

Town of Candia
Budget Committee Meeting
November 20, 2023
7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room
and via Zoom

Lynn Chivers called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees: Susan Young (Selectmen's Rep)
Katrina Niles
William Saffie
Lynn Chivers, Chair
Josh Reap
Bob Stout
Stephanie Helmig
Susan Gill

Absent: Brenda Coughlin

Old Business:

- **Minutes from October 25, 2023, meeting.**

Bob Stout made a motion to accept the minutes of October 25, 2023.

Josh Reap seconded the motion.

Stephanie and Susan Gill abstained.

The motion passed. 7-2-0

- **Answer any questions from previous meeting.**

None

- **Additional comments regarding the Town budget**

Bob asked if there is any idea of what the default budget will be.

Susan Young said no, not yet.

Bob said he had asked if \$50,000 was pulled out of Jeff's budget, what could they cut.

He asked Susan Young if it is too late to ask the bigger departments what they can cut from budget.

Susan Young said it is not too late. She suggested asking every department not just the top 5. Maybe it could come down from 10 to 7.

Lynn would rather the department head make the decision on what to cut instead of the budget committee telling them what to cut.

It was decided to bring it to the public hearing and taking another vote if any changes.

New Business

- **Review school budget and prepare questions for the joint meeting with school board, administration, and SAU.**

Lynn asked if there will be any warrant articles from the school. Stephanie said there will be two.

Stephanie let the committee know that Pinkerton came in at 5.84% instead of 7%.

They are in negotiations with Pinkerton now, but she doesn't think there will be a cap.

Susan Young asked for the total enrollment for the past three or four years broken down between high school and all other.

Bob said in this year's budget, they have a cost for painting the cupola and a few classrooms. He asked why it wasn't done this year with the overage.

Stephanie said they couldn't do it this year.

The committee agreed to go through section two.

Bill asked what the default budget is. Lynn explained that if the town votes no on the budget, they get the default budget. This is the current year budget, any contractual increases, less any one-time purchases.

Regular Education

Lynn said last year they lost staff and wants to know what positions left and what positions came in. Stephanie said a reading specialist.

Lynn asked which line has the resource officer.

Susan Young asked if there were any teachers retiring.

Stephanie said no, not this year.

Josh said the workshop professional fees went up quite a bit. Can the school apply to the New Hampshire Job Fund for reimbursement for the training?

Stephanie said that may be in their contract; she would have to ask.

Josh asked about the replacement of furniture line item. Is the \$11,200 a quote?

Stephanie said she assumes so as they have it written out specifically.

High School

Lynn said there is 4% increase although they projected 7%.

Stephanie said they will have the number tomorrow.

Maintenance

Josh asked what is maintenance equipment they are replacing? It is going up 300%.

IT

Susan asked what the policy is when Crome books get lost or disappear? Who is responsible to replace them?

Susan would like to ask again that they use any money left at the end of the year to pay down the principal on the lease.

OVERALL

Lynn said there was a large surplus last year. This new budget shows an increase. She would like to know what was budgeted and what was spent so they can see where they saved the \$900,000.

Lynn asked when we will know what the negotiated rate of increase is?

- **Other**

Lynn said the 29th of November meeting is with the school board and SAU.

On December 5th, the committee will go over the warrant articles.

The public hearing is on the 13th of December for the school budget.

Stephanie asked if they need what was underspent before the joint meeting and vote.

She will have Cory send it to her and she will forward it on to Lynn to send to the committee.

Katrina made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm.

Susan G. seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

The next meeting will be November 29, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Monaco

Administrative Assistant