

# Town of Candia Municipal Budget Committee Public Hearing on Town Budget Approved Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** December 12, 2018  
**Location:** Town Office Building  
**Attendees:** Lynn Chivers  
Bob Stout  
Sue Young  
Todd Keating  
Dick Snow  
Jodi Hedstrom  
Susan Gill  
Kaycee Vitale  
**Absent:** Katrina Niles  
Stephanie Helmig

Chairman Chivers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

## **Approval of Minutes from 11/28 and 12/5**

- 11/28 Meeting Minutes
  - Chairman Chivers added Karen Lessard in place of Karen
  - Bob Stout would like to go back to abbreviated minutes
    - 6 in favor of abbreviated version (Lynn Chivers, Bob Stout, Susan Gill, Todd Keating, Dick Snow, Jodi Hedstrom)
    - 1 opposed (Sue Young)
      - Dick Snow motions to approve as amended
      - Susan Gill Seconds
      - Motion Passed Unanimously
- 12/5 Meeting Minutes
  - Chairman Chivers will clarify what Karen Lessard was talking about on page 4 where it indicated SEPSA by sending an email
    - Dick Snow motions to approves minutes subject to Karen Lessard's clarification
    - Jodi Hedstrom seconds
    - Susan Gill abstains
    - Motion Passed

## **Public Hearing on Town Budget**

Chairman Chivers opens the meeting for public comment.

- Carla Penfield asks for \$5000 to be placed back into the Smyth Memorial Building Fund. She asked the board why the money was taken out and asked what it is about the building that is not favorable.
  - Chairman Chivers responded that the first issue is understanding the ultimate use of the building and the second issue is that there is a line item and a warrant article.
    - Carla Penfield responded that the building belongs to the town and the projects they have been doing are to preserved the asset and fix necessary parts of the building to protect it from the elements. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details
    - Carla Penfield gave details on how the remaining \$7000 budget for this year will be spent. Play audio version for details.
    - Jodi Hedstrom responded to Carla Penfield by saying that she does not think that the trustees are not being responsible with the money, she would like to see a use in mind for the building so the Budget Committee knows if the expenditures are prudent. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.
    - Selectman Young explained her position on the Smyth Memorial Building and would like to see the money be placed back in the budget. She also asked Carla Penfield to fully

explain the expenditures because when the Budget Committee voted on the budget there were still unanswered questions around the \$5000 for electrical service

- Carla Penfield explained that the electrical service in the building is a hazard. The socket is the original from 1930. Play audio version for details.
- Felix Sheppard also spoke up in support of the Smyth Building and putting the \$5000 back in the budget for the Smyth Memorial Building and the use and maintenance of all of our town buildings. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.
- Russ Dan asked for a use for the building. He explained a group of people came forward in the past to petition for the use of the building as a community building. When presented to the trustees it was not accepted. He further said explained that as a citizen he would like to see what the building is being used for before putting more money in the budget. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.
- Dean Young spoke up in support for the Smyth Building and putting the \$5000 back in the budget to upgrade the electrical to make it safe and gave the suggestion to give even more than the recommended budget. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.
- Judith Szot spoke up in support for the Smyth Building and putting the \$5000 back in the budget to upgrade the electrical and make it safe. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.
- Carla Penfield responded to Russ Dan around using the Smyth Memorial Building as a community center. Play audio version for details.
- Selectman Young responds in support for the Smyth Memorial Building and their volunteers and hopes that the Budget Committee will reinstate the \$5,500 back in the budget. Play audio version for details.
- Felix Sheppard gave clarification on a slate roof, which is currently the roof on the Smyth Memorial Building, and the cost associated with it.
- Bob Stout responded to Selectman Youngs comments
- Susan Gill spoke up in encouragement of tonight's discussion but would still like to see a plan for the building. In her opinion if we have a plan in place the budget committee would be willing to support the expenditures.
  - Judith Szot explained that there was a plan 6 years ago but the town voted it down. The trustees have been trying to preserve the building until the town has a plan for the building. The building would need electrical, water, and septic.
  - Susan Gill suggests resurrecting a plan as there is a desire to get the building up and running, even if it takes a few years of budgeting.
  - Russ Dan responded that there are plans and the reason it was voted down was because it was presented to the town as a dollar amount instead of a reasonable use for the building.
- Boyd Chivers asked the committee to show their support for the trustees and show their confidence in the trustees and what they are doing with the building. He supports putting the money back in the budget.
- Carla Penfield responded that the work that they are asking to be done in the budget, would not have to be redone. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.

Chairman Chivers closed the meeting for public comment

### **Budget Committee Vote on Recommended Town Budget**

Chairman Chivers explained that there were some changes to the budget since the last vote. A breakdown was provided by Donna Becker. Those changes were short term disability and payroll taxes for the longevity pay. This added \$1,159 to the budget. If we approve a recommended budget Donna Becker asks that we add those items to the budget. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.

Budget Committee to only review the line items that they removed from the initial recommended vote.

- Planning Board
  - Budget Committee reviewed an email sent by Rudy Cartier in response to removing \$10,000 from the planning board.

- Dick Snow commented that he believes the \$10,000 for the Planning Board is realistic but his suggestion is that they make it a warrant article instead of increasing the operating budget. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.
- Chairman Chivers will respond to Rudy Cartier with the Budget Committee's suggestion on making the \$10,000 a warrant article.
- Smyth Memorial Building Budget Vote
  - Dick Snow makes the suggestion to the Smyth Memorial Building Trustee's to increase their warrant article by the \$5,500 and not use it in the operating budget.
    - Selectman Young responded to Dick Snow that it is her belief that the warrant article is being used as a savings account. The \$5,500 is in the operating budget to be used for operating the building. Discussion ensued, play audio version for details.
  - Selectman Young motions to put back the \$5,500 into the budget for the Smyth Memorial Building maintenance line.
  - Susan Gill Seconds
    - 6 in favor (Lynn Chivers, Bob Stout, Susan Gill, Todd Keating, Selectman Young, Jodi Hedstrom)
    - 1 opposed (Dick Snow)
    - Motion Passed
- Vote on recommended Town Budget
  - Bob Stout makes a motion to approve the increase in the disability line to \$7,900, approve the webmaster FICA and MEDI to \$774, and approve the \$5,500 to the Smyth Memorial Building maintenance fund to bring the total budget to \$2,798,847.
  - Todd Keating seconds the motion,
  - Motion passed unanimously

### Questions on Warrant Articles

- Chairman Chivers would like to review for questions but not vote until all members of the Budget Committee are present.
- Budget Committee reviewed the warrant articles pertaining to the Library, Charities, Smyth Memorial Building, Reevaluation Reserve Fund, Fitz Museum, Excess Winter Road Maintenance, Adams Road and Reserve Fund for the Fire Apparatus and the Town Office. For full details and discussion review the audio tape.
- Budget Committee asked to review the letters pertaining to the charities and how they have helped the town of Candia.

Bob Stout makes a motion to continue meeting until January 9<sup>th</sup>

Todd Keating Seconds

Meeting to Continue; 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by: Kaycee Vitale, Administrative Assistant