

Approved
Candia Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2009

Attendees: Chairman Ann Tierno, Carla Penfield, Erin Asselin, Kim Byrd, Allyn Chivers, Selectmen's Rep. Carleton Robie.

Absent: School Rep (not assigned yet), Judith Szot, Clark Thyng.

Chairman Ann Tierno called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes Review

- Review and approve prior meeting minutes. Motion to approve. Unanimous.

School Board Meeting

- Representatives of the Budget Committee were invited to meet with the School Board at their scheduled meeting. Ann gave members of the Board an opportunity to voice their opinion of the meeting.
- Allyn Chivers began with a recap of the meeting. School Board Chairman Ed Caito addressed the BC members present:
 1. Disappointed with the Budget Committee and the process.
 2. He felt they did not listen and made arbitrary decisions.
 3. Would like the administration to be more involved.
 4. Too many BC Meetings and is too much of a burden on the School Rep. To go to School Board Meetings and Budget Committee Meetings and perhaps the School Board may target specific meetings to attend.
 5. The BC should re-evaluate their process because of too many meetings.
 6. Suggested School Superintendent Littlefield meet with BC Chairman Ann Tierno to work out some issues.
- Selectmen Rep. Carleton Robie commented on how he felt the tone of Mr. Caito was very negative.

- Carla Penfield was unable to be present at the meeting but had several comments: In regards to the BC meetings, we do what we need to do, and at such time, we will cancel a meeting if we feel it necessary. It is her opinion that it is no business of any other board in the community as to how often they meet or don't meet. She feels the comment was totally inappropriate. In regards to the process, Her understanding was the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the process between the two Boards. It sounded as though that did not happen which in her opinion the meeting was a failure. She feels that as Chairman of the School Board it is Mr. Cato's responsibility to see that if he calls a meeting to at least do what he set's out to do. Also, as far as the School Board Representative, the Community elects a School Board Rep and part of the School Board's responsibility is to assign someone to the BC meetings and if they choose not to do that they are doing a disservice to the people who elected them.
- Ann commented that at the meeting the School Board did say that they would be appointing a representative in the near future.
- Resident and School Board Member, Ingrid Byrd made a statement that she felt a comment was made that the School Board expects the Budget Committee to "rubber stamp" the budget and she feels that is very inappropriate. She continued to say the Budget Committee is a representative of the citizens and the School Board represents the students and what goes on in the school. The Selectmen represent all their departments and the part of the Town's business that they operate. The Budget Committee represents the Residents. To make a statement that the BC should be "rubber stamping" is very insulting. Also, She felt that Ed was very loud and outspoken at the public hearing in February against the BC and his attitude came out at this meeting. She feels that Mr. Caito does not respect the BC and finds this very offensive.
- Carla responded by saying that Mr. Caito respected the BC when he was the School Board Representative and when he had an opportunity to delve into the Town budget he did that with vigor. She feels everyone should keep that in mind.
- Kim Byrd recommended that Chairman Tierno contact the DRA and inform them of the situation that the School Board has not yet appointed a representative and it is our understanding they are responsible by RSA to do so. Chairman Tierno will do that.
- Ann informed the Board that Dr. Littlefield graciously came out of the School Board Meeting as she left and shared some thoughts. She told him she would be happy to meet with him. Probably would ask Lynn Chivers to join them.

- Ann asked the Board for their input as to what additional questions they would like her to discuss with Dr. Littlefield when they meet. This would be in addition to the statement made that the BC made decisions arbitrarily, the “process” that Mr. Caito is referring to, the “rubber stamp” issue, and the representative.
- Lynn feels the inaccurate information that the BC received last year is very important to discuss with Dr. Littlefield.

Rules of Procedure

- Ann distributed copies of the Rules of Procedure.
- All new members should have a copy of the Municipal Budget Law.

Town Budget Reports

- Road Agent Dennis Lewis addressed the Board with concerns within the Highway Department Budget. The ice storm cleanup was charged to a line in his budget. We were reimbursed by FEMA. However, that particular line is not funded so it will look like an over expenditure. Beth will contact DRA to see if we could set up a separate account to take care of that.
- Received check from FEMA for over \$100,000.00 for all expenditures in a two-week time frame including salt & sand and payroll. \$48,000.00 should go back into the fund balance and the remaining goes into the general fund. Dennis said what possibly may happen though is the DRA may require the full amount go into the general fund and at the end of the year the Selectmen can replenish the fund balance with the \$48,000.00 and possibly any additional dollars they choose to put into the fund.
- Selectman Carlton Robie made a statement that clearly the Highway Department needs additional funds budgeted. It was acknowledged that the BC recommend the Highway Dept. get more funding for snow removal but the Selectmen did not take that recommendation. He commended Dennis on his diligence in relation to the request for funds from FEMA.
- The Budget Committee will keep the trend of over-expenditures in mind during the budget season for the Highway Department and take a good look at what the town has been spending for the last few years, and make another recommendation at that time.
- Dennis said the work that is being done currently is only necessary work not maintenance and inevitably sooner or later we will have a road expense that will be huge.

- Carla stated that the Town voted the default budget, which is approximately \$40,000.00 more than last years budget. In essence there should be \$40,000.00. However, none of that money can go into the budget this year. The Selectmen will have to look at each and every department to move money around.
- Ann polled the present BC members and asked if they would like to recommend that the Selectmen review the budget and make alterations to cover the over-expenditure in the highway department. All were in favor.
- The Budget Committee members present were polled and all agreed (Erin Asselin abstained) they would likely not vote for any additional money from the general fund again this year. Carlton will bring to the Selectmen a request that the BC recommends the Selectmen review their budget and determine what departments will reduce expenditures and where to cover the overage in the Highway Department. The BC is aware of the funds received from the hard work and diligence by the Road Agent Dennis Lewis. However, that is no guarantee this would happen again and the possibility that we could be significantly less in the future.
- Ingrid Byrd reminded the BC that back in the late fall the School was looking at a deficit of approximately \$70,000.00 dollars and at that time Dr. Littlefield stated there will be no purchases of any kind unless he personally approves it. Only necessities (i.e. salaries, energy bills, etc.) were funded. The school board is no longer projecting a deficit.
- Ann asked Carleton to look into why an unfunded line (storm repair) was used to spend money.
- The difference between Parks & rec and Other Culture & Recreation was explained and that Parks & Rec are responsible for both lines.
- Ann addressed the annoyance she has in regards to expenses for example the ski program. The money that is received from the program goes back into the general fund so therefore the BC does not see that as a wash item.
- The BC wanted to thank Beth for the new format on the reports. It is much easier to interpret. They would however like to replace the Prior Year PTD (period to date) with Last Year YTD (year to date) for comparison.
- Building in town has increased within the last two months. If the reports are changed we can compare last year at this time to the current year.

School Expense Reports

- Reviewed, interpreted, and general discussion of reports.
- Ingrid clarified on the Food Service Projected Financial Position report the parentheses on the bottom lines are not negative amounts.

Other Business

- No discussion of other business

Motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. All were in favor.

Recorded by Mary Phillips