

~~Unapproved~~ **APPROVED**
Candia's Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2015

Attendance: Chairman Carleton Robie, Vice-Chair Boyd Chivers, Selectman Scott Komisarek, Selectman Craig Sandler, Selectman Susan Young, and Administrative Assistant Andria Hansen.

Chairman Robie opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Public meeting minutes 07/13/15. Selectman Chivers moved to accept the July 13th, 2015 Selectmen's public meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman Young. All were in favor. Motion carried. Resident Canny Griswold said she would like to correct the amount of the donated sweeper which it was \$4,000 not \$1,000.

The Board to discuss a recent solicitation in behalf of the Solar Up Project and its contractor, Granite State Solar which purported to be approved by the Candia Board of Selectmen. Selectman Chivers thanked Chairman Robie for putting this on the agenda. He said his concern at the last meeting was this solicitation went out under the authority of the Board of Selectmen signed by our Chairman without having been approved by us (see attached). He said that Chairman Robie explained it was the consensus of the Board that supported it. He can accept that and there isn't much they can do since this thing has gone out, unless they chose to correct it. This leads to a larger issue which has been expressed by a number of people in town to him and that is should the town of Candia endorse any one vendor or contractor for any purpose whatsoever. They are on record here of endorsing Granite State Solar as a sole source supplier for solar installations in the town of Candia. The people he has spoken with and his own personal view is that this is totally inappropriate. They should be neutral when it comes to what people want to do with their homes. They shouldn't put their finger on the scale in favor of one contractor or another. He wasn't sure how they could unscramble those eggs now. This letter has already been sent out and they are having a meeting on August 2nd at the CYAA facility. What is the right way to resolve this would be his question. Chairman Robie said back on April 15th Jack Munn of SNHPC came in and spoke with them. They discussed this with him and they had Al Couch, Al Hall, and Dick Snow representing the town of Candia and attending recent Solar Up workshops. They had a good understanding of the project and its goals. To move that along after the meeting he signed this letter (see attached) and sent it to Mr. Munn as per their discussion. Selectman Chivers asked whose discussion. Chairman Robie replied the Select Board's discussion from the meeting. Selectman Chivers asked when they discussed this. Chairman Robie said the 27th of April. Selectman Chivers said the letter went out April 15th. Chairman Robie said this letter was to have Mr. Munn come to the meeting. Administrative Assistant Hansen explained they invited Jack Munn to come in on the 27th of April, but the letter needed to go out on April 15th. The Planning Board sent their letter to recommend on April 2nd (see attached). She felt that Al Hall could explain the timeline better. Selectman Chivers said he saw that in the Planning Boards minutes. Chairman Robie said that recommendation came to the office on April 2nd and the letter needed to go out on April 15th. Selectman Chivers said his point is that it never came before the entire Board. This communication by the town of Candia was never authorized by the Board. It has already gone out and there isn't much they can do about that. The larger issue is this town's endorsing one contractor/vendor. Chairman Robie said that

SNHPC and our volunteers Al Hall, Al Couch, and Dick Snow support one vendor. It doesn't necessarily say that we do, the committee does. You have to support one vendor to get the rate. Anybody that is interested in solar can pick any contractor to install their solar; they will do the same job that Granite State Solar will do. He felt it was up to the citizen's when they talk with Granite State Solar if they want to choose them and as a community and through their committee this is who is going to represent Candia. He didn't see anything wrong with this. Like they said before this should have come to the Board, but it didn't. He had no idea this letter was going out and if he had seen it on his desk and was asked to sign it, he would have said before he signs it he's bringing it to a public meeting. Selectman Chivers asked if there was anything they could do to clarify the record going forward or at least take a position on what their policy is as a town with respect to endorsing one vendor/contract over another. Selectman Young thought this needed to be done by a certain date for the grant. Chairman Robie said there was no grant money. This was to get this thing going. They pay SNHPC a yearly fee to work on these types of projects for us. He asked Mr. Hall to speak so he could clarify a few things. Mr. Hall said he could summarize this overall project and hopefully clear up some things. Number one at no time has the town of Candia endorsed or recommended anybody. This whole project started with SNHPC and he is one of the town representatives. Last fall they received a grant to get this project going and with Jack Munn's leadership they did. They made their presentation several times and three citizens, Dick Snow, Al Couch, and he took it on our selves. They signed on purely as residents of the town to apply for an opportunity to present to the citizens of the town the opportunity for solar electricity at a preferred rate. There was a deadline they had to meet and as part of the application they needed a letter from the Selectmen. It was presented to the Planning Board and they approved the concept and then it was recommended to the Selectmen. As far as he could recall the Selectmen didn't find anything wrong with it and thought it was a good idea. The application went in and it was accepted jointly with the town of Deerfield. After that SNHPC sent out an RFP to companies interested in this project. There were fourteen companies. He is representing SNHPC and as a representative he spent a whole day listening to their proposals and then they spent another day independent of the companies and they selected Granite State Solar. Part owner of the company Erik Shifflett is here this evening if they would like to ask him anything on how this process was done. Everything was done fair and square and nothing to do with committing the town of Candia. The town hasn't spent a dime on this project and that is not the intent it. He noted that next Saturday, August 1st Deerfield is going to have their kick off and Sunday, August 2nd at noon at the CYAA is Candia's kick off and everyone is welcome. There has been some misunderstanding and he hoped they could forgive them. This is the story in a nutshell. Selectman Chivers pardoned himself for being too literal, but when he gets a letter from the Office of Selectmen from the Town of Candia that says "We have interviewed several companies and have selected Granite State Solar as the solar installer that best fits our residents." He is going to assume by reading it that it came from the Board of Selectmen and the Board has interviewed these companies, we have picked Granite State Solar and we're offering our endorsement. This is his interpretation. Mr. Hall replied that basically that letter is a boilerplate which all the towns that were involved sent out. Perhaps it could have been better constructed and maybe next he would like to be a volunteer. Selectman Chivers said there is probably not too much they can do about this, it has gone out and they have their kickoff next Sunday. Selectman Sandler thought they should move on. Selectman Komisarek said if you look Goffstown and Bedford are doing it and Derry and Chester. He was in Home Depot this weekend and a solar company was there. He has seen on television that Lowes has teamed up

with another company. He thought they all agreed that the general concept was a good idea. Al Hall told him a week ago they had over 50 people call and were interested. He thought the whole idea of increasing your purchasing power by getting a group of people together makes sense. Maybe the language in the letter should have been reviewed, but in general the concept is sound and intelligent. Selectman Young said she agreed it's just to make the solar available to people who want it, unlike Comcast they aren't going to force you to have that service. She loves solar so she is probably not one to speak to this. She thought they were all in agreement they should move forward and they have given their blessing to do so. They give these people their directive to go forward as far as a committee who we selected to represent us. Selectman Chivers said he was fine with that. Erik Shifflett of Merrill Road and part owner of Granite State Solar wanted to set the record straight for Selectman Chivers. They are not an exclusive contractor for this they were selected because they were vetted. He thought the whole premise of Solar Up is that they have a committee. SNHPC and town liaisons ran the interviews and they had to provide their P&L, all of their financials and fifteen customer references. The application process took days and it was about 16 pages, it was very thorough vetting. The idea is townspeople can know they are talking to an integrator who is not a fly by night organization and they are a fully licensed. Just the other day he met with resident Tom Dimaggio of North Road and Mr. Dimaggio questioned if he just had to choose Grant State Solar. He told Mr. Dimaggio he didn't need to choose them. He tells everyone that they are one company of many and he encourages people to get competitive quotes. This is the message they will hear from us. They are not the only game in town. They have just gone through this process to make sure the folks in town and liaisons that are recommending us have made an informed decision about a company that a customer/consumer/homeowner can start with. They were provided with a letter copy from Administrative Assistant Sharon Robichaud it was not written by us and we were told to send it out within a couple of days. They had no idea that it wasn't preapproved, they were going through the liaisons and Sharon. They did pay for all of the printing and mailing and it didn't cost the town anything. He apologized that things didn't turn out better right off the bat. As of today they have 110 inquiries with request for site visits. There were 46 from Candia and 60 from Deerfield and the other 4 they don't know what town they are in yet because they didn't specify in their email. There has been a pretty dramatic response and it has been pretty well received.

The Board to consider appointment of Rudy Cartier to the Energy Conservation and Recycling Committee. Selectman Chivers said for those that haven't been attending the meetings prior to June 8th Mr. Cartier expressed interest in serving on the Energy Conservation and Recycling Committee. On June 8th he was on the agenda for this Board's meeting at which time he was not present. He wasn't sure why perhaps he wasn't informed, but he wasn't present at the time. He moved at the June 8th meeting to appoint Mr. Cartier to that committee and the motion failed for a lack of a second and that was the end of it that night. Two weeks later on June 22nd Mr. Cartier appeared before this Board, presented his credentials, and asked to be reconsidered for appointment to that Board. They concluded as a Board to agree to decide to reconsider the nomination or put him back on the agenda. In the last month he hadn't heard anything from any Board member, he asked that it be put back on the agenda as a matter of courtesy to Mr. Cartier. His view is if a resident applies to be on a Board and he is not appointed to that Board he deserves to know why he wasn't appointed. It is a matter of courtesy and fairness. The town of Candia spins on an axis that is comprised of full and part time employees

and a group of volunteers. They need these volunteers on the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Board of Selectmen and all of the other little boards that comprise this town. When someone applies to serve as a volunteer on a Board in Candia and they are not treated fairly and with respect he thought this has a chilling effect on anybody else that wants to serve in this town. He thought as a matter of fairness and courtesy they should consider Mr. Cartier's request for appointment to this Board. He wanted to remind this Board that this warrant article passed by an 80 vote margin at the town meeting. There appears to be some support for it. They don't have that many volunteers this far and it puzzles him and other Selectmen why they can have so many people in support of this committee, but only three volunteered to serve on it so far. He asked that it be put on the agenda and our Chairman was gracious enough to put it back on the agenda. He asked what the Board's pleasure was. Chairman Robie said they could call for a motion. Selectman Chivers said the Board should reconsider their previous decision and allow Mr. Cartier to present his plea, be seated on the committee and they vote on it and so state in public what our reason's to oppose his appointment are. *Selectman Chivers moved to reconsider Mr. Cartier's appointment to the Energy Conservation and Recycling Committee.* Al Couch of North Road said he was on the Recycling and Energy Committee and he wanted to state publically that the three existing members of the committee recommend and support Rudy for the appointment. Chairman Robie called for a second. There was no second to Selectman Chivers motion, so the motion failed. Mr. Cartier wanted to know what the Board's feeling was and negative connotations they have. He sent the Board his resume and he has worked in the energy field and the environmental field for over 20 years. The committee could use some technical assistance and he thought he could provide that to them. As Selectman Chivers said without any discussion on why the members of the Board don't want to second his appointment to the committee it does send a chilling message to the town that someone that is qualified to serve on a Board is not considered to be qualified to be on that Board. He didn't understand the issues. He questioned if there was a problem with his background? Is there a problem with the help he has given to the committees in the past? Citizen Ingrid Byrd asked the Chairman for a point of order. She asked if there has been a change in the way the Board has always acted where the Board has to justify how they vote. This has never been done before. The Board takes a vote and that ends the issue and she wants to know if there has been a change. Chairman Robie said there hasn't been a vote. Citizen Ingrid Byrd clarified she meant whether the Board has to explain the failure to provide a second and having been on Rudy's position of having a no a vote, it's never been explained that's just life. It's a point of order that's all. Mr. Rudy Cartier said that Ingrid brought up a very good point however the Board is responsible for their actions and they should back up their actions with reasons. Chairman Robie said sometimes they need to leave well enough left to be. He thought this is the way the Board felt at this time. He was sure the Recycling and Energy Committee would welcome him to participate with them for a period of time. If that seems to work out and he wants to participate with them at a resident level right now for a year and they revisit this, he would reconsider this once again. Mr. Rudy Cartier responded that it would be like working for free for a company and maybe if it works out after a year then maybe we will hire you. Chairman Robie said at this time there was a motion and there was no second. He just offered him a little bit of something where he would make a reconsideration possible. Mr. Rudy Cartier said what probably would have been better is if they asked him into a non public meeting. If they felt the things they said about him in public would be either damaging to his reputation or anything along that line it would have probably have been much more appropriate than to embarrass him in front of the town's folk. The Board except for Selectman Chivers not

seconding a nomination for someone who is well qualified to help out the Board and you just don't want the technical help. Chairman Robie said they have been through this once before and they made a motion and it wasn't seconded. Selectman Chivers wanted this back on the agenda after he sent his resume and letter. They accepted and Selectman Chivers asked once again, he considered putting him on and they did. Mr. Rudy Cartier felt this was an embarrassment to the Board. Chairman Robie said he was sorry if he looked at it this way. Mr. Rudy Cartier said he would be more than willing to come in and speak with the Board in a non public meeting before any kind of action goes on. He thought there have been undercurrents of wrong doing against him by people and information that has been put out there that is not true and it's tainting the Board's understanding of him. He thought it would be a good thing for them to sit down and clear the air, because this just does not seem right. He reiterated this is an embarrassment to the town and it is a slap in his face because he has a tremendous amount of experience to help the Board. Would he help the Board? No because the Board of Selectmen doesn't want him to help out the Recycling and Energy Committee. Chairman Robie said they were going to move on and thanked Mr. Cartier.

The Board to review and possible amend interview policy. Chairman Robie said they have something in the personnel policy under "Filling a Vacancy" (see attached). He thought it answered Selectman Chivers question. Selectman Chivers asked if this included a Selectmen's liaison. Chairman Robie read "jurisdiction shall be made by the Board of Selectmen". So the liaison should at least be invited whether you want to or not at that point, it is your decision. They could amend it if the Board wanted to, but he didn't see a need. Selectman Chivers thought it was clear.

The Board to discuss Dean Young's abatement recommendation by CNP. Chairman Robie said that Mrs. Young has asked the Board to postpone this agenda item at this time. Selectman Chivers asked if abatement requests are done publically. Chairman Robie said they were going to do it publically, give Mrs. Young some information, and then make a decision about it. They'll wait until she wants to come back to the Board.

The Board to authorize payment of payroll checks and accounts payable checks. The Board to authorize payment of payroll checks and accounts payable checks. Chairman Robie announced the grand total of payroll and accounts payable checks for July 23rd and July 30th was \$256,911.58. Selectman Chivers motioned to accept accounts payable and payroll checks for July 23rd and July 30th in the amount of \$256,911.58. Seconded by Selectman Komisarek. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Other Business

Community Profile Project: Selectman Komisarek informed the Board that Molly Donovan of the UNH Coop Extension came to the Planning Board on July 15th to explain the Community Profile Visioning process and help understand the best way to put a steering committee together. The timing will probably be after the vote in March. In early April they will have the event and typically they'll do a Friday night and a Saturday morning. Sometimes they do it all on Saturday. Selecting the steering committee will happen in early September, but if anyone knows of anyone that would make a good candidate, they are looking for someone that is well

connected who could bring a lot of citizens to the event. They would like it to be well attended. They are also looking for diversity i.e. a business person, college student, etc. They don't want the same people who are typically involved in the town. It was very informative and Molly did a real nice job. He thought the Planning Board was generally excited about the process. Chairman Robie thought it sounded interesting.

Recycling Center Art Work: Selectman Chivers said last meeting they had 30 people attend asking about the art work on the walls. He asked if the Board owed them an answer or a decision. Chairman Robie explained that Selectman Sandler said when they get the compactor in place, get it up and running and some of the corners are cleaned up he would reconsider. Selectman Sandler said there was room for compromise. He wants to get the plant cleaned up first and then they'll discuss it. Chairman Robie thought this was what Selectman Sandler said at the last meeting.

Thank you Troop 120: Chairman Robie said a year ago Troop 120 came to the Board who was also acting as Cemetery Trustees. The Troop wanted to rebuild the shed in the back corner of the cemetery as an Eagle Scout project. They have completed the project and it is a very nice looking building. Mr. Martel, the Boy Scouts, and some volunteers got this project done. Mr. Martel and the Boy Scouts deserved to be thanked. Selectman Chivers asked who the Eagle Scout was. Chairman Robie said the Eagle Scout that took on the project abandoned it and Mr. Martel and the Boy Scouts took it upon themselves to finish it. Selectman Young said they did a great job. Chairman Robie said Mr. Martel and the fathers do a lot with those young men and they should be noticed.

Hearse house: Citizen Ingrid Byrd asked what the status was of the building for the town hearse. Chairman Robie said the Historical Society could answer that. Mrs. Byrd asked how far along was it? Chairman Robie said the foundation was in and Mr. Lewis worked on the stones for the foundation and the slab. The Jesse Remington students assembled the timber frame last Saturday. It looks like its framed and moving along well. Mrs. Byrd thought they should send the kids from Jesse Remington a great big thank you because they do outstanding work. They have built several things in town. Chairman Robie said he would mention it to the Trustees of the Library and the Historical Society.

Selectman Chivers motioned to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Sandler. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Andria Hansen, Recording Secretary