

Approved  
Candia Budget Committee Meeting and  
Public Hearing on Town Warrant Articles  
January 13, 2010

Attendees: Chairman Ann Tierno, Carla Penfield, Craig Sandler, Judith Szot, Kim Byrd, Allyn Chivers, Selectmen's Rep. Carleton Robie, School Rep. Alternate Ingrid Byrd.

Absent: Erin Asselin (excused), School Rep. Melissa Madden (excused).

Chairman Tierno called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- Ann asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the Warrant Articles done each year. Starting with Warrant Article cover sheet (N) to (P), Carla moved to support the articles. 5 were in favor 1 abstained (Craig Sandler).
- Special Detail (EE): 5 were in favor with 1 abstained (Craig Sandler).
- Craig Sandler does not like how some of the articles have dedicated funds. He does not feel it is a good policy. All monies should go back into the general fund so there is more latitude in terms of moving money around so it could be applied to the taxes.
- Winter Road Contingency (I): Move to recommend with a second. Discussion: Judith said since we did not use the funds last year she will not support it. Carla commented on the purpose of the article is to set money aside in case of a bad winter and the regular budget cannot support what happens in the winter. It is cautionary money. Lynn feels if the money is left out, and we have a bad winter, then we definitely will not get things done. It is important to have the money there so if there is an ice storm or flooding, we would have the money in the budget. 7 were in favor, 1 opposed (Judith Szot).
- Playground Maintenance (NN): Carla feels it is a nominal amount of money and she feels no reason not to allow \$500.00 to work on the playground. All were in favor with 1 abstained (Kim Byrd)
- Fitts Museum (LL): No discussion. All were in favor.
- Road Reconstruction on Patten Hill (BB): Discussion: Kim Byrd said because it does not say non transferable he will not vote for it. Carleton

said the article reads for the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of Patten Hill so the Selectmen do not intend to use it for anything else. Road Agent, Dennis Lewis said the Town Attorney previously said the money could be moved however, any selectmen that chose to move the funds when it clearly is for a specific purpose probably would regret doing so. It has never been used for anything other than its intended purpose. 7 were in favor with 1 opposed (Kim Byrd).

- Capital Reserve – Revaluation: Discussion: Kim Byrd asked how many years do we have to put money in the fund? Selectmen Robie told him five years. There will be a complete revaluation in 2014. 7 approved with 1 opposed (Kim Byrd).
- Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator (Y): Discussion – Craig asked if the equipment belongs to the Volunteer FD or to the Town. Fire Chief Dean Young said the town owns the equipment which is kept in the rescue truck. The current one is 12 – 15 years old and must be upgraded to the newer technology. It is what the professionals use, is the best we can buy, and feels its money best spent. The article reads to raise & appropriate \$35,000.00. However, a donation in the amount of \$10,000.00 will come from the Candia Volunteer Firefighters Association. A motion was made **to not recommend**. 1 voted in favor of **not recommending** (Kim Byrd) 7 opposed. A new motion was made to recommend the article. Discussion: Kim Byrd questioned why the money would be expended under the fire dept. rather than the selectmen and Carleton' response was that the selectmen leave it up to the professionals buy such equipment. All were in favor and 1 abstained (Kim Byrd).
- Fire Dept Paid Call Comp. Plan (AA) Carla made a motion to **not** recommend. Carla said she feels more information is needed. Carleton said it is to establish a line item for 2010. Fire Chief explained the intention is to get a stipend for the Volunteers starting in 2011. Carla said if we vote for this, it is essentially putting our stamp of approval and she does not feel there is enough info to do that. Dean said there will be an explanation at the Deliberative Session how this plan will work. 7 in favor with 1 abstained (Carleton Robie).
- Construct a swap shop (DD) Carla made a motion **not** to recommend with discussion: Carla said we need a plan and wants more information. Lyn said the Selectmen and the Solid Waste would have a lot to do with this. The intent is to start to recycle some of the things we are paying for to have hauled away. Carla mentioned how poorly the state of the old swap shop with it becoming a dumping ground at times. 7 in favor with 1 opposed (Lyn Chivers).

- Fire Dept Cap. Res. Fund (MM) – Motion to recommend. Discussion followed with Lyn Chivers objecting to giving \$35,000.00 for future equipment. She would prefer that when it is needed to ask at that time. Carla asked what piece of equipment would be necessary to buy. Fire Chief responded with probably a rescue truck. 3 in favor (Ann Tierno, Craig Sandler and Carleton Robie) and 5 opposed (Carla Penfield, Kim Byrd, Ingrid Byrd, Lyn Chivers, Judith Szot).
- Police Special Detail Revolving Fund (HH) – Carleton explained that the purpose of this article is to make it unnecessary to appropriate the \$55,000.00 each year. The officers would be paid from this fund and if there is anything left the Police Department can use the funds for other purchases they may need. Selectmen Lazott said this article would circumvent the need for \$55,000.00 from the taxpayer and the burden would ultimately fall on the people paying for the details. Lynn asked that if this money goes into this fund how would the taxpayers get the portion they are suppose to with special detail. Judith asked if the fund reaches zero then where would the additional money come from. Carla made a motion **not** to recommend. She would like someone to come in and explain how this would work. Kim seconded. Craig is opposed to having dedicated funds in any part of the budget. All revenues the town receives should go into the general fund. This gives the Selectmen greater latitude to move the money around. A major concern cited was that the fund does not guarantee that vehicle maintenance, etc. will be paid for through this fund. All were in favor **not** to recommend this article.
- Cable Access (GG) – Motion to **not** recommend. Kim said we have a system that is expending the money now and there is no need to change it. Ingrid pointed out that the article implies more employees. All were in favor not to recommend this article.

### **Public Hearing**

**Chairman Tierno called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 7:25 pm.**

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Article (A) - Budget Committee recommended the Operating Budget of \$2,323,233.78. Selectmen Lazott asked the BC if they would consider going to a level funded budget. Ann answered once the Committee has finalized their decision after the Public Hearing they cannot make any changes. Carla commented that it would have been very possible if the Committee had known the Selectmen were willing to recommend a level funded budget they would have found that the Committee would have gone along with it. However, no one indicated that.

- Town Office Bldg Maintenance Fund (B) – Recommended
- Mosquito Control Program (D) – **Not** Recommended. Town Resident, Erik Shifflett, whose daughter was affected with EEE, spoke to the Budget Committee on behalf of the public from an economic standpoint. He spoke of Charmingfare Farm and Candia Water Park and how it could effect the revenue if the town is known for problems with EEE. Housing Sales could also be effected. If the plan was put in place now we could be reimbursed 25% by the state. He continued to say that the job of the town body and the Budget Committee and all the forms of government within the town is to protect the populous and the fact that we have seen so many animals infected by EEE in the area, personally he is surprised we have not seen more human cases. He feels if there are more cases in the upcoming year and the BC did not recommend it could have been a catalyst for a no vote there would be finger pointing. Selectmen Lazott explained when he worked with the Health Officer the state said there must be a plan in place and this plan will affect the lava. He is in favor of this before spraying. Mr. Shifflett also said BTI kills the mosquito and some black fly larvy, and it would definitely be more effective and there is no harm to the environment.
- Road Mosquito Adulticide Spraying (E) – In discussion, Craig Sandler said his reason for voting against this would be that mosquito's breed on standing water and spraying would not get to the problem. Mr. Shifflett asked if it would be possible for anyone on the Budget Committee to explain why they voted no on Article (D). Judith Szot commented that mosquitos do not only breed in pools they breed under wet leaves and last year was an incredibly rainy year. Mr. Shifflett said the disruption in the life cycle early in the season has proven very effective in Massachusetts. We should replicate this success story. Selectmen Lazott said the state and those authority on the subject say the earlier attack that breaks the life cycle is much more effective.
- Smyth Public Library (F) - No discussion.
- Household Hazardous Waste Day (G) - No discussion
- CYAA (H) - No discussion
- \$75,000.00 Winter Road Maintenance (I) – Discussion on possibly lowering it to \$45,000.00
- Articles (J), (K), (L), (M), (N), (O), (P), (Q), (R), (S), (T), (U), (V), (W), (X). No Discussion.

- Old Smyth Public Library (X) – Selectman Lazott has no objection to a committee to study the situation however, he is not in favor of the designees that are listed on the article.
- Article (Y), (AA), (BB), (EE), – No discussion.
- Recycling Revolving Fund (FF) – Selectmen Lazott stated that is approx. \$40,000.00 that would normally go into the general account. He does not see how you can give an appointed board authority to expend money of that nature.
- Cable Access Enhancement Revolving Fund (GG) – No discussion.
- Special Detail Revolving Fund - Discussion of Article (Z) Similar to Article (HH) Police Chief McGillen explained to the BC why he is in favor of the revolving account. He also said many of the surrounding towns are implementing these types of accounts. Selectmen Robie feels it is not beneficial to the town. He stated currently the town receives a portion of the fees charged to offset the cost to the town for the vehicle and with this new fund, the town doesn't see any of the money.
- Article (LL), (MM), & (NN) – No discussion.

### **School Warrant Articles**

- Review of Proposed School Warrant Articles - Recommended by the Budget Committee with no discussion.

**Motion to close Public Hearing at 8:17 pm. All were in favor.**

### **Budget Committee Meeting**

- Review and discussion of Article (D). Kim Byrd did not feel there was enough information provided to discuss. Carleton disagreed. He felt Mr. Shifflett did provide quite a bit of information. Ingrid feels there is so much standing water in town that it would be almost impossible to put a dunk in every pool of water. Also, the consensus at the School Public Hearing was personal responsibility. Decision was made not to re-open discussion.
- No additional discussion on Article (E).
- Article (X) Old Smyth Public Library – Carla asked who put the Article in. Carleton said the Board of Selectmen said they did not. However, it was only discussed within the Heritage Committee. He feels this article is

premature. Selectmen Lazott said the Article would very likely be removed.

- Article (I) The Selectmen may possibly reduce the Winter Road Maintenance line from the recommended amount of \$75,000.00 to \$45,000.00. Would the BC support that? The BC would not have sufficient time following the Selectmen's meeting on Friday to notice a new Public Hearing for discussion on that change. The Selectmen indicated they would wait until the Deliberative Session to change the figure.

### **Other Business**

- Chairman Tierno tabled the School & Town Income and Expense Reports until the next meeting to allow the members to review them.
- Notice of the School and Town Deliberative Session posting.
- Positions up for re-election are Craig Sandler and Judith Szot.

**Motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm. All were in favor.**

**Recorded by Mary Phillips**