

**Candia Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes of November 13th
APPROVED**

Present: Carla Penfield Chair person; Jim Brennan, Selectman’s Representative; Brenda Stevens, Judith Szot, Steve Higgins, Ed Caito, School Board Representative, Kim Byrd Ann Tierno

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Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

Housekeeping:

November meeting changes SAU meeting is not happening on the November 15th. Firm town warrant articles should be available on the 28th and we will meet on the 28th.

The first meeting date after the 20th twentieth at the school; will be held on the 28th at the town hall.

Minutes of October 24

Corrections to the meeting minutes from October 24.

- Add October 24.
- Judy Szot was not present
Rewrite vote sentence for review of minutes for October 10 to read “all who were present were in favor”
- Change “There was discussion of next scheduled meeting for October 25. (not October 24)
- Rick Lazott asked that the following be added to the minutes. Carla asked if the committee wanted to discuss the letter from Mr. Lazott. The committee did not want to discuss it.

Motion by Brenda Stevens to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Ann Tierno. All in favor. Motion carries. Minutes are accepted as corrected.

School Budget

Discussion follows on the detail of how the information is presented. Current budget is \$6,849,00.00 or a 4.5% increase.

Discussion of

- When the school will have their warrant articles ready.
- The objectives and not having the impact of teacher contracts in this budget.
- End of the larger class size (the bubble class).
- School has received insurance information of guaranteed increase of 11.2 % increase. budgeted below the increase.
- Adjustments to line items for standards, deficiencies, etc.
- Recognizing that individual line items may go up or down.
- District is debt free. The last bond payment has been made.

Questions were raised and discussion revolved around the repayments built in to the budget. Questions were posed and discussion took place about the number of first graders, etc.

Discussions ensued about:

- Detail and process of the grade planning and budgeting.
 - Movement tracking and retirement incentives built into the teacher contracts.
 - Health insurance
 - Medicare Service provider.
 - School nurse replacement and title I
 - Minds in Motion
 - Contracted services such as speech pathologist
 - Custodial salaries and maintenance director
 - Telephone services
 - Copier maintenance
 - Service discussion of ages
 - Technology and computer services/repairs/upgrades
 - Computer replacement costs and technology plan
 - Field Trips
 - Shipping and cost controls
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Town Budget Discussion

Discussion of Jim’s e-mail about insurance costs
 3% line item increase discussion

Discussion of the budget the Selectmen have sent is about 8% (7.87%)
 (That is without the 17.4%) This increases it to 8.19% increase overall.

Discussion of the cost increases and the ideas that people may have come up with as creative thoughts. There was discussion of looking at health benefits as an example of remuneration. Discussion of cutting 5% from each line item to keep from penalizing any one department or division. Example was made of the Deerfield and Raymond budgets coming in a 3.5 and 4% increases.

An additional discussion occurred where 2,236,382.00 is a number that is brought up as a possible sum. 3% over the base amount is 2,550,221. With bond repayment it is 2,271,233.00 and would be more than the default budget and the town might vote for the default because it will be lower.

Point was raised about lack of data regarding what is competitive wage rates and involved discussion on wage scales and insurance increases.

Additional discussion of 3% at \$2,055,332.00 Default would then be \$2,020,471.00.
 Discussion occurred of decreasing the Selectmen’s Request column rather than the 2007 approved.

Motion made by Judy Szot for a 3% increase excluding the debt payment
 Second by Ed Caito.
 4 in favor, motion fails.

Ann makes a motion for 2.5%, Carla Seconds.
 Discussion follows on CPI and other factors.

5 in favor. Motion carries.

Discussion of whether to go from the 2007 approved budget, which was default or whether to discuss increase against the Selectman's Requested budget. Also some discussion about what the default budget would be.

Discussion of line by line versus department totals via bottom line or same percentage deductions on every line item. 2.5% is \$2,045,344.00 Selectmen's revised without debt payment is \$2,158,821.00. The ratio is 94.74% of the Selectmen's budget. An example is calculated to determine what the impact would be.

Formulaic discussion occurred of how to get to 2.5. Concerns on behalf of citizen economic impact were raised about costs of fuel, housing issues, economic environment with the impact of subprime impact and economic slowdown, transfer station costs, etc.

Kristine Pouliot motions to adjourn. Judy Szot seconds
All in favor, motion carries.,
Meeting adjourns at 9:10 PM.

~Respectfully submitted
Kristina L. Ickes