

**Candia Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes of October 10
APPROVED**

Present: Carla Penfield Chair person; Jim Brennan, Selectman's Representative; Ed Caito, School Board Representative, Brenda Stevens, Kim Byrd, Judith Szot, Steve Higgins, Kristine Pouliot, Ann Tierno (6:55 PM)

Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

New Business introduced. Jim Brennan noted that the ski program (a wash item) was not included in the 2008 budget sheets. Karen Black requested \$1600.00 on behalf of the Ski Program for the 2008 budget consideration since it was not included in the proposed budget.

Approve September 12 Minutes

Correction to strike excess phrase "committee is being asked" from the end of the section with the heading "Budget committee matters" in paragraph 2.

Motion to accept the minutes by Kim Byrd. Second by Judy Szot., All in favor, Kristine Pouliot abstained as she was not present at this meeting.

2007 Department Schedule changes

Changes to the dates of various departments were made.

Town Budget

Discussions ensued.

Wages:

Discussion occurred on both sides of wage increases, COLA, Cost increases, etc. versus the cost burden to tax payers Consensus is that 6% is a significant increase. Consensus is that 3% is more reasonable. Selectmen will need to defend their budget

Concept of a wage pool is also raised and some discussion ensued about the option being explored.

- Discomfort expressed with empty lines in the budget.
- Discussion occurred of proposed staff increases. Budget includes an additional clerk for assessing.
- Discussion occurred about the Police budget and wages.
- Discussion ensued about volume of calls/support sheets for Police Department.

Department by Department

- Discussion of Animal Control involved size of increase and gas costs; shots and equipment;

- Discussion of Budget Committee – no discussion followed
- Discussion of Building Inspector – no breakdown provided, but will be provided for building permits, etc.
- Cemetery Maintenance – Discussion of completion of roads
- Conservation Commission – Discussion of question of increase in wages, or increase in hours
- Election and Registration – Discussion of increases; more elections, not fully expended for the SB2 programming changes.
- Emergency Management- Many 0 items noted.
- Fire Department- Discussion occurred of Secretary wages. Secretary was not hired until part way through the year. Discussions of differences between Administrative Assistant and Secretary; Fire equipment, Hazmat,
- Forestry –no discussion.
- Health and Welfare – Discussion of increase in stipend. Discussion of comparative analysis. Discussion of types of qualification this type of role might require – i.e. entry level LiSCW. Insect Borne disease control discussion – trapping and testing versus spraying.
- Highway Department- Discussion of some increases in W-Comp; cutting edges, salt.
- Parks and Recreation- Discussion of line for pond and grant maintenance requirements, picnic tables, opening and closing bathrooms.
- Planning – No discussion
- Police – Some discussion about current expenditures; AC unit, percentages of wage increases against retirement expectations, expenditures against budgeted sums, question about determining cruiser numbers, used cruiser search, money for new cruiser use, SUV cruiser.
- Solid Waste – Burning, signage and other items were discussed, ground broken, retirement expenditures not spent out, w-comp,
- Tax Collector- Discussion of increasing deputy tax collector; identifying mortgagees,
- Town Building Expenses –Discussion of bulkhead, repairs, old library building cap, heat and alarms, phone, etc.
- Town Clerk- increases in deputy were discussed; revenue relationship, municipal agent, absentee ballot costs

- Town Officers- Jim will provide breakdown of everything for part time assessor's clerk. Discussion occurred about increases, additional staff, auditing services, computer training, mileages, ADA services contractors, Exit 3 committee expenses, and office supplies versus office expenses, new stipend person for web site.
- Treasurer- postage and mileage were discussed

There was also discussion of legal expenses and proposed expenses.

Web Site

Ann updated the committee on the web information and it will be sent on to Tom Giffen. Some typos were noted for correction. Judy will review.

Motion to adjourn tendered by Ed Caito

Motion seconded by Ann Tierno.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM

-Respectfully submitted
Kristina Ickes

-Respectfully submitted
Kristina Ickes