

Approved
Candia Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2009

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

Absent: None

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

Old Business

- Review and approval of previous meeting minutes.
- The question arose at the last meeting what the protocol was for resignations. Ann consulted with the LGC & the DRA and was told it is not necessary for the BC Board to accept the resignation. Once a person resigns, that's it.
- School Rep. Melissa Madden submitted answers to the questions brought up at the June 10th meeting. (See attached).
- Selectmen's Rep. Carleton Robie submitted answers to the questions brought up at the June 10th meeting. (See attached). Carla asked Carleton if the town could count on the Highway Block Grant each year. Carleton's response was yes, but the 12% increase in last year's revenue was due to the fact that we received the Highway Block Grant check earlier.

Proposed Warrant Article

- Selectmen Dick Snow addressed the Budget Committee last month about proposing a warrant article that would change the date of the Deliberative Session, which would allow residents to review the Budget prior to the Deliberative Session. It was discussed that pushing the date of the Deliberative Session further out would result in pushing the budget work out which would give the public the same amount of time for review. Some expressed doubt that taxpayers would be any more informed prior to voting than they are now or were when we ran a Town Meeting. Many felt that the majority of taxpayers believe they have their say in the voting booth and are not interested in attending the Deliberative Session. They do not realize that they have an opportunity at the Deliberative Session to make a change. Carleton Robie and Kim Byrd said they have no interest in changing the existing process.

Superintendent Meeting

- Ann Tierno, Lyn Chivers, and Melissa Madden met with Superintendent Littlefield on July 7th. Ann felt it was a very productive meeting. They discussed some of the issues that arose last year as it pertained to preparation that the Budget Committee made and the decisions they made. Ann felt that some of the information was an “eye opener” for Dr. Littlefield. He also shared information with them that the BC did not have either in regard to some decisions that were made when they put together the budget. As a result, Dr. Littlefield will join the BC for the October 14th meeting. He will give an overview as to what will drive the budget and where they are headed and what the projected plan will be. Dr. Littlefield confirmed that he is the person of contact. Any questions the BC may have that are not answered by Melissa are to be directed to him.

09-10 Budget Season Dates

- Ann informed the BC Members of scheduled dates to make note. Jan 19, 2010 is the last possible date that the BC has to have their public meeting. The possible dates for the Deliberative Session need to fall between Sat, Jan 30th and Sat, Feb 6th. The BC recorded tentative dates for receipt of the budgets and meetings that would follow. Ann stated that she thinks

the January 19th date she was given is incorrect as the budget is required to be in to the Selectmen a week earlier.

- Carla spoke to the Board saying she would recommend the same Town Budget and School Budget as last year and send the same message to both that the economy has not improved and that they look at more ways to economize.
- Lyn agrees with Carla as well. She is not comfortable with any increase and is concerned with revenues. She would like to have level funding but bear in mind that would be an increase for the taxpayers.
- Judith stated that we have to remember that any increase that happens this year is going to be added to the increase we had last year.
- Carleton commented that he thinks it is important that the BC works with the Selectmen. He would like to submit a budget at the Deliberative Session that everyone agrees on.
- Kim said he would not recommend an increased budget.
- Ann's concern is that there are increases in the budget that automatically happen. She would like to see a level fund budget. However, at what point do we cut back so much that it puts us in a negative position.
- Erin said she definitely sees that we need to hold a tight reign on the expenses but also to keep in mind that we don't want to lower the services that we are offering to our children and townspeople. She supports the school budget but is in favor of reducing the town budget.
- School Rep. Melissa Madden feels the BC should start with the budget that the town voted on because she feels that the Selectmen do not look necessarily at what the BC presents. Carleton said the selectmen do take into consideration what the BC recommends. The Selectmen's budget went from 9% increase to a 2.4% increase in last years budget. It was at the Deliberative Session where the budget was changed.
- Carla recommends that the BC suggest decreasing the current town budget by 1% and the current school budget by 1%. She has suggestions on how to do that but will offer that information when that time comes.
- Lyn asked Melissa if there was a projected enrollment of students as to what we have this year. Melissa stated that we do not have a final number that we usually have an increase in July/August. It seems to be steady though.

- Ann asked the Board if they want to let the Selectmen and the School Board know they are looking to support budget requests with a 1% or more decrease over last year's budget. All were in favor of doing that for the town budget. Carla, Ann, Kim, Carlton, Judith and Allyn were in favor; Melissa and Erin both abstained in regard to the school budget.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm. All were in favor.

Recorded by Mary Phillips