

# Town of Candia Municipal Budget Committee Approved Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** December 6, 2022  
**Location:** Town Office Meeting Room

**Attendees:** Lynn Chivers (Chairman)  
Dick Snow  
Russ Dann (Selectman)  
Susan Gill  
Katrina Niles (absent)  
Rob Jones (absent)  
Todd Keating (Vice Chairman)  
Stephanie Helmig (School Board Rep)  
Brenda Coughlin (Secretary)

Chairman Chivers opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

## **Approval of the Minutes from November 30, 2022**

- Katrina Niles motioned to approve minutes
- Todd Keating seconds the motion
- Motion passed unopposed

## **Town Budget Public Hearing**

Bob Stout Diamond Hill Road commented on cemetery budget page 2. Asked the budget committee to refund what was cut. Felt the weather was unusually dry and he mulched leaves, so he just charged the usual rate. The town doesn't have equipment hired help uses own equipment. He urged to support fully funding budget request

Lynn Chivers stated \$5000.00 was removed by budget committee

Rudy Cartier addressed the planning board budget request on page 5. Contracts were reviewed such as moving a more robust master plan forward. Proposed expenditures are estimated for the next 10 years. Impact fees, GIS system a comprehensive database to help planning board address builders' requests/plans. The land use office will benefit greatly with. Cemetery data will also be gathered for use. This will ease up the demand for the Land Use department. Town access data collection for Road Agent use. Prioritizing road upgrades will be helpful with this system. So many departments will be able to benefit from the system.

Lynn Chivers asked Rudy what he was exactly asking the budget committee to change.

Rudy Cartier asked for the \$8500 master planning implementation & restore money into building department under special projects. He requested the budget committee replace \$2500 which is a compromise from the \$5000. The BOS supported that.

Lynn Chivers clarified the committee left the \$8500 and just made changes to the special projects line which is now called Land Use Project Management

Kathleen Tierny New Boston Rd voiced her support for the planning board and requested that any money requested by board be provided, the role of the Planning Board is under increased pressure and requires resources to move forward.

Judi Lindsey North Rd supports previous speakers and requests funds to be able to provide the needed services to the town and to meet all the regulations.

Lynn Chivers asked when the last time the town charged Impact fees

Rudy Cartier explained several months prior however not all the fees were charged because of new RSA changes etc.

Boyd Chivers shared that an educational workshop was provided to the BOS regarding the town ambulance service which resulted in the understanding that running this service is more complex than

originally understood. He proposed hiring a part time position to manage financial accounting, coordinate training, credentialing. Mike Kelley has been very supportive as a volunteer. This hourly position would be given to Mike. A job description has been created and he requests funding of \$10,500.00.

Lynn Chivers asked for clarification from the BOS why the remaining money was left in the ARPA funds, which the budget committee recommended the reduction of wages by \$23,000.00 (reduced wages from \$273k to 250k). It has been found the BOS put it back to \$273,000.

Andria Hansen stated the BOS didn't add it back she just left the line item the same but that the Budget Committee can still adjust.

Susan Young wanted it to be recognized that the bottom line for the town budget without warrant articles is 16.44%. If the ambulance is creating 10% of that then this means the town budget increase remains at 6.44%. She referred to a fellow Selectboard's approach as the board was looking at budget items: "what's more important, an ambulance or this/that"? She asked if we could please keep in mind what the priorities for the town are. Yes, everything requested is important, but things do need to be adjusted and she feels the taxpayers will not be able to afford this proposed budget.

Todd Keating asked how the BOS voted on the budget we received.

Susan Young stated four to one. Susan was the one who did not vote in support of the current budget.

Beth Chalbeck Podunk Road spoke to the budget cut and requested to replace the \$5,000.00 removed.

#### Warrant Articles

Lynn Chivers moved focus on to the warrant articles for public comment opportunity. Budget Committee would make preliminary vote

#### Article 3 – Library

Brenda Coughlin asked why the budget request shows an increase? What will be left in this current year's budget? When will we get all the final dollar encumbrances, and will that be before our final vote?

Lynn Chivers stated wages, electricity, heating cost. She was unaware of exact amount, but insurance did not pay the Directors salary for 6 months. Our January 11 2023, meeting is a supplemental meeting where we will have that information for our final recommendations.

*Motion to recommend article 3: Todd Keating, Russ Dann seconds motion:*

*Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Susan, Stephanie (5). No – Brenda (1). Abstain until encumbrances – Dick (1).*

#### Article 4 – CYAA

*Motion to recommend article 4: Todd Keating, Susan Gill seconds motion:*

*Yes – Russ Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Susan, Stephanie, Dick (7). No – (0).*

#### Article 5 – Recycling Improvement Warrant Article

Russ Dan explained the burn pits need replacement, the equipment is 18 years old, the building is old. Want the funds to complete. This is a new item.

Todd Keating asked for a cost plan to justify this request. Discussion ensued, listen to audio.

*Motion to recommend article 5: Russ Dann, Dick Snow seconds motion.*

*Yes – Russ, Dick (2). No – Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Susan, Stephanie (5).*

#### Article 6 – Winter Road Maintenance

*Motion to recommend article 6: Susan Gill, Lynn Chivers seconds motion:*

*Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Susan, Stephanie (6). No – Dick (1)*

#### Article 7 Tower Hill Rd

Todd Keating and Stephanie Helmig wanted a better understanding of cost savings with road investments

*Motion to recommend: Todd Keating*

*Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Susan, Stephanie, Dick (6). No – (0) [Susan Gill left meeting before vote]*

#### Article 8 South Rd (discussion regarding overlay, not rebuild) More details requested for project

*Motion to recommend article 8: Stephanie, Russ seconds motion*

*Yes – Russ, Lynn, Stephanie, Dick (4). No – Todd, Brenda (2)*

#### Article 9 – Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve

*Motion to recommend article 9: Russ, Brenda seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Lynn, Todd, Brenda, Stephanie, Dick (6) No – (0)*

Article 10 Fire Station Infrastructure Fund

*Motion to recommend article 10: Todd, Stephanie seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Stephanie, Dick (6). No (0)*

Article 11 Re-evaluation

*Motion to recommend article 11: Brenda, Russ seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Stephanie, Dick (6). No - (0)*

Article 12 Fitts Museum

*Motion to recommend: Dick, Brenda seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Stephanie, Dick (6). No - (0)*

Article 13 – Town Office Building Maintenance Fund

*Motion to recommend: Russ, Brenda seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Stephanie, Dick (6). No - (0)*

Article 14 – Smyth Memorial Building Fund

*Motion to recommend: Todd, Stephanie seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Stephanie (4). No - Brenda (1) Abstain Dick (1)*

Article 15 – RSA Veterans Tax Credits (audio)

*Motion to recommend: Todd, Brenda seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Stephanie (5). No – (0). Abstain – Dick (1)*

Articles 17-20, & 22-26 Charity articles (\$21,889.00)

*Motion to recommend: Dick, Russ seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Dick (2) No – Todd, Lynn, Brenda, Stephanie (4)*

Article 21 – Child Advocacy Center

*Motion to recommend: Stephanie, Russ seconds motion  
Yes – Russ, Lynn, Stephanie, Dick (4). No – Todd, Brenda (2)*

Public portion of the hearing.

Lynn Chivers suggests we look at just the changes and vote on the bottom line.

Ambulance Wages – Remove \$23,000 & use ARPA funds

New Ambulance Line: \$306,387.00

Building – Land Use Project leave the \$2500.00 (\$117, 024)

Cemetery - \$5000 wage line removed (\$37,160)

Election we reduced and BOS approved

Highway Maintenance - BOS removed \$9,000

Solid Waste – Household waste day is now a petition article

Town Building expenses – reduced the \$7,000 to \$1,000 BOS agreed

COLA – was reduced from 6.5 – 4% (\$89,000) Town Admin changed

Bottom line budget

BOS - \$3,711,071.00

BC – \$3,688,071.00 BC removed \$23,000)

*Discussion: Todd Keating said if the budget for 2023 was flat lined but add in the ambulance the bottom line would be \$3,492,626.00. That would be a 6.25% increase VS the 16.47% increase. The default budget will not include ambulance budget.*

*Lynn Chivers discussed the reality that if you vote no on this recommended budget, you will be voting for the default budget. The choices and the recommended budget may not be what you desire but unfortunately those are the two choices. Discussion ensued over if cuts were made deep enough because default will not support the ambulance.*

*Todd Keating shared the easy part is to explain the need for the increase, but the hard part is how to cut the budget. With home budgets we face an increase in fuel costs which we can't control but then you look at your expenses and make cuts to handle that fuel cost.*

*Dick Snow wanted to understand why we aren't using the unreserved fund balance to lessen taxes.*

*Preliminary recommendation: Stephanie make motion to approve \$3,688,071.00 for 2023 Budget Lynn seconds the motion*

*Yes – Stephanie, Lynn (2). No – Brenda, Dick, Russ, Todd (4).*

*This meeting will continue until our supplemental meeting.*

With there being no further business,

Todd Keating makes a motion to continue the meeting.

Russ Dann seconds motion

Motion passes unopposed.

This meeting is continued until January 11, 2023 @ 7pm

Next meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> there is the public hearing on the school budget.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Submitted by: Brenda Coughlin, Interim Secretary