

**Approved
Candia's Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes
December 23rd, 2019**

Attendance: Chair Susan Young, Selectman Russ Dann, Selectman Boyd Chivers, Selectman Brien Brock and Administrative Assistant Linda Chandonnet

Absent: Vice-Chair Carleton Robie

7:00 p.m. Chair Young called the public meeting to order following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was conducted.

Approval of Minutes: Public meeting minutes December 9th, 2019. Page 2, first paragraph change boards to Board's. To correct Chair Cartier to Planning Board Chair Cartier. Page 3 correct Selectmen Boyd to Selectmen Chivers. Page 4, first paragraph to correct \$375.00 to \$375,000 and Selectmen Russ to Selectmen Dann. Under Article 22 to correct Selectmen Boyd to Selectmen Chivers and Selectmen Brien to Selectmen Brock. Page 6 on the next Board of Selectmen Meeting dated December 31st correct to December 30th. Selectman Dann moved to accept the December 9th, 2019 Selectmen's Meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0-0.

Chair Young made a quick review of the calendar and expressed that the Warrant Articles deadline must be submitted to the office by January 14th, 2020.

Public Comment: None

Department Reports: None

Encumbrances: Chair Young reminded everyone that Encumbrances will be decided on Monday, December 30th at 1:00pm. She has requested an email to be sent out to all Departments and Committee's that they get their information in by 9:00am on Friday, December 27th.

Old Business: None

Open a Public Hearing at 7:05pm

New Business: Chair Young asked the Board to accept the Grant for the Fire Department. The Town received a 2019 FIMA Assistance Fire Fighter Grant in the amount of \$110,809.52.

Selectman Chivers moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Dann. All were in favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Closed the Public Hearing at 7:07pm

Selectmen Chivers asked the Board to approve the request to credit the Fire Department's Account for the Grant in the amount of \$110,809.52 for the 2019 Operating Budget.

Selectman Chivers moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Dann. All were in favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Non-Petition Warrant Articles:

Keno: Chair Young stated she wanted clarification with Keno. The Article was submitted and said, shall Candia allow the operation of Keno games within the town? Chair Young was not sure of the Board's intent. The vote was 4 to 1 not to support this, but upon doing some research it has been suggested that whenever you are given a Warrant Article that it should go on the Town Warrant and then just note that it is not supported. The Board members reaffirmed this Article does not need to be on the Town Warrant as they had all voted at the last meeting this would not be.

Capital Reserve Fund:

Chair Young said she is not sure if she should amend the Article that had been previously approved, and to see if the Town would want to propose and establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the future construction of a separate facility for the Candia Police Department and to fund the account with \$375,000.00 representing the proceeds from the sale of the Town property from exit 3. This did move in favor from a vote of 4 to 1. Chair Young's opposition is that it can only be used for a Police Department and cannot be used as a Safety Complex or anything else. Her proposal does the same thing and would not limit it to only the Police Department. Chair Young read an example of how it could be written. To see if the Town will establish a Capital Reserve Fund to fund future Capital Improvement needs for the Town of Candia and to fund the establishment of the Capital Reserve Fund Account with \$375,000.00 from the sale of town property at exit 3. She does not think they can have both in and would like the Board's opinion.

Selectmen Dann stated he realizes the Police need a new building, but the way it was presented at the last meeting will have people asking several questions such as where is it going to go? How much is the land going to cost? In the past we have presented project plans including land and money involved. What we would want to do is save the \$375,00.00 for an improvement. If we lost that Warrant Article all the money would go into the Budget and defer it. This is like found money and we do not want to lose it. If we could have time to put a committee together showing a completed facility for the future it would honor the citizens with a quality piece of building.

Selectmen Chivers added that he agrees with however the previous 2018 budget shows all the Warrant Articles together total \$592,000. In 2019 the Warrant Articles exceeds that amount by \$857,000. That means we are proposing \$1.5 million dollars to Warrant Articles this year and if we could dial this back a little. He would like to accomplish the following objective. Establish a Capital Reserve Fund with the \$375,000 and instead of allocating it towards the future Police Station that they would pay for the Fire Truck and have the \$326,000 Warrant Article off the table. Then to take the balance which is \$49,000 and we could invest it into a Capital Reserve Fund. He read how his motion would read. "To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$326,000 for the purchase of a new piece of Fire Aspirates and fund the purchase with a portion of the proceeds derived from the sale of town owned real estate situated at exit 3 (\$375,000) with a balance of \$49,000 to be deposited into a Capital Reserve Fund dedicated to funding improvements to Candia's Municipal infrastructure". That would accomplish the School, and it would also pay for the Fire Truck and takes the balance and it funds a Capital Reserve Fund for future improvements. This would get our Warrant Articles down from last years \$800,000 down to \$500,000 and moving

it into the right direction. Selectmen Chivers stated his fear is that if they go to \$1.5 million in Warrant Articles how it could put everyone in the town in a mood to say no to everything including the operating budget. The Board Members explained to Selectmen Chivers that the \$375,000 is not something that needs to be generated. Selectmen Chivers understood and agreed with them. He suggested to strike the \$375,000 and the \$326,000 if they could bring it down by \$600,000 and thinks it would be a prudent move.

Selectmen Brock was asked of his opinion on the matter and he thinks that it makes good sense. He replied how we have talked about this in past meetings and each time we come to a conclusion we change it.

Chair Young gave her opinion on way the Fire Truck is written that it will go through with no problem. If we have the \$375,000 it would be a good amount to start a Capital Improvement Plan that can be used whether it is for a Police Station, Town Roads or the Recycle Center so we could have that amount of money available.

Fire Chief Young said that he hopes the Fire Truck will pass. He expressed how if we put the money away for a Police Station it would be a long time before it could be built. He understands what Selectmen Chivers has said if someone votes no on it, then it goes to the General Fund and it will be gone forever. Right? The Board replied, it could, however they could keep it in the Reserve Fund, but it would make it more difficult. Fire Chief Young asked the Board if they could keep it and they replied yes, and it could be put it into an Unreserved Fund Balance.

Selectmen Dann said when they are talking financially that it sounds like a great idea. If we did something like that then he would like the Board to increase the Capital Reserve Fund every year so they can get to where they need to be. If we need a Police Station that we should start working on a development of a facility. It is not going to happen for a number of years because nothing has been started yet. We need to educate people and for them to know what type of facility we would need, and a cost associated with it.

Chair Young explained why she thinks it would make sense to put the money in a Capital Reserve Fund and how it could be used for a Police Station or Safety Complex. She thinks it is too limiting to only put the Police Department and we do not have information on how much it could cost.

Police Chief McGillen added that he has looked at some of the Police Departments that have been built, and they costs 1 million to 1.2 million. Some of them are not furnished and it would depend on what you want included. Usually the Town forms a Committee and he would suggest that the Board forms a Committee on this because they have been talking about building this for a long time. A Study Committee can determine what the new Police Station space needs are and then they evaluate it. Since he has been working here for over 19 years now, they have always watched the budget and trying to keep the money down. They have lost 2/3's of the Police force and now have a whole new crew coming in that have basic needs. They need a place to be safe and modern with showers, locker rooms and cells. There have been safety issues such as the past weekend where there were three officers dealing with a situation in the lobby, and luckily no one was hurt. They currently don't have any cells and need a secure place for arresting juveniles and adults who need to be separated.

Chair Young asked Police Chief McGillen if there is a way if the current Police Department had cells, lockers and showers added to the building that are needed, could this by us a few more years so they can present a plan that will pass? There is nothing worse than having a warrant that doesn't pass.

Police Chief McGillen said that if we put the money in the other account and a new Selectmen Board starts up in a year or two they could decide they want to put it towards the roads. If we have a staff that is saying you know what? This Town isn't doing anything for me so maybe I'll have someone new speak up. He has been hearing this from the newer people and their demands of what they would like to see. Chair Young added, but it is the Legislative body who decides when we have to take money out of the Capital Improvement Plan, it is not the Board of Selectmen. The Legislative body are the ones who decide if they want to take it. The Legislative body might say you need to start taking out more money for roads. It is the taxpayers or the Legislative body who would decide this. Police Chief McGillen stated how the Legislative goes by what the Selectmen say. Chair Young replied, not always. Police Chief McGillen said if the Board is 5 to 0 or totally against something it is going to be hard for him to advocate something. Chair Young stated that the Budget Committee did not support this. Police Chief McGillen added that they plan to get more education out, but they need CIP people. Chair Young stated that this is what she is trying to do and to put it in the CIP. Police Chief McGillen stated he is still going to advocate the \$375,000 because once that money goes somewhere else there is no faith from the town showing the employees that it is dedicated for an updated safe facility and also for the residents of the town to not have prisoners running around in the parking lot. There should not be any interactions in public and it should be separated from the Town Hall Building and now is the time to do it. We need to get some money into an account because we are not going to build it for \$500,000. Chair Young replied back, but that could happen at any office if someone came in here about their taxes and what if the Police were in a different building. She has heard from people at the Food Pantry who want to keep it here because they feel safer with the Police nearby.

Selectmen Dann stated how he thinks that we need this Capital Reserve somehow. There are a lot of things in town that needs to be done with a lot of capital expenditures. If we can form a Committee for the Police Department to come up with some numbers. We should be looking at a Bond Issue because the advantage that he understands is that anyone moving into town will help pay for it down the road. If we are trying to do a stop gap that is just a band aid again. We should look at how can we accomplish what we need to do and not have a problem. It is worth the effort if we really believe in it.

Police Officer Shane Pellerin expressed that he would like a new Police and Fire Complex just like the town of Auburn. Auburn has basically something you could take and bring here in Candia and it would accommodate everyone that you would need. The incident that occurred in town last night with the three officers wrestling in that little office space is a safety hazard. Imagine if one of you came by to say hi to one of them and we were wrestling with someone and what if they broke free and they attacked you. What if one of the officers accidentally happened to hit you while going out of the door? When he is bringing people into this building such as juveniles, if he is the only Officer he would need to call another Officer to help him because they do not have a secure booking room or cell to lock them up. The other Officer would need to be in the room with the Juvenile because they cannot be in sight or sound and that is the Federal Law. Officer Pellerin stated, he would then be required to stay with the Juvenile and keep an eye on them the entire time and is not able to do his job with the Bail Commissioner or if he has to do paperwork. He recommends that there should be money allocated for a Safety Complex. It would not need to read Police Department on it, but it could be 911 response related. He asked, when you think about it, who are the first people you call when you have a problem in town? It is the First Responders. Officer Pellerin stated how much he enjoys working for the Town and that he loves the people here, but for the future it definitely needs to be safer. Eventually if he starts a family and has kids

which he would like to have, this is considered a job hazard by staying here. The parking lot is cramped and we need more spaces especially if there are town meetings or employees. He doesn't want there to be a day that he drives up to the Police Department and have a person coming out that he had just booked or is bailed and mad they could see the Officers vehicle and where he parks and he could come back to find his cruiser hit with baseball bat marks on it and smashed windows. These are reasons why there needs to be separate parking for Employees and Town Residents. Most of the new Police Departments that you see now have spaces set up for people to come in and interact with Responders such as a big gathering room, family room. He suggested putting a few different plan ideas together and does not think it would take long to do, it would be trying figuring out the finance part of it. We are desperately in need of safety improvements. Officer Pellerin also noted how there is no place in the building if he needed to wash and would have to go to Auburn and use their facility.

Chair Chivers commented that he has heard what the Police Department needs are but knows that the Currier Road also needs \$400,000 worth of improvements, so it is up to this Board to balance this and figure it out. We need to present a budget to the Voters of what we think would be acceptable and that is what we are trying to do here tonight. Chair Chivers said we still exceeded last year's Warrant Articles by a \$482,000 increase. If we adopt the Amendment that he read earlier and pay for the Fire Truck with the \$375,000 and it would go through we would still be \$156,000 over from last year.

Chair Young added that she thinks the Fire Truck will get approved on its own and doesn't want to use the money to finance it. She would rather save the \$375,000 to begin a study for a Safety Complex or put it into Capital Improvements. Selectmen Chivers added why not put it into Currier Road? Why just allocate it or park it? Chair Young replied, we want to park it, so we don't use it because we need more time to develop a plan and we haven't received a copy of the Capital Improvements Plan yet.

Selectmen Brock explained that what Selectmen Chivers is trying to establish is a lesser impact for one year and how he has a good argument. We are proposing an additional \$200,000 for this year of road reconstruction above of what \$150,000 is, so there is an impact that generally isn't there. By applying that \$375,000 to pay for the Fire Truck it would lighten that load a little. Chair Young said she will do whatever the Board thinks is best. Selectmen Brock stated after all of what we have talked about this which is twice already in the past and both of the times said it was for the Police Department and now here we are visiting it again. Selectmen Chivers added that because after looking at the impact of the increase from last year and he is concerned. Selectmen Brock stated he would support Selectmen Chivers request if they could put the \$49,000 towards the Police Department instead of a General Capital Reserve Fund. Selectmen Chivers responded back, right now it is deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund dedicated to funding improvements to Candia's Infrastructure and we could dedicate it to Candia's Police Department. Selectmen Brock said that at least we are honoring the Police Department's request so things are starting to get established and move forward with the \$49,000. Selectmen Chivers agreed and said that this is probably a fair call. Chair Young commented if they think that this will work with the Town's people you can, however I don't think it will work with the Budget Committee.

Police Chief McGillen asked if they could have the money evenly split between the Fire and Police Departments. Chair Young answered, if we put it into Capital Improvements then we are splitting it between everyone.

Road Agent Lewis said what if the Warrant Article did not specifically say the Police Department and it went to Capital Improvements, then if we took the Capital Improvements plan

which we do not have yet and made it a priority for the Police Department. This way no matter what that Board does the priority would be the Police Department. He thinks more people will vote to put the money in a General Fund knowing the Police Department is a priority.

Lieutenant Rick Langlois stated that a female Officer has been recently added to the Police Department and how she is changing in the ladies bathroom because the locker room is where the men change. This can make it very uncomfortable for her working environment and is another reason why a new facility is needed.

Fire Chief Young added, when they are searching for a piece of property for the new Police Department if they could try to find one big enough so the future Fire Department could be added on for a Safety Complex.

Chair Young added how the Police and Fire Department has earned a good reputation in town and if there is a good plan in place the people will want it and pass it with the plans for expansion.

Gary York (Resident) stated that he agrees with the Boards plans and how this is the best way to go. If there could possibly be some money to have some engineering done this year for the new facility. It would give the Police Department a little heads up and that the town is serious about making it happen. He mentioned how it worked with the Solid Waste Department. They had spent money on preliminary plans for that department and they came back and presented the operation to the Town and it passed. He wants to make sure they protect that money and that it stays there. Chair Young said that first we need to have the CIP in place in March and then after that point they can go on.

Selectmen Dann asked what if we take the \$375,000 and we put it into a fund and then we can develop future plans with the \$49,000 for the Police Department. The Board replied and explained how the CIP needs to be in place first.

Selectmen Brock recommended that as soon as spring comes if they would put a study and plan together with the people who would want to be involved. Then throughout the year if they would develop a warrant article that says we would like to take \$20,000 out of the \$49,000 that was saved for the plans and engineering because we have a facility picked out. Then that package would be put together, and it might take another year but at least it would begin the process.

Chair Young said that her argument is going to be that they just did a partial revaluation and taxes did not go up this year. She thinks the Fire Truck and Roads will pass on its own. She would rather start the Police Department with \$375,000 instead of \$49,000.

Selectmen Chivers explained what Chair Young wants to do is take the entire \$375,000 and park it in a Capital Reserve Fund until the Police Department can come up with a plan. It then eliminates that \$376,000 Warrant Article and reduces that impact. The \$49,000 cannot be used until it has formed a committee, or it has gone through the Legislative

Chair Young added that if we want to preserve the \$375,000 of the Town and School then we will need to put it into a Fund so that we have some time to implement the CIP. We can have a discussion on how we would like them to push this back as we think the Police Department is a priority. So maybe instead of seven years down the road they can push them up to four years. Next year when you go before the Legislative or Voters it will make sense to them.

Gary York asked what would be the tax Impact of taking the \$375,000 and reducing the Warrant Article? Selectmen Chivers answered, .73 for \$1,000.

Selectmen Chivers moved to rescind the Warrant Article that was originally authorized to purchase the Fire Truck for \$326,000 and replace it with a new proposed Warrant Article.

Warrant Article:

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$326,000 for the purchase of a new piece of Fire Apparatus and to fund the purchase with a portion of the proceeds derived from the sale of town owned real estate at exit 3 (\$375,000) with a balance of \$49,000 to be deposited it into the Capital Reserve Fund dedicated to funding the Candia Municipal Infrastructure.

Selectman Chivers moved to make a Motion. Chair Young said she will take a second for discussion. Seconded by Selectmen Brock for discussion. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Donna DelRosso (Resident) stated that she has lived here for over 20 years and has not seen any long-term improvements as far as the Town Hall Building. Her question is, what would be the tax difference for the Town Taxpayers if they said \$375,000 for 4 or 5 years for the Police Capital Reserve Fund vs a Bond? She is trying to look at it from a Taxpayer's view. Chair Young explained how they only have this one time for the \$375,000. What we would have to do after is ask every year for more money to be put into the Capital Reserve Fund. Donna DelRosso agreed that it might pass because they are doing it for 3 or 4 years as opposed to a one time and getting socked. Chair Young added it would be a non-lapsing fund and something we would ask the Legislative body to contribute to every year. Donna DelRosso told Selectmen Chivers that she understands that he is trying to keep the taxes lower, but if they always say low and what if we need stuff like this then it is a hard sell. The Fitts Building had wanted to be used something, but no one said what they wanted to use it for, so it did not pass. We will need to tell the Taxpayers that we are allocating this for improvement. She agrees with Chair Young that the \$375,000 should stay directly there and thinks that the Fire Truck will pass on its own. We are behind these guys 100 percent and it is a fair trade off to get the whole amount. Chair Young added that it gives the Police Department a start and she would like the money there and protected.

Gary York asked the Board what happens if what you are proposing, and it fails? What happens with that money? The Board replied then it goes back into the General Fund. That is why they are trying to add a Capital Improvement Plan.

Selectmen Dann stated how the Board really needs to get behind this to make it work, The Board reassured him they would.

Selectmen Chivers moved to rescind the Warrant Article that was originally authorized to purchase the Fire Truck for \$326,000 and the second part is to replace with this proposed Warrant Article.

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$326,000 for the purchase of a new piece Fire Apparatus and to fund the purchase with a portion with the proceeds derived from the sale of town owned real estate from exit 3 of (\$375,000) with a balance of \$49,000 to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund dedicated to funding the Candia Municipal Infrastructure.

Chair Young stated this isn't getting rid of the one on the Warrant Article already. It only gets rid of the Fire Department one. She asked the Board if they are in favor of rescinding the \$375,000 for the Police Department, and then we can decide on where to put it. The Board all agreed.

Selectmen Chivers moved to rescind the Warrant Article 16 to see if the Town will establish a Capital Reserve Account to fund future construction of a separate facility for the Candia Police Department and to Fund the account with \$375,000 representing the proceeds from the sale of town owned real estate at Exit 3.

Selectman Chivers moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Dann. All in Favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Warrant Article:

To see if the Town will establish a Capital Reserve Fund on future Capital Improvements needs for the town of Candia and to fund the establishment of the Capital Reserve Fund Account of the \$375,000 sale of property at Exit 3.

Chair Young moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Chivers. All in Favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Elderly Exemptions:

Chair Young expressed that even with the increase value of houses it has been a very long time since the Elderly Exemptions have been raised. Looking at the list it shows Candia next to other surrounding towns and Candia is showing we are very low. She explained how it works and that this is only for people with limited income and not for the wealthy.

Warrant Article:

To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of RSA 72:39-a & b, to modify the Elderly Exemptions from the assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$45,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$70,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$90,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 for single or married; and net assets not in excess of \$300,000 for single or married; excluding the value of the person's residence. (By request of the Board of Selectmen.)

Selectmen Chivers moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Dann. All in Favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Snow Date for Deliberative Session:

The Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 1st, 2020. It was discussed that the Snow Date for the Deliberative Session will be February 8th, 2020.

Jane Drive:

Selectmen Brock stated that in regards to the tree at Jane Drive, that he has spoken to legal council and if the owners of the property didn't show up at this Board of Selectmen meeting or respond to trimming the limbs of the tree we will need to start the 30-day clock. At this point nothing has been done and Selectmen Brock is starting the 30-day clock.

Selectman Brock moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Chivers. All in Favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Chair Young expressed how they have tried to handle this situation and how the Residents involved could not make our first December Board of Selectmen meeting and asked to be put on this agenda which they were. The entire Board prefers to handle it in a neighborly and cooperative way, but they have chosen not to come to this meeting. Chair Young stated that hopefully the owners will come in to talk so we can all resolve this. Correspondence from the owner was given out.

Holiday Schedule:

Chair Young asked if the Board agreed with the proposed Holiday Schedule. Selectmen Dann asked to accept the 2020 Holiday Schedule.

Selectman Dann moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Chivers. All in Favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Board to authorize the payments of payroll and payables:

Selectman Chivers announced the grand total for payroll for week ending December 19th was \$16,202.66. The following week ending December 26th was \$18,430.87. Payables for December 19th were \$45,595.32. Payables for December 26th were \$46,074.51 for a combined total of \$126,303.36.

Selectman Chivers moved to make a Motion. Seconded by Selectmen Dann. All in Favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Chair Young made a quick review of the calendar and noted the Warrant Articles deadline and how they must be submitted to the office by January 14th at 3:00pm. The Budget Committee will not accept them any later.

There will be a Board of Selectmen Meeting on December 30th at 1:00 pm. This will be to go over the encumbrances.

Selectman Dann moved to adjourn at 8:33 pm. Seconded by Selectmen Chivers. All were in favor. Motion carried. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 4-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Chandonnet, Recording Secretary