

Town of Candia

Budget Committee

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Lynn Chivers, the Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Board Members Present: Lynn Chivers, Katrina Niles, Susan Young, Joshua Reap, Stephanie Helmig, Steve Tremblay, Ryan Young, Admin. Assist. Janet Lewis

Absent: Susan Gill, William Saffie

Old Business: Approval of minutes from January 14 meeting. Steve made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Katrina seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Approval of minutes from January 31 meeting. Motion by Josh to accept as corrected. Steve seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Approval of minutes from February 5 meeting. Susan Y. made a motion. Steve seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion of the alleged open meeting violation: The NH Open Meeting law, from the Right to Know Law (RSA 91-A) Basic Law of Budgeting, NH Budget Law in the NH Municipal Assoc. handbook, was read by Lynn. (Included on a separate page). An email received from William Saffie (on a separate page) was discussed by Budget Committee members. It was concluded that his accusations were not responded to, and no action or decisions were made. Stephanie added that the lawyer responded with "to be conducting business and allowing comment, can be considered a meeting. Therefore, a violation of the open meeting law as it was neither posted or minutes taken, Mr. Saffie likely violated the NH Open Meeting Law by soliciting budget committee members to change their vote on the (school board) budget via email."

Susan Y. questioned the dates of notice being given and that there were no signatures on the letter addressed to the budget committee from the school board. (Page included) Stephanie stated that at the school board meeting on Jan 21, a motion was made to amend the agenda to include discussion of the email received from a budget committee member. (Motion by Dana Buckley. Seconded by Stephanie Helmig. Motion passed.) Susan Y. questions the communication dates and procedure. Stephanie stated the email was received on the 15th from Bill Saffie. Stephanie made the Superintendent and Moore School Principle aware of it. Becky Wing, Principle, sent a response that explained the lead issue and that everyone had been notified, which I sent to you on the day after. I found this very threatening and I would like the accusations and people being dishonest to stop. And to remind everybody that we do not conduct business that way. Josh said he appreciates the formal communication from the school board about the issue and having watched the school board meeting, it was insightful and gives

context to the letter. He asked if the school board discussed the email before the meeting had opened? Stephanie replied they had not. She emailed it out and there was no discussion.

Public comment was heard: Meredith Wilson expressed how Bill Saffie's email was threatening when he attacked the school board members. Dana Buckley stated that everything in the school board's letter is factual. He has no problem with the budget committee cutting the budget, that is business. However, (Bill) making personal accusations saying we are putting our children's health at risk? He has no problem with the rest of the board the letter only addresses Mr. Saffie's actions. Mr. Saffie's actions are reprehensible.

Lynn states they need a resolution. This was not good we can all agree on that. Lynn reminded the committee members that she has made it very clear in the past that conducting business via email is not allowed. Josh added that its clear it is an issue with one individual on our committee acting on their own behalf. There is no real action we can take, we cannot censor somebody, there are no parameters for that. Lynn said there are no provisions for that kind of thing. Stephanie states the school board asks that he stop his inflammatory comments. Josh asks if the school board is satisfied with their grievances about Bill Saffie being heard? Or would they be pursuing anything beyond this?

Mark Chalbeck stated that the school board wanted to bring out the fact that Bill Saffie had committed an illegal meeting. They do not want this to be done again and jeopardize the integrity of the board. Dana Buckley stated he appreciates that the budget committee acknowledged the issue at the meeting and does not think any further action is necessary. Heather Tremblay, school board member, reiterated what Dana said that it is really disturbing when a member of a town committee says the school board is delivering misleading lead information. She feels Stephanie has been very forthcoming with all the information. And the school did send it out to parents. We are not trying to cover anything up as expressed by your committee member. That is unacceptable.

Ryan commented that he feels that Mr. Saffie was frustrated with the prior meeting when a member of the audience accused the school board of putting the children in danger. Some things were spoken out of line and it was poor manners, not taking either side here, just expressing what seemed to be the start of all this. Stephanie followed with saying she agrees but frustration should not be directed at the school board for a public comment.

Steve asks if all of this will be in the minutes? Lyn replied yes, all of it. The email, the letter and the open meeting law information will all be in the minutes. Meredith Wilson commented with advice for the budget committee to do their homework and research before making accusations.

Other items on the agenda: Lynn said to look at the encumbrances for the town. They had already voted on the town budget so they have it for future information. The ambulance encumbrances were never sent. Stephanie asked if they will be reviewing the end of the year at

the next meeting? Lynn replied yes. The next meeting is in April. Lynn will let Tamera know. The March meeting is suspended because it is the day after town meeting.

Under other items: Lynn suggested a raise for the administrative assistant. She asked the committee for an amount and suggests a dollar an hour? Josh makes a motion for a one-dollar increase. Katrina seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Susan Y. apologized to Stephanie for her mistake talking about the raises for the teacher's contract. She said she thought it was four, but it was 3.5 or 3.4 like what you said.

Ryan has a question about the deliberative session. It was pointed out that the budget committee cut some specific dollar amount from specific budgets. He wants to verify that they do not do that. Lynn said yes, that is correct. Ryan stated we let the board of Selectmen specify the budgets to the departments. Lynn replied that it is a bottom-line budget. The budget committee can only make recommendations, and can come up with an alternative budget to what the Selectmen had. We can make some suggestions of where things could be cut. Once a budget is voted on and approved by the voters, they can cut or add whatever they want. Ryan responded that he just wanted to check. When we had our own work sheet we talked about reducing the ambulance budget by \$45,000. And at the deliberative that number was brought up by Mr. Kelly. I wanted to make sure that we had only suggested that amount and do not have the authority to change anyone's budget. Lynn said sometimes the Selectmen do use the recommended number, sometimes they do not.

Josh asked about any plan in motion to deal with the lead in the water? Stephanie replied that there are eight different pipes throughout the whole building. They test each receptacle once each quarter where the water comes out. When they get the results, they do remediation. The water from the well is being tested also. Stephanie said they will probably be discussing it at the next school board meeting.

Steve made a motion to adjourn. Josh seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned @ 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Lewis
Admin Assist.