497
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Estimated FICA & Retirement Increase	\$ 905
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and further to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand, four hundred two dollars (\$6,402) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in the prior fiscal year? (Recommended by the School Board).

Todd Allen made a motion to recommend this article. Seconded by Matt Broadhead. Vote was 3 in favor and 4 opposed, with 1 abstaining. Motion failed. The article is not recommended by the Budget Committee.

#4. Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred fifty-seven thousand, nine hundred sixty dollars (\$357,960) to replace the boiler system and to authorize withdrawal of that sum from the Capital Reserve Fund known as the Candia School Facility Needs Fund

created for that purpose in March, 2006? (This article will not require additional taxation.) (Recommended by the School Board)

Todd Allen made a motion to recommend this article. Seconded by Ingrid Byrd. Lynn Chivers clarified that this article is basically asking for permission to access the Capital Reserve Fund to do the job they had intended to do last year. All in favor. Motion carried. This article is recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8 to 0.

- #5 Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate a sum up to twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) to be added to the Special Education Trust Fund established in March, 2003 and to authorize use/transfer in that amount from the June 30, 2012 fund balance (surplus)? (Recommended by the School Board)

Todd Allen made a motion to recommend this article. Seconded by Matt Broadhead. Ingrid Byrd explained that this fund currently has a balance of \$113,329 and is for if a high impact Special Education student arrives during the year that was not budgeted for. Carleton Robie commented that this is a good idea because it is asking to use the surplus, if there is any. Todd Allen asked what the costs for an additional student coming in might be. Ingrid Byrd explained that it depends on the individual situation, but one year they budgeted \$200,000 for one student. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

- #6 Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate a sum up to twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) to be added to the Technology Fund established in March, 2007 and to authorize use/transfer in that amount from the June 30, 2012 fund balance (surplus)? (Recommended by the School Board)

Todd Allen made a motion to recommend this article. Seconded by Matt Broadhead. Ingrid Byrd said that the current balance in this fund is \$62,671 and there are no specific plans for purchases at this time. Carleton Robie felt that if this is an article every year, it would be better to put it in the budget. Carla Penfield said that it is confusing to people because last year the school turned back about \$500,000, but they could have turned back more if they didn't use some of the surplus for this funds. Matt Broadhead feels that the Special Education fund is fine because Special Education is a huge risk, but for something that has no planned purchases, it would be better to use the money to lower the tax rate. Vote was 2 in favor and 6 opposed. Motion failed. This article is not recommended by the Budget Committee.

- #7 Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Textbook Trust Fund established in March, 2011 and to authorize use/transfer in that amount from the June 30, 2012 fund balance (surplus)? (Recommended by the School Board)

Todd Allen made a motion to recommend this article. Seconded by Ingrid Byrd. Ingrid Byrd reported that the fund has \$15,000 in it now. Last year it was funded with \$40,000 and they used it to purchase reading books. There was discussion regarding textbooks being included in the operating budget instead of through separate warrant articles. Vote was 4 in favor and 4 opposed. The motion failed due to a tied vote. This article is not recommended by the Budget Committee.

- #8 Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Building Maintenance Trust Fund established in March, 1992 and to authorize use/transfer in that amount from the June 30, 2012 fund balance (surplus)? (Recommended by the School Board)

Todd Allen made a motion to recommend this article. Seconded by Matt Broadhead. Ingrid Byrd reported that the fund currently has a balance of \$34,889. The plans for this fund are to move the server and take care of the uranium problem. There was discussion of the difference between building maintenance and technology improvements as far as the moving of the server is concerned. Ingrid Byrd feels that the maintenance fund should be for any unanticipated events that were not budgeted for. The moving of the server was anticipated. Vote in favor by a vote of 5 to 3. This article is recommended by the Budget Committee.

- #9 Article #9 does not require a recommendation as there are no funds involved.

Other Business

Carla Penfield spoke about comments heard from the public that the Committee asks too many questions about the budgets. She stressed that it is the Committee's job to ask any questions they want to. Matt Broadhead stated that the Budget Committee is set up as an investigative body and serves as a legislative check and balance, but does not delve into policy.

Carla Penfield also commented that an e-mail that Todd Allen had sent to many residents and the Committee members was unreasonable and feels that if he had issues with the Committee members, he should have brought them up with the members. Todd Allen stated that he tried to at the public hearing for the school budget and was totally ignored. He also stated that he can send an e-mail to anyone he wishes to. Lynn Chivers agreed, but said that if it is something that hinders the effectiveness of the Committee, then we need to talk about it. Comments were made by Amanda Soares, Ingrid Byrd, Fred Kelley, Carleton Robie, and Judith Szot regarding their intense displeasure with the approach Todd Allen had taken with his e-mail.

At 8:15, Kim Byrd made a motion to adjourn. Matt Broadhead seconded. All voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Cheryl Eastman