

**Candia Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes of November 20th
APPROVED**

Present: Carla Penfield Chair person; Jim Brennan, Selectman's Representative; Brenda Stevens, Judith Szot, Steve Higgins, Ed Caito, School Board Representative, Kim Byrd, Kristine Pouliot Representatives for the School included Karen Lessard, Bob St, Cyr, Maria Suprenant, Phil Littlefield and K. Smith.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

School Budget Discussions:

A change was noted that the HS tuition is increasing as a result of Bedford leaving the school district; resulting in a 7% increase in the rate.

Questions were raised and answered about:

- School population – 2 grades left before the “bubble” has passed through and there is a return to normal increases in operating expenses.
- Title I monies are fixed, not a variable sum that can be requested.
- Phones and usage. Phones include 4 cell phones and land lines as well as access for data via T1 lines. \$11,200.00 of the budget is access for the data lines, security and routers.
- Workbook expenses as an element of strategy and/or curriculum were raised.
- Supplies and replacement textbook schedules were discussed in terms of the follow through purchases subsequent to curriculum development.
- Questions were raised about a default budget and the possibility raised that a default budget could be higher than the budget presented.
- Some discussion occurred about the contract negotiations and the possibility of the negotiations not being completed in time for the vote, in which case there could be a special meeting. More information should be available by January 3.
- There was discussion around warrant articles that are forthcoming as well as hearing dates.

The result is that the school budget is level funded. Representatives for the school budget were excused, there was a brief break and the meeting resumed.

New Business:

There was discussion of the ratio of the funding between the school budget and a town budget with a 2.5% increase. A handout was circulated by Kim Byrd highlighting employment statistics for the state of NH through Q3 of 2006.

Additional discussion revolved around increases in health insurance costs, with companies predicted to see inflation as 10 – 11% this year. One challenge noted is that the town and schools are insured in different rate pools.

Ed Caito tendered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judy Szot.

There was brief discussion about the upcoming meeting schedules.

The motion was voted unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

~Respectfully submitted
Kristina Ickes