

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

Meeting Date: December 21, 2020
Location: Town Office Building
Zoom Meeting ID# 894-2142-4046
Attendees: Lynn Chivers
Dick Snow (attended via Zoom)
Jodi Hedstrom
Susan Gill
Stephanie Helmig (attended via Zoom)
Bob Stout
Sue Young
Todd Keating
Kaycee Vitale
Absent: Katrina Niles
Guest: Members of the School Board via Zoom

Chairman Chivers opened the meeting at 7:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing on School Budget

Chairman Chivers opened the meeting for public comment however but there were no public in attendance so the public hearing portion was closed.

Questions/Comments for the School from the Board

- Chairman Chivers mentioned to the school board that when looking at the budgets she reviewed a lot of town reports. The school portion of the 2019 town report had minimal information and it was not very useful. The town portion gives a summary of what is spent, what is encumbered, and what is leftover. The school portion lacks that information. She is hoping to see that information in the 2020 report.
 - Amy Ransom noted that she has followed what has historically been put in the report but she will compile that information similar to the town for the town report.

Budget Committee to Discuss and Vote on 2021-2022 School Budget

- Chairman Chivers noted that when we come up with a budget for the school, she wants to make it clear if it contains the federal state grants and the food services.
- Selectman Young wanted to look at reducing the budget by at least the amount that we do not pay Manchester in capital costs anymore.
 - Jodi Hedstrom said that taking into consideration the reduction in paying Manchester and the reduction of a teacher salary while adding in the almost \$300,000, we are looking at a budget increase of about \$600,000.
 - Stephanie Helmig answered that the non-contracted items only come to \$127,936.00
 - Chairman Chivers reminded everyone that the default budget is not the money that is spent, it is the money that was budgeted including the encumbrances.
 - Amy Ransom wanted to inform the board that the increases on the union collective bargaining agreement was almost \$54,000 added to the default budget. This is an uncontrollable item. There was about \$131,000 increase in Pinkerton tuition which is also an uncontrollable item. The decreases mentioned above help to not increase the default budget as much. If the committee was to cut another \$180,000 it would significantly impact services and programs to the students.

- Bob Stout mentioned the worksheet that went back 5 years that was brought to the last meeting. He mentioned that we have added 2 million dollars of expenses in the last 5 years.
- Jodi Hedstrom asked if there were 8 charter school children last year vs. 24 for next year? Also, what alternatives are being looked at to make the school more modern and up to date with what other surrounding towns are offering?
 - Stephanie Helmig said that this is a discussion for the larger population and may not necessarily be a budget discussion.
- Amy Ransom mentioned that the School Board is running really tight this year and cautioned the board when looking at the fund balance when determining the budget. The trends do not necessarily correlate with what is happening at this time.
- Discussion ensued around controllable vs. uncontrollable expenses and how that works into the budget. Refer to audio for details.

Budget Committee to Vote on 2021-2022 School Budget

- Bob Stout made a motion to approve the proposed school budget of \$9,439,622.00.
 - Todd Keating seconds the motion
 - 5 in favor (Susan Gill, Todd Keating, Dick Snow, Stephanie Helmig, Bob Stout)
 - 3 opposed (Jodi Hedstrom, Selectman Young, Lynn Chivers)
 - 1 absent (Katrina Niles)
 - Motion passes

Budget Committee to Re-Vote on 2021-2022 Remaining School Warrant Articles

- Warrant Article #2 – Audio Video Equipment
Shall the Candia School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of purchasing audio video equipment for the live streaming/recording of school board meetings and school events.
 - 0 in favor
 - 8 opposed (Todd Keating, Selectman Young, Susan Gill, Bob Stout, Chairman Chivers, Dick Snow, Stephanie Helmig, Jodi Hedstrom)
 - 1 absent (Katrina Niles)
 - Not recommended by a vote of 8-0
- Warrant Article #3 – Building upgrade
Shall the Candia School District vote to authorize the School Board to enter into a multiyear (15 year) lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$2,415,000 (Two million four hundred fifteen thousand dollars) for the purpose of installing energy saving equipment including but not limited to LED lighting, heating systems, roof replacements, HVAC upgrades, insulation, and other improvements to the Candia Moore School, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$204,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Future payments will be offset by guaranteed energy savings and a reduction in utility and fuel costs for the district.
 - 2 in favor (Susan Gill, Stephanie Helmig)
 - 6 opposed (Bob Stout, Chairman Chivers, Todd Keating, Selectman Young, Dick Snow, Jodi Hedstrom)
 - 1 absent (Katrina Niles)
 - Not Recommended by a vote of 6-2

Other Business

- Bob Stout asked a procedural question asked if alternates are required for the Selectman if the Selectman Representative on the budget committee is not present for a vote, like last meeting.
 - Chairman Chivers noted that she as the budget committee chairperson was not notified that the alternate was not coming to the last meeting.
 - Selectman Young said she believes that any Selectman present could have stepped in and voted
 - Chairman Chivers said she would have to be notified to seat them and have them vote.
- Chairman Chivers also answered the question from last meeting around voting at the Deliberative Session. It was determined that if you are on Zoom you are not allowed to vote.

Susan Gill makes a motion to suspend the meeting until January 13th

Bob Stout Seconds

All in favor

Meeting to Continue; 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaycee Vitale, Administrative Assistant