

APPROVED
**Candia's Virtual Selectmen's Public Session Minutes
October 14, 2024, 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 Patrick Moran, Selectman Boyd Chivers, Selectman Russ Dann, Selectman Susan Young and Town Administrator Andria Hansen.

Approval of Minutes: Public session minutes of September 23rd, 2024. None noted.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the September 23rd, 2024, Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Non-Public session minutes of September 23rd, 2024. None noted.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the September 23rd, 2024, Non-Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Non-Public session minutes of October 2nd, 2024. None noted.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the October 2nd, 2024, Non-Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Dann seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Seal the Non-Public session minutes of September 23rd, 2024, and October 2nd, 2024.

Motion: Selectmen Young made a motion to Seal the September 23rd, 2024, and October 2nd, 2024, Non-Public Session Minutes. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway: Selectman Moran read the report.

Police: Chief Shevlin read the report and gave an update. He told the Board things have been going great in his department. They have been recruiting and onboarding several people. The new encumbered cruiser Unit 6 has been registered and after it has been keyed, it will be delivered to the PD on 10/16/24, then it will go to Global for outfitting. Global may not get to Unit 6 until February 2025. Unit 1 that had the tree land on it, has been stripped and is currently at Global waiting for its outfitting. He is waiting for a status update from Global for its the arrival to the PD.

Chief Shevlin said, in their last meeting he had talked to the Board about boarding dogs when they have been found. He has worked things out with the SPCA, and together they have made an agreement with our ACO who will be able to bring the dogs there when it is needed. They have a new dog kennel for any dogs that would need to be crated while waiting in their Police Department. It will help out the Officers, as they will not need to constantly watch the dog. The SPCA has stated they will take a dog whenever the owner cannot be found, and it will cost the Town very little money. Selectman Young asked if the SPCA would dispose of the dog if the owner is not found. Chief Shevlin said they will hold the dog for 10 days for the owner to come forward, and if they do not, then the dog would be placed for adoption. Chief Shevlin said it is more cost effective in using the SPCA, than using a veterinary service.

Chief Shevlin said he was able to put into place the Department Mission, Vision Statement and Core Values and presented copies to the Board. It will start to be implemented, and he will have them on their program for IOC and his Officers can view them anytime when needed.

Chief Shevlin said he is a former marine, and highly supports "Toys for Tots". He has secured some boxes and indicated the Town Hall will be a toy drop off location for November 1st, 2024, until they bring the toys to the Pods.

"Stuff A Cruiser" is a community event that will be held on December 7th, 2024, at Moore Park. Coffee and donuts will be provided for people in town who want to donate. Additional information will be posted on Facebook.

Selectman Young mentioned she spoke to an individual who was involved in a recent incident that occurred in Candia and they have recognized and commented on two Officers that responded. This person said the Officers involved were very professional and courteous in helping them.

Fire Department: Selectman Chivers read the report.

Firefighter Appointments: The Board received 3 recommendations for appointment from Fire Chief Young to the Candia Volunteer Fire Department, Ryleigh Belanger, Sydni Leger and Zackary Farnum as Firefighters.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the recommendation of appointment from Fire Chief Young for Ryleigh Belanger as a Firefighter at Candia's Volunteer Fire Department. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the recommendation of appointment from Fire Chief Young for Sydni Leger as a Firefighter at Candia's Volunteer Fire Department. Selectman Dann seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the recommendation of appointment from Fire Chief Young for Zackary Farnum as a Firefighter at Candia's Volunteer Fire Department. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Building Department: Selectman Moran read the report.

Solid Waste: Selectman Dann read the report and gave updates. The Recycle Center has been accumulating plastic bags, and if they bale 1,000 lbs. they could receive money in return for it. One of the employees has volunteered to bring the bales to Hannaford in Concord, NH.

Budget Committee: Selectman Young said the Budget Committee has gone over the Town Budget. Their Joint Meeting with the Selectmen is scheduled for October 23rd, 2024 @ 7:00pm and will be held at the Town Hall. The Budget Committee has submitted their questions for the Board of Selectmen to review. Non-Petition Warrant Articles are due on November 14th, 2024, by 10:00 am. The Board received the schedule for the 2024-2025 Budget Season from the Budget Committee.

Selectman Young mentioned that there was a lot of discussion regarding Trusts in their last meeting. If the Recycle Center wants to utilize the money received for the plastic bags instead of having it going into the General Fund, they may put it into a Trust/Capital Reserve.

Planning Board: Chair Brock said in the last Planning Board meeting, they discussed having a warrant article change for zoning that has to do with detached houses and ADU's. He said the Planning Board is happy with what they have drafted. 1. One Attached - is allowed by your rights. 2. One Detached - is a special exception.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Depuy – State Representative Candidate: Dave Depuy came before the Board stating he is running for the NH House of Representatives for District 31. It includes the Towns of Candia, Deerfield, Auburn and Chester and noted that he has been going to all their Town Meetings to introduce himself. His role is to get money down for these Town's. He said if he is elected, that his heart is to help the Towns out and not with the State. He mentioned the Interest & Dividends Tax was active in 1923 (for over 100 years) when 2 years ago this legislature started reducing it down from 5%, 4% 3% to zero and at the end of this calendar year it will end. He said that is \$180,000,000 that has been eliminated. They have also eliminated the Communications Tax that brought in \$30,000,000. That totals \$210,000,000 that they are cutting off and they are still not paying the Towns. He feels they should have continued these taxes, that it is irresponsible, and the Towns are suffering. He gave additional information regarding other NH State items that were reduced. He commented that property taxes are hurting people that are retired and living on a fixed income, and that they are barely getting by. He is trying to get Property Taxes from going up as fast as they are. Discussion ensued. The Board wished him good luck.

Meeting Schedule - November: The next Board of Selectman's meeting falls on Monday, November 11th, 2024, which is a holiday, and the Board agreed to change their meeting to Tuesday, November 12th, 2024.

COLA: Town Administrator stated Social Security has announced their cost-of-living adjustment benefit increase to 2.5% for 2025. Selectman Chivers said the Board has been following Social Security's increase amounts for the last few years, and he feels they should continue by granting the same amount to all the stipend people and employees of the Town.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve and grant all the stipend people and employees of the Town a 2.5% Cola. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Fire Department assessment: The Board received a recent assessment of Candia's Fire Station from Primex, which is the Town's insurance company. Selectman Chivers said they should allow Fire Chief Young to attend the next Board meeting so they can have a discussion with him about it. Selectman Dann said he does not know if some of the problems listed from Primex have been taken care of and said that he has concerns with the liability of this Town, and that it is the Boards responsibility. Town Administrator Hansen said she will contact the Fire Chief and ask him to attend their next meeting. Discussion ensued.

Fitts Museum – Brenda Stevens resignation: Chair Brock read a letter the Board received from Trustee of the Fitts Museum, Brenda Stevens, in giving her resignation. See attached.

Motion: Selectmen Young made a motion to accept Brenda Stevens resignation with deep regret and thanked her for her involvement with the Town of volunteering. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Counsel Policy: Town Administrator Hansen said all they will need to do is to reaffirm the policy.

Motion: Selectman Chivers made a motion to reaffirm the Town Counsel Policy 2011-009, regarding contact with Town Counsel dated April 8th, 2019. Selectman Dann seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Warrant: Town Administrator Hansen pointed out they will need to post the Warrant for the 2024 November Election, and it will require 3 Select Board members to sign with their signatures.

Public Input: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

Zoom: Selectman Chivers said he believes it is time to reconsider the Zoom option. He would like to add this subject to the agenda for their next meeting. It would be to terminate Zoom and he would like to hear what the public has to say, then the Board can determine what their position is on it. He said they receive very little participation, it is costing them money and it requires someone to manage it. Chair Brock said this is not the only Board that wants to terminate zoom. Selectman Young said the reason why the Budget Committee did not use zoom, is because they did not have someone to manage it. Selectman Chivers is proposing to add this to the agenda for their next meeting and for the public to be aware that we are going to consider this, and he wants to see what the Public has to say. Discussion ensued.

7:44 pm - Selectman Dann made a motion to enter into a Non-Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Young. All in favor. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Linda Chandonnet
Recording Secretary