

Approved
Candia Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 27, 2009

Attendance: Chairman Fred Kelley, Vice-Chairman Rick Lazott, Selectman Joe Duarte, Selectman Carleton Robie, Selectman Richard Snow, Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman, and Administrative Assistant Andria Hansen.

7:00 p.m. Chairman Kelley called the Public Meeting to order and immediately followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board to discuss with Mary Ann Richards of M & C Children's Learning Place a possible summer recreation program. Melissa Eubanks, Mary Ann Richards, and Charles Richards of M & C Children's Learning Place were present. Mrs. Eubanks explained they were proposing a summer recreation program for ages 6 to 13 and would like to use Moore Park. They have covered the liability insurance and are ready to go. The program will take up to 60 children. Some of the activities will be arts and crafts and playing games. Chairman Kelley asked if there would be plenty of instructors. Mrs. Eubanks explained they would be using some of their staff from the Learning Place and hopefully hiring teenagers from Town. They are looking for volunteers as well. Mr. Richards will be running the program. Selectman Duarte asked if the program was conflicting with any other events at Moore Park. Selectman Snow replied the agreement is non-exclusive use. Mrs. Eubanks explained that if the residents wanted to use the park they could. If they were to enroll 60 children they wouldn't all be on the playground at the same time. The children would be split up between different activities. Selectman Duarte stated he wanted to make sure that residents could use the park if they wanted to. Selectman Robie stated the park does get crowded at times and it's something to keep in mind. Selectman Duarte stated the park had some issues last year and asked if they have been fixed. Selectman Robie stated the park is currently in good repair. Selectman Robie asked if there was an insurance binder. Mrs. Eubanks replied they were waiting for the Boards approval, but the insurance would meet the Town's criteria. Selectman Robie asked how much they would be charging. Mrs. Eubanks stated they would charge \$100.00 per child per week. They would not have camp on rainy days. It's an 8-week camp from July 6th to August 28th. *Selectman Snow motioned to authorize Chairman Kelley to sign a memorandum of understanding that will allow Town Atty. Mayer to write the contract which will allow M & C Children's Learning Place to get a recreation program started as soon as possible. Seconded by Selectman Duarte. Selectman Lazott added to the motion pending an insurance affidavit.* Citizen Christine Pouliot stated there has been a great need for a recreation program and the parents in Town are excited about it. She added that M & C Learning Place is well respected and this recreation program will allow the children of Candia to stay in their hometown for camp. Citizen Ingrid Byrd asked if they would do a police record check on the employees and volunteers. Mrs. Richards replied background checks would be done. Chairman Kelley called for a vote on the previous motion. *All were in favor. Motion carried.*

The Board to discuss Maura McLaughlin's abatement request. Maura McLaughlin was present. She explained that she understood there was a March 1st deadline for the abatement. She went on to explain that she had recently become unemployed in the beginning of April and started to review her finances. Mrs. McLaughlin explained her mortgage payment had gone up \$350.00 per month and was able to track it back to an increase in her taxes. As a result there was an increase in her escrow account. She looked at what her neighbor's of 119 Patten Hill Road were paying. They have more square footage than her and are paying \$1,374.00 less. Selectman Snow asked if Assessor Tammy Jamison has looked at this abatement request. Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman stated she didn't because it came in after the deadline. The Board reviewed the abatement application. Selectman Robie questioned what Mrs. McLaughlin was asking from the Board. Mrs. McLaughlin replied she was trying to illustrate that the value of her house based on the comparable in her neighborhood is being looked at quite a bit less. Selectman Robie stated everyone is in the same boat right now. He noted the house (119 Patten Hill) sold, because the price was low enough that someone bought it. Mrs. McLaughlin replied she moved in 2 months prior to that closing. There is a difference in valuation of at least \$150,000. Selectman Robie stated your valuation must have come from what you paid. Mrs. McLaughlin noted they had built the house themselves and that's where they were able to save. Selectman Duarte suggested having Assessor Jamison look at it to give Mrs. McLaughlin a fair shake. Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman reiterated that Assessor Jamison didn't look at it, because it came in after the deadline. Mrs. McLaughlin stated she didn't look at her finances until she had to and that's when she realized there were inconsistencies. Selectman Snow asked if there was any reason the Board couldn't accept this and if not they should accept it. Selectman Lazott asked what they have done in the past. Chairman Kelley replied that Assessor Jamison doesn't accept the application if it comes in after March 1st. Selectman Robie noted the Town is currently doing a re-valuation and she should wait. Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman noted if there were extenuating circumstances as to why the abatement wasn't submitted by March 1st, then the Board has the right to accept the late application. Mrs. McLaughlin replied that is under the premise that the applicant knew there was a deadline. She was asking for an exception out of hardship. Selectman Snow stated if the Board doesn't accept extenuating circumstances and deny it because the application was late; the Boards of Tax and Land Appeals won't even look at it. They would be denying the opportunity to see if in fact that her assessment is correct. Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman stated Mrs. McLaughlin's assessment would be looked at during the reval. Selectman Robie thought the assessment would be close and could possibly go down. Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman stated if the Board makes an exception for this application, then they will have to do it for everyone. Selectman Robie noted the reval would reflect in the December tax bill. Selectman Lazott agreed they shouldn't open the door after the fact. It was the consensus of the Board to deny Mrs. McLaughlin's request. Selectman Lazott stated if she was not happy with her assessment after reval, she should submit an abatement application as soon as possible.

The Board to consider appointing Conservation Commission alternates Susan Wilderman, Debra Levesque, and Ellie Davidson as full members and the

reappointment of Ron Howe for the ZBA. Selectman Lazott stated they should solicit letters of interest. Road Agent Lewis stated the Conservation Commission doesn't receive a lot of letters of interest. They have been looking alternates and haven't had much interest. Selectman Lazott suggested putting something in the paper or posting it. He further stated they posted something last year to try to generate interest for the committees and boards in Town. Road Agent Lewis noted the Conservation Commission was down four full time members and they are supposed to have seven. Selectman Snow explained he was trying to establish an alternate position that can be seated with a minor on the Conservation Commission. He has checked with the Secretary of State and they said it was okay as long as it's not an elected position. The Board thought this was a good idea. Selectman Robie motioned to reappoint alternate members Susan Wilderman, Debra Levesque, and Ellie Davidson as full members of the Conservation Commission and reappoint Ron Howe as a full member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Seconded by Selectman Snow. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Any Other Business:

Town of Auburns Selectmen's meeting: Chairman Kelley stated the Board has been invited to a Selectmen's meeting in Auburn in the month of May to discuss the traffic issues on Tower Hill Road. The Board agreed to meet with the Auburn Selectmen on May 11th at the Auburn Town Hall.

6th Annual Tom Fairchild 4-H Golf Tournament: Chairman Kelley mentioned the Candia Woods Golf Links had sent in a request to have a raffle. Selectman Lazott motioned that the Selectmen approve the request for the raffle. Seconded by Chairman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Review of In-Laws Constructions contract: Selectman Robie suggested having the payments paid in two installments instead of three. Mr. Demanche will be paid half up front and the remainder when the job is completed. The Board and Mr. Demanche were agreeable to this.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Public and Non Meeting Minutes of 4/13/09. Selectman Lazott motioned to accept the public and non-public meeting minutes of 4/13/09 as amended. Seconded by Chairman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Betsy Kruse's invitation to Agricultural Day: Chairman Kelley mentioned that Betsy Kruse invited the Board to a ceremony at the Moore School on May 6th at 8:30 a.m. The Conservation Commission will be expressing their gratitude to Arthur and Betty Sanborn for conserving their farmland. There will be a reception after at 9:00 a.m. Citizen Ingrid Byrd stated the school was not aware of the reception for Arthur and Betty Sanborn. Selectman Robie thought it was part of Agricultural Day.

South Road complaint: Selectman Robie noted they have received a complaint from homeowner Kathy Henrich of 20 South Road. Selectman Robie explained the culvert runs water from the old library which ultimately empties into the corner of the Masonic

Hall property. The water then runs out under the stonewall, which it's always done. If the culvert gets blocked up, the water runs out into the road and washes it out. Selectman Robie noted the culvert is getting blocked up because someone is putting a rock there. He noted Mrs. Henrich wants the Town to fix the problem, but the problem was there long before her house was built. Road Agent Lewis noted the Town has an easement there by prescription and if it's been there for more the 25 years they have the right to keep it there. Selectman Robie stated the problem is seasonal, so it's probably more noticeable when there is a lot of rain. Selectman Robie stated they would send a letter explaining the condition is preexisting.

Mary Girard's concern regarding boundary line agreement on Deerfield Road: Selectman Duarte stated he received an email from Mary Girard who didn't feel that all of the lots discussed at the April 13th meeting were Dean Young's. Selectman Robie stated this has been on going for 30 years and thought the boundary line should be straightened out. Selectman Duarte stated he agreed, but it should be done right. Selectman Robie replied it might not be done right, but someone needs to make a decision and you have to go with it. Chairman Kelley mentioned they have met with Atty. Mayer regarding this issue. If anyone was interested there are minutes of this meeting.

Tree cutting at Moore Park: Selectman Snow mentioned there would be a tree cutting ceremony at Moore Park on April 28th at 4:00 p.m. It will be done in a short period time and it will be no cost to the Town.

Beautify the Road Triangles Contest: Selectman Snow stated he would like to hold a contest to beautify the road triangles in Town. He would like to get the permission of the Road Agent and the Selectman who oversees the Highway Department. He would like to do it soon, because he would like the judging of the contest to be done at Old Home Day. There was discussion on some of the intersections. Road Agent Lewis stated he did have a problem with it as long as it doesn't block visibility. The Board agreed to this request.

Budget Discussion: Selectman Robie asked if the Cemetery workers have collected any checks. Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman stated they have, but under the FEMA money. Selectman Robie thought they haven't received the FEMA money. Road Agent Lewis explained when they filled out the FEMA paperwork; it all went under one sheet (the parks, cemetery, and roads). He went on to explain when the bills started coming in he put it all in a storm line used only for FEMA funds. They needed a line to charge it to. Road Agent Lewis explained the Finance Director St. Pierre was going to check with the DRA to see if there was a way to set it up, so it doesn't look like an over expenditure. Road Agent Lewis stated they can take it out of his line for now until Finance Director St. Pierre figures it out.

Selectmen's meeting dates in May: The Board changed the May meeting dates to May 4th and May 18th due to the Memorial Day observance.

Round Robin on May 18th: Chairman Kelley mentioned they would be having a round robin on May 18th at 6:30 p.m. with other committees and boards to discuss the budget. It will be an open meeting, but they won't be taking any public comments. Selectman Lazott asked what the purpose of the round robin was. Selectman Robie replied to discuss the budget. Selectman Lazott stated he didn't see the purpose of this meeting unless they were trying to micro manage their department heads. Selectman Robie replied it's to manage not micro manage. Selectman Lazott stated he didn't want to look at the budget until the end of the summer. Selectman Robie stated he wanted to look at it every week. Selectman Duarte thought looking at the budgets quarterly would be a good idea. He felt they should have a little faith in the department heads. Selectman Robie stated he didn't want to be in the same position they were in last year. Road Agent Lewis noted they used to look at the budgets half way through the year, usually around June. There was further discussion on the budgets. Selectman Snow stated they should have the Department Heads look at their budgets and report back to the Board. Selectman Duarte motioned to table this discussion until the May 4th meeting. Chairman Kelley stated he would like to discuss this with all the departments on May 18th. Selectman Lazott asked what they are going to accomplish by having this meeting. Chairman Kelley replied to see where everyone stands with their budget. Selectman Lazott felt instead of departmental reports on May 4th, the department heads should give an update on their budgets. It was the consensus of the Board to review the budgets at the May 4th meeting.

Announce Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: The next Selectmen's meeting will be on May 4th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andria Hansen, Recording Secretary