

APPROVED
Candia's Virtual Selectmen's Public Session Minutes
February 27th, 2022, 6:30 pm

Note: Individual roll call has been taken after each motion.

6:30 pm Chair Brien Brock opened the Public Session Meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Chair Brien Brock, Selectman Russ Dann, Selectman Boyd Chivers, Selectman Sue Young and Town Administrator Andria Hansen. **Absent:** Selectman Patrick Moran.

Approval of Minutes: Public session minutes of February 13th, 2023. None noted.

Motion: Selectmen Dann made a motion to accept the February 13th, 2023, Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Chivers seconded. All in favor. Motion carried by a vote of (4-0-0).

Chairman Brock stated the Keno Warrant Article was added to the Ballot and explained they are required to have a Public Hearing.

KENO - PUBLIC HEARING: Opened at 6:42pm

In accordance with RSA 284:51, notice is hereby given to all residents of Candia, New Hampshire that a Public Hearing for the purpose of gathering public input to allow the operation of Keno games within the Town of Candia, NH.

Selectman Dann pointed out that the representative from NH State Lottery explained details in one of their past Board meetings, and informed them the Keno proceeds are directed to the school's educational fund.

PUBLIC HEARING: Closed at 6:43pm

Department Report: Fire

Fire Department:

Selectman Chivers read a portion of the reports, and noted that he will need to receive additional information in order to determine their totals for January.

Selectman Young commented that the money they cut out of the budget for the ambulance was for that position, and someone volunteered to do the paperwork. Chair Brock clarified the money cut from the ambulance budget was from the wage line. The Administrative/Compliance Officer line is funded at \$12,000.

Agriculture Commission – Accept Appointments:

The Board received a letter recommending the three reappointments. Full member Tom Dimaggio, Darrel Nafranowicz and Alternate Ken Madden for the Agriculture Commission.

MOTION: Selectman Young made a motion to accept the letter of recommendation for the three reappointments received for Tom Dimaggio, Darrel Nafranowicz and Ken Madden. Selectman Dann seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. (4-0-0)

Conservation Commission – Accept Appointments:

The Board received a letter recommending the two new appointments for Alternates Ron Leverdure and April Holmes of the Conservation Commission.

MOTION: Selectman Young made a motion to accept the letter of recommendation for the two appointments received for Alternates Ron Laverdure and April Holmes of the Conservation Commission. Selectman Dann seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. (4-0-0)

OLD BUSINESS

Response to allegations made by Mrs. Coughlin - regarding tax assessments of properties owned by Selectboard Members:

Selectman Chivers stated he did not know what to make of the comment made by Mrs. Coughlin in conclusion of their last meeting. She had read something that was critical to certain Board Members with their respect to the Budget Committee and concluded her statement with the following paragraph.

“Lastly I am asking each of you to make any necessary corrections or updates on your property assessments. I am not pointing a finger at any one person; it is a simple request to be sure your assessments are accurate and true, and that you are unquestionable for paying your share of the town tax burden. I will be requesting copies of your property assessments on or before 3/15/2023 to simply dismiss some talk in the town.”

Selectman Chivers said he took this as a serious accusation that this Board or its members are guilty of some form of corruption. He has looked into this and asked the Town Assessor to conduct an audit on the 15 properties involved with all the members of the Board of Selectmen. The Assessor has looked into all properties, and he concluded that since their last re-evaluation in 2019, it has been assumed that the properties were correctly assessed. He noted there were a few administrative entries that were made on the tax cards for a building permit on Selectman's Moran's tax card and Selectman Young's was corrected for a land adjustment factor and modified the land ownership record. He does not see any corruption here and would like this matter to be put to rest. The Select Board Members have looked at the information, and are confident that their assessments are correct as they stand.

Selectman Young commented that she thinks that Mrs. Coughlin meant the total assessment and not the land lines or anything else. She said their Selectmen let the Assessor go into their homes, but she was wrong, because some of them did not. She said there has been a couple of other people who have made comments. Selectman Young further stated, they should allow the Assessor to go into their homes, in order to get rid of any problems. She said that she allows the Assessor to go into her home. Discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS

Board of Selectmen/Planning Board Information, Relationship, and Representation:

Selectman Young explained that she would like to receive more information about what is going on with the Planning Board. Chairman Brock is a Planning Board member and the representative for the Board of Selectmen. Chair Brock confirmed that he will keep the Board updated on what the Planning Board is doing. It was noted how there used to be a place on the Agenda under Department Reports that read Planning, and it was agreed to be put back on. Planning Board Chair Rudy Cartier explained the Planning Board is not a department, and it should be separate.

Selectman Young mentioned there was money taken out of the budget and that caused a bit of riff. They was a member of the Planning Board who decided to leave. She does not know how to fix it. They

had to cut money out of the budget. Other departments lost money, and it wasn't done to pick on anyone. She feels the relationship is very tense between this Select Board and the Planning Board because the money was taken out. Selectmen Dann said, we have made our decisions on what they are doing at that time. Chair Brock said the budget was exceptionally difficult this year, due to inflation and expenses that were not in last years budget, which made their job a lot harder. Selectman Young said maybe the Planning Board Chair has some ideas. Mr. Cartier explained that Mr. Pouliot did not think the Board of Selectmen were supporting the Planning Board and have not for several years. Every year the Planning Board comes to do their budget it has been an ongoing thing for the past four years where the Board of Selectmen were not supporting them to put money into planning and wanted it added as a warrant article. This year it was worse because the Planning Board knew the budget would be tight, so they took it upon themselves to be proactive and reduce their budget by 3%. To end up having roughly 58% of their budget cut, was too much for some of the members on the Planning Board. So, this is why it was disappointing to some of the members and feel as though they are not getting the support they need. Discussion ensued.

Town Election Coverage:

Town Election will be held on March 14th from 6am-7pm at the CYAA and the Board conversed on the times they will be present.

Budget Committee Member:

Chair Brock thanked Budget Committee Member Todd Keating for all his years of service.

Calendar:

- **Meet the Candidates Night on Monday, March 6th, 2023 - Smyth Public Library @ 6:30pm**
- **Next Board of Selectman's Meeting on Monday, March 13th, 2023 @ 6:30pm**
- **Town Election, March 14th, 2023 – 6:00am-7:00pm @ CYAA**

Town Election Hours: Chair Brock said he remembers having a discussion last election about opening Town Election at 7:00am (not at 6:00am). They will discuss it with the Town Moderator to see if he would want to change the hours next year.

Meet the Candidates Night: Town Administrator Hansen stated she will verify if there will be a Candidates Night. They may cancel the Meet the Candidates Night, because all the positions are running unopposed.

Town Office – Change to a four day work week:

Town Administrator Hansen asked the Board about changing the Building Department, Finance and Selectmen's Office to a four day work week and to have Fridays off. They will discuss it at the next meeting.

Change to Biweekly Payroll:

Selectman Chivers brought up changing the weekly payroll to biweekly. Town Administrator Hansen stated they will put this on the agenda for their next meeting.

Public Input:

Planning Board Chair Cartier stated the Planning Board has received the \$25,000 Grant money for the Housing Opportunities Program. He said there are three sections involved and that they will need to look

at the Housing Section and the Master Plan to see what the citizens in Candia want to do. Southern New Hampshire Planning will be the consultant for that, and they will do the groundwork.

Selectman Young asked, when they do the Workforce Housing if they will count all the In-law apartments, if Candia would make their quota? Mr. Cartier said it used to be, however with the changes that came from the Legislature are different, so that would be giving them the information needed.

Selectman Young said she had seen the memo that was sent out about the CIP, and asked how they would be paying for it? Mr. Cartier said it has already been paid for, and they encumbered the money.

Todd Keating (resident) stated he had listened to the recording from the Board of Selectmen's meeting on 1/25/2023 and how they had a field day with the Budget Committee he was on. He is no longer on the Budget Committee and wanted to tell the Board about what was said and what transpired. He felt Selectman Dann's summary of what was said, and his opinions were disheartening and it misrepresented him as well as his co-members.. He noted that the Board used the word inflation on several occasions and used it as an excuse of why the budget is high and that the Budget Committee was misinformed and wrong. He stated that he is not misinformed, if he does not agree with someone that does not make him misinformed, it just makes them disagree and that is okay. Discussion ensued.

7:28pm MOTION: Selectman Chivers made a motion to adjourn the Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Dann. All in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0-0.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Chandonnet, Recording Secretary**