

Candia Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 10th, 2008
Approved

Present: Carla Penfield Chair person; Brenda Stevens, Steve Higgins, Ed Caito, School Committee Representative, Kim Byrd, Jim Brennan, Selectman's representative, Kristine Pouliot, Ann Tierno, Judy Szot;

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Meeting called to order 7:04 PM

School Budget and Warrant Articles

Introductory comments are made by Carla Penfield regarding the hearing process, and asking for questions from those in attendance for the hearing. Ed Caito contributed comments and detail for anticipated expenses. This information helped to identify where the warrant article sums come from. Questions were raised about whether food service is funded by tax payers. The Auburn/Candia figures were not included at this point of the discussion. Another question is raised regarding the totals including all the warrant articles exclusive of the Auburn/Candia figures. \$7,190,000.00 is incomplete, not including Candia. The total does not include warrant article 7. Including article 7, the sum is. \$7,824,000.00. Questions were asked about year over year increases for the operating budget and the warrant articles and compare with the exception of Auburn. The 5.28% is the figure that has been arrived at as an increase.

Teacher contract called for increases of 1900.00 per year for each year of the contract. In the area of health insurance, teachers will be increasing their contribution an additional 1.5% for the first year of the contract with no further increases in years 2 and 3. There will be a modest increase to the district of \$750.00 for the increase in benefit coverage for dentistry to cover adult orthodontia. Questions were raised about the increase in health costs versus the increased portion being contributed by the teachers. The teacher's salaries being fixed (versus increasing or sliding) was discussed, as was the recommended increase of 2.5%. It is reviewed that the body of the teachers has not ability to flex against the market, as a competitive force, of the teachers and the union. The processes for the increases of the school versus the town were discussed in detail. Debate ensued regarding any perceptual conflict in how the school is handled by the Budget Committee versus the town. The question is of scrutiny, thus, the Budget committee would like to ensure the information has been clearly understood and is defensible. Discussion also revolved around the use of the school as an emergency shelter versus the town building.

Article 7

\$296, 707.93. is the sum proposed and discussed. The discussion revolved around the tuition agreement versus the operating component that is anticipated. Questions were raised about whether there will be forthcoming warrant articles or a line item in the operating budget, as well as the timelines for when the 20 years start.

In close of the public hearing, there is some discussion about process with the MS7. Procedure was also reviewed. Further discussion about Article # 2 follows. Judy Szot made a motion to recommend article 7. The total will be \$7,486,408.00. The motion was seconded by Steve Higgins. The vote is unanimous; the motion carries. The public hearing ends at 8:05 PM

The meeting continues and committee votes were taken on warrant articles.

Article 2 passed

Article 4 passed

Article 5 There was discussion about the school, capital reserve fund and what projects were in mind for the fund. HVAC and structural issues were discussed. The reserve funds were discussed. The object and purpose of the fund, as well as the needs, were reviewed. Motion by Ed Caito to recommend article 5. The motion is seconded by Jim Brennan 4 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Article 6

Motion by Ed Caito to recommend article 6, Ann Tierno seconded the motion. 7 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion carries.

Article 7

Ed Caito made a motion to recommend article 7. Steve Higgins seconds this motion. 2 in favor, 6 opposed 1 abstention.

Article 3

There is discussion about the article. Ed Caito moves that the BC recommend article 3. Motion was seconded by Brenda Stevens. The vote was unanimous and the motion carries.

Article 8

There is some discussion about the article.

Motion to adjourn made by Ed Caito

Discussion resumes over some new. Charlene resigned in mid December. Carolyn and Dawn have been picking up the matter of getting the posting done. Brenda will check to be sure the book is updated for Jan, Feb, and March. The deliberative session is February 2, (two deliberative sessions on the same day – the town begins at 9:00, the School district will be posted at 10:30 – if the town gets close to 10:30 – the town will go into recess to allow for the School District to get under) the next meeting is February 13th.

Open motion to adjourn was seconded by Jim Brennan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

~Respectfully committed.

Kristina Ickes