

**Approved**  
**Candia Budget Committee Public Town Hearing**  
**And Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2010**

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

**Absent:** None

Chairman Ann Tierno called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Town Public Hearing**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Open floor to the public:
- Selectmen Duarte asked if the BC took into consideration the price of fuel on the department lines that would be effected. Ann Tierno said although there is an expected small increase it will not be over \$3.00 to 4.00 per gallon. Last year's budget was based on \$4.00 per gallon.
- Selectmen Lazott asked why the Police Cruiser line was zeroed out. What if there is an emergency? He is not interested in buying another cruiser. However, it would become necessary if one was crashed or died. We should have the money in there as a safety net. Chairman Tierno said the BC did not feel the need for a new cruiser this year especially given the fact that one is already encumbered with funds left in the 2009 budget. The BC increased the maintenance line rather than a new cruiser.
- **Q.** Ingrid Byrd asked how many cruisers the town has currently. The answer was five.
- **Q.** Selectmen Lazott made a statement regarding the Welfare Department Stipend. He said for the past few years although the Welfare Department was labeled Health and Welfare but the truth of the matter was that Bill Hallock, the Building Inspector was handling the Health part of the department. There are a lot more guidelines in both departments that are being handled now. He strongly recommends those lines not be reduced.

- Chairman Tierno reminded the public that the purpose of this meeting was for the Public to ask specific questions to the Budget Committee regarding the Proposed BC Budget.
- Selectmen Lazott felt the cutting in the Welfare Department budget was never brought back to the Selectmen and if he knew the Budget Committee was going to cut that department he would have been present at the BC meeting.
- Mrs. Byrd asked why the election line was increased. The answer was due to two additional elections this year.

**Motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:21 pm. All were in favor.**

### **Budget Committee Meeting**

- Review and discussion of the Proposed Budget, Expense Report and the Encumbered Report.
- Chairman Tierno spoke regarding buying the cruiser with surplus funds. If there is a zero in that line, they will not be able to buy a cruiser. Carla wants to leave it at zero. She feels the public would prefer they do not purchase a cruiser. The public wants the town to "tighten their belts". Judith said historically cruisers were bought with Warrant Articles. She would like to go back to that process.
- As of 12/31/09, there was approximately \$100,000.00 that the Selectmen will turn back to the people.
- Carla feels it is commendable. However, she feels they could have saved even more money and the cruiser is a thorn in everybody's side. We thought by increasing the maintenance line would prevent the purchase of a new cruiser.
- In addition to the approximate \$90,000.00 Carleton told members the winter and Summer Maintenance was paid through the operating budget. Not the Warrant Article which left a remaining \$75,504.00. Judith does not understand why we would not have used that money to repair the roads that our Road Agent said they could not do due to the lack of funds.
- There was a vote taken to add \$1.00 back into the cruiser line. 3 (Ann Tierno, Carleton Robie and Melissa Madden) in favor and 6 opposed (Carla Penfield, Lyn Chivers, Kim Byrd, Erin Asselin, Craig Sandler, Judith Szot). Line remains at zero.

- Lyn would like to go back to the Maintenance of Cruisers line and reduce the line back to the original amount from the Selectmen since they have encumbered a new cruiser since.
- A vote was taken to reduce the cruiser maintenance line from \$15,000.00 to \$6,500. Vote was unanimous to reduce line to \$6,500.00.
- Carla made a motion to leave the Welfare Stipend line at \$7,000.00. Seconded. Discussion followed. Carleton feels Candia is staying within the budget considering there is a still approx \$13,000.00 still unexpended from a budget of \$50,000.00. The Selectmen increased it to \$60,000.00 for 2010. He feels when they go back and look at the budget it could go back to \$50,000.00 easily. The Welfare Director took the job at \$10,000.00 and the Selectmen increased it to \$11,000.00. He feels it unfair after 4 months to reduce the stipend. Carleton said it should have been done before she was hired. She seems to be doing a good job and feels it should be at \$10,000.00. Craig feels if she was hired, in good faith at \$10,000.00 then the Town has some obligation to keep it at the \$10,000.00 until we find out what she does. Carla realizes that the Selectmen could be in a bind about this but they did not consider how much the department has grown expeditiously but the Town has not grown. It is difficult to put a stamp of approval on something that the Selectmen did when you do not feel what they did was the proper thing. Judith reminded the Board that it is a bottom line budget and the Selectmen can pay her what they want. A vote was taken to keep the budget at \$7,000.00. 6 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstained. The amount will remain at \$7,000.00.
- The difference between the Proposed Selectmen's Budget and the Proposed Budget Committee's Budget is approx. \$63,000.00.
- School Board Rep. Commented that the School Board presents a budget in November and those numbers do not change. If they want to make changes, they are done at the Deliberative Session. Discussion followed regarding the difference between the Proposed Selectmen's Budget and the Proposed BC's Budget.
- Carla brought up the fact that there are still encumbered funds that need to be adjusted within the BC budget. There was a motion to reduce the Police Department Ammunition line to \$1,500.00. Vote seconded. There was no discussion. All were in favor to reduce line to \$1,500.00.
- Motion to reduce the Town Equipment Maintenance line to \$3,750.00. 8 were in favor to reduce line to \$3,750.00 and 1 abstained.
- Fire Department submitted encumbered items totaling \$9,610.00. These were items they were told not to buy in 2009 due to budget restraints.

Carleton does not want to cut their budget any more. The FD asked Carleton why the BC reduced their protective clothing line and asked if he would request the BC reconsider that line. The reason was the BC researched protective clothing and found complete sets could be purchased for less.

- Melissa motioned to leave the Fire Department Budget at \$96,957.00. Motion was seconded. No discussion. 7 in favor and 2 opposed.
- The final Budget Proposed by the Budget Committee is \$2,323,233.78. Which is a 1.37% decrease from last year.

**Motion to adjourn at 8:38 pm. All were in favor.**

**Recorded by Mary Phillips**