

Approved
Candia Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Attendance: Chairman Fred Kelley, Vice-Chair Carleton Robie, Selectman Joe Duarte, Selectman Amanda Soares, Selectman Richard Snow, and Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Kelley called the Public Meeting to order.

Setting of the 2011 Tax Rate

Selectmen's Assistant Eastman informed the Board that the DRA Representative, Jeanne Samms, does not go to each town for the tax rate setting like was done in the past. Instead, she sent an interactive spreadsheet that the Board can adjust with varying amounts of fund balance levels and overlay levels to achieve the setting of the tax rate. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman had prepared several options for the Board to look at. Selectman Robie stated that the fund balance last year was in the \$860,000 range and has increased this year by about \$200,000 due to careful expenditures and return of funds from both the town and the school. **Selectmen Robie made a motion for discussion that the Board use \$100,000 of fund balance surplus to offset the tax rate, leave the overlay amount at the current \$30,000 and therefore the tax rate would be \$19.38 per thousand, which is a reduction of \$.52 cents, or a reduction of 2.5% from last year's rate. Selectmen Soares seconded the motion for discussion.** Selectman Robie stated that for the past three years, the town budget has been held steady and surplus funds have been turned back at the end of the year. This year he wanted to give the school credit because they turned back approximately \$512,000 at the end of their fiscal year. Selectmen Kelley was very pleased and proud of the school for turning back such a large amount of money to offset the taxes. Selectmen Robie pointed out that it was a joint effort between the town and the school to make a reduction in the tax rate. **All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Selectman Snow made a motion to adjourn. There being no second, the motion failed.

Stevens/Diamond Hill Road Issue

Chairman Kelley wanted to address the Board regarding the letter recently received from Town Counsel Bart Mayer regarding the Stevens zoning issue and the cease and desist. Bart's letter stated that the Board has two choices in this matter. It can move forward legally to enforce the cease and desist order through the courts, or it can try to come to some agreement between the Stevens, their neighbors, and the town to hopefully resolve the issue out of court. Chairman Kelley wanted to get the opinion of the Board. Selectmen Robie feels that the best option would be for a representative of the Board of Selectmen talk with both parties involved and try to negotiate an agreement. He feels that if the cease and desist order is enforced through court, there could be major repercussions all over town with other business owners in the same type of situation. He understands that the Stevens have been parking their trucks up there for many years, but when they recently started bringing in material and processing it there, it created noise, dust, and traffic that bothered the neighbors. Selectmen Robie feels if the Stevens were to stop processing the materials, then the neighbors might agree that trucks could be parked there. Selectmen Kelley and Duarte agreed. Selectmen Duarte suggested that Selectmen Robie spearhead the negotiations. It was the general opinion of the Board that a compromise should be arrived at that included items such as:

1. No processing of material at the site and the processing equipment will be removed.
2. Hours to haul the existing material away would be only Monday through Friday.
3. When the material is gone, the area needs to be re-seeded and reclaimed.

Selectmen Robie stated that he will attempt to negotiate an agreement between the parties.

Cole Pitt Issue

In a phone conversation with Town Counsel Bart Mayer, Chairman Kelley was told that Bart recommends that a representative from the Board of Selectman and himself (Bart) should meet with the representatives from the company working on the Cole pit property to work out an agreement for what can be done on the property. However, prior to that meeting, Bart recommends a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to set up a game plan. Selectmen Snow thought that meeting should occur as soon as possible. Chairman Kelley asked him to let Selectmen's Assistant Eastman know what days would be good for him and he will schedule a meeting. Everyone else agreed that any day around 10:00 in the morning would be good.

Tax Rate Announcement

The Board was reminded that the estimated tax rate of \$19.38 should not be announced publicly until the official confirmation from the DRA is received by the Selectmen's office.

At 10:20, Selectmen Snow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectmen Soares. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Cheryl Eastman