

~~Unapproved~~**APPROVED**
Candia Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2012

Attendance: Chairman Joe Duarte, Vice-Chair Richard Snow, Selectman Fred Kelley, Selectman Amanda Soares, Selectman David DePuy, Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman, and Administrative Assistant Andria Hansen.

Chairman Duarte explained the Board received a copy of the draft warrant from Selectman Snow. He explained that he didn't want to discuss it this evening and they could discuss it next meeting. Selectman Soares asked if they were meeting before the petition warrant articles are due. Chairman Duarte replied he didn't know what the Budget Committee was doing, but the Selectmen were going to hold their next meeting on January 14th. It was noted the meeting would be held after the petition warrant article due date.

The Board to accept Firefighter Jim Terrero's resignation. Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the resignation of Firefighter Jim Terrero with regret. Seconded by Chairman Duarte. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Board to accept ZBA member Frank Albert's resignation and appoint alternate John Easter as a full member of the ZBA. Selectman Kelley motioned to accept with regret Frank Albert's resignation. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried. Selectman Snow motioned to appoint alternate ZBA member John Easter as a full member to finish out Frank Albert's term. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. Chairman Duarte, Selectman Snow, Selectman Kelley, Selectman DePuy were in favor and Selectman Soares abstained.

The Board to approve the step 3 matrix increase for Officer Kevin Mahoney based on a favorable review. Selectman Kelley motioned to increase Officer Mahoney's pay by \$1.25 (step 3 matrix increase) per hour effective December 18, 2012. Seconded by Selectman Snow. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Board to vote on encumbering items from 2012. Cemetery: Selectman Snow said he hasn't had any requests from department heads or anyone else to encumber any funds. The only request he is aware of is the Heritage Commission was looking to encumber funds. He put out a memo which said if you purchase something at the end of the year, you have until January 14th to get the invoice in to be paid. If you get any expenditure's in by that point in time you will be all set. Superintendent of Cemeteries Jerry Becker noted they have talked about encumbering funds. Selectman Snow apologized and asked what he wanted to encumber. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker said funds to rebuild the wall at the cemetery. He asked Selectman Snow if he remember the conversation that they had. Selectman Snow said his concern was that they were already over. There is \$1,300 left in the cemetery budget as of now. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker replied he has \$147.52 left. Selectman Snow said he would find it difficult to encumber funds over and above the actual expenditures.

Selectman Kelley asked what kind of money he needs to rebuild the wall. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker explained they would like to rebuild the wall on the east side of the cemetery and it will cost \$3,000. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker gave the Board a copy of the estimate. Selectman Kelley asked if they had the extra funds. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman said yes. Selectman Kelley said you can't keep letting these things fall apart. Selectman Soares added we do need to take care of our cemeteries. There are people who spend a lot of time in the cemetery. Selectman Kelley said he would recommend doing this. Selectman Snow explained the \$3,000 was supposedly targeted for something like this. They could use \$3,000 from next year's budget as opposed to encumbering it. They are over the bottom line. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker explained the money they have in the budget; Selectman Snow told him it was for rebuilding walls. The money he has in the budget is for taking care of the cemeteries i.e. mowing, the trimming of the trees, etc. He felt that rebuilding a wall should be in the budget for a year, because stonewalls don't need to be replaced that often. What they have in the budget they've used for mowing and taking care of the cemeteries. Chairman Duarte said if it was a small amount he wouldn't have a problem with it, but he's having a problem with encumbering that amount. They shouldn't be encumbering money unless it's an emergency. He would like to hear from everyone on the Board and they could go from there. Selectman Kelley said he was definitely for it, because he didn't want to see the wall fall down. Selectman Soares would rather spend the \$3,000 on the individual person who submitted the bid and has held the price for two years. It would be much more if someone else did the work. This person has done a phenomenal job on some other places in town. We are getting a bargain price for what he is charging. The amount of money they are looking for the septic and the well for the Old Smyth Library is a controversial amount. She has been working on this with the Heritage Commission, but she knows people in town are not comfortable spending that amount of money on something that may not pass in March. They do not want to spend money now for a septic and a well when \$150,000 may not pass in March to do anything to that building. We don't want to spend \$13,500 for a septic and well for a building that is just going to sit there. She would rather spend \$3,000 that is well worth taking care of our cemeteries. People take a lot of care and pride in our cemeteries and visit it them often. She reiterated that she didn't want to spend \$13,500 on the old library until they know what is going on in March. Selectman Snow would like to address one issue at a time. Chairman Duarte asked if they tried to put the \$3,000 in next year's budget. Selectman Snow replied it is in the cemeteries budget for next year. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker said Selectman Snow says its part of the budget every year to rebuild a wall. The funds that he has in the budget right now get used up in taking care of all of the cemeteries we have in town. The mowing, cutting back the trees and things like that doesn't leave a lot of money to rebuild a wall. He's asking for money to rebuild the wall, it's a onetime shot. It goes from behind the church all the way to the school house. Selectman Soares asked Selectman Snow where he thought this was in the budget and could he explain it to her. Selectman Snow replied facility improvements/maintenance line. Selectman Soares replied facilities would be considered a building or the cemeteries itself. Selectman Snow said the cemetery is a facility. Selectman Soares understood and it would be maintaining the cemetery. So when they mow, take care of the gravestones, and cut back the trees this would be the facility maintenance of the cemeteries. They're not doing

anything else; you have an outside person to dig up the graves that Mel hires. Selectman Snow replied that's not part of this budget at all. Selectman Soares understood but facilities improvements/maintenance is basically taking care of mowing, storm damage, trees, and gravesites. Selectman Snow replied the facility improvements/maintenance line is designed to be used for special projects which aren't a part of the normal maintenance. The cemetery wages is what pays for the mowing, cleaning, the cutting of trees, etc. Selectman Soares said the cemetery wages pays for Bob Pike to work and do all of his regular duties. Selectman Snow replied that is where you see all of his cemetery wages. Selectman Soares suggested he reassign the facilities improvements/maintenance line, because it's very misleading. Selectman Snow explained this line has been in the budget traditionally as something that is separate from the normal maintenance. He and Jerry talked and next year they are going to put drains on the existing tombs. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker said they didn't talk about that. Selectman Snow said for the past four years this has been a separate line for things that are not normal facility maintenance that are big projects. Selectman Soares felt the line was misleading, because you just said it's not normal facility maintenance. Selectman Duarte replied its misleading in your point of view and don't confuse the issue. Selectman Soares said from a basic point of view people or the Budget Committee would look at facilities improvements/maintenance and ask what you are going to do to the cemetery. It should be labeled special projects if that's what you are planning on doing. Selectman Snow said \$3,500 would be explained to the Budget Committee this year as we are going to try to repair that stonewall. Selectman Soares asked what the \$3,500 gets used for out of this year's budget. Selectman Snow said he couldn't answer that but maybe Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker could explain. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker said for the past three years it was used for wages and taking care of the cemeteries. Selectman Soares replied it was used for what the line clearly states. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker said it has been used for the maintenance of the cemeteries and taking care of them whether its mowing, repairing the headstones that have been knocked down or broken, and trimming back trees. Selectman Snow said trimming back the trees is over and above the normal maintenance of the cemetery. He felt this would be a reasonable thing to use this line for. Selectman Soares felt that was incorrect. They live in a wooded area and trimming back trees is part of what happens. They have had some serious storms and a lot of trees have come down. You can't say that is above and beyond. We don't need our cemeteries to look inappropriate. She felt the same way about the parks, we don't need people to come to the parks and have them look shoddy. People don't go to the cemetery to have it look shoddy, people are there to remember their loved ones and spend some time at the grave site. It should be a nice place that is peaceful looking and attractive. She felt having trees hanging down is not appropriate. Selectman Snow noted there have been people taking good care of the cemetery for as long as he has lived in this town. They have done a marvelous job of mowing the cemeteries and keeping them in nice shape but the trees have been growing in. He noted that Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker has been going in and cutting the trees back. This is beyond the edges and where the gravesites are. There has been a line in the budget for four years for special projects. They have used it for such things as working on the trees, but it is not part of the normal maintenance. There is \$3,500 left in the wage line. The line for special projects is for if you have to hire someone else. For example,

they would be hiring someone to repair the wall as opposed to the wages for the people who work in the cemetery. They have one person now where they used to have two. Selectman Soares asked Selectman Snow what his aversion was to having this wall fixed. Selectman Snow said he doesn't have any aversion; it was in the budget for this year. Selectman Soares said the budget got over expended because tree work needed to be done. She couldn't understand how \$3,000 could be an excessive amount when you are looking at \$13,500 for something else. This is a bargain price. Selectman Snow noted those are separate issues. Selectman Soares said she didn't think that \$3,000 was that significant of a price. Selectman Snow added this is a decision of the Board. Selectman DePuy thought this should be done. He's not familiar with the encumbering process, but it seems they have money in the budget. Selectman Snow explained they have spent near their bottom line of their budget, but they would like to do this project with this year's money. So you would take that \$3,000 from the bottom line of the budget and you would use it next year to get it done. Selectman DePuy thought this would be a good idea. He was afraid it won't get done next year and it's a good idea to get it done. Chairman Duarte questioned why it isn't in the budget for next year. Selectman Snow replied it is in the budget for next year however there was a question on whether they would do that wall. He mentioned kids have been climbing it and knocking it down. He didn't have a problem with this being part of next year's budget, but Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker point was they have expended the entire budget to do the normal maintenance. There are two lines in that budget that are for special things. One is the facilities improvements/maintenance line and the other one is contract labor. If you have to hire someone from outside that's what those lines are intended for. Now if Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker is using them to cut down trees around the edge then that is a onetime thing in the cemeteries. If you went down to the cemetery on Bean Island Road and Mr. Pike cleaned all the way around it this would be a special thing because it's not done every year. This would become part of the special projects. The bottom line looks like we spent the entire \$3,000 which we did for other cemeteries. He reiterated this is a special project as opposed to fixing the wall. Chairman Duarte asked Selectmen's Assistant Eastman where they could find this money. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained there are a couple of issues here. The way Selectman Snow looks at the budget and allocates the special lines is vastly different from the way Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker does. She felt this was causing a little bit of conflict. The point is that any work that Jerry or Bob does or any hours they spend cutting grass, trimming trees, moving rocks, etc it comes out of the wage line. If its wages paid to them it has to come out of the wage line. She noted Selectman Snow's thought process is if they're doing anything besides mowing grass it needs to come out of the other line, so there is a miscommunication there. However, Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker wants \$3,000 encumbered to do this project. Historically the Board of Selectmen has voted to encumber funds for a department that didn't necessarily have those funds in their budget and took the funds from elsewhere. The health insurance line has funds left in it and they could take it from there to get this project done. Selectman Snow said there is a sufficient amount of money left in the bottom line to be able to encumber \$3,000. The question is do we want to do this. Selectman Kelley, Selectman Soares, and Selectman DePuy thought they should encumber the money. *Selectman Soares motioned to encumber the \$3,000 to fix the wall at the Hill Cemetery based on the invoice received. Seconded by*

Selectman Kelley. Chairman Duarte had a problem with this because it should have gone in next year's budget. In the future he would like to stay away from encumbering and felt it wasn't a good idea. In this particular case he trusts our Administrator who says we have the funds and this will not create any problems in our budget. It sounds like the Board is convinced this is a good thing to do. Selectman DePuy agreed with Chairman Duarte, but we should do these things in advance. Chairman Duarte said we may have dropped the ball on this, but we have the favor of the Board on this. *All were in favor.*

Motion carried. Selectman Kelley said next year when it comes to the cemetery he would like Jerry to come to our meeting, because there are figures in this budget that he would like to see changed. He felt the facility improvements/maintenance line was a bunch of garbage. Chairman Duarte thought they could clarify a few of these lines. He thought before they do the budget next year they could look at what it is and where it goes. He felt Selectman Kelley made a good suggestion. Selectman Snow apologized for not remembering to encumber this item. **Fire Department:** Fire Chief Young said he just found out about the meeting for encumbering funds. He noted that Selectman Snow said that no one got back to him, but he didn't hear from him. Selectman Snow asked Fire Chief Young if he had purchase orders for the items he wanted to encumber. He asked Fire Chief Young to have the invoices in by the 14th of January. Fire Chief Young asked if he needed numbers because it's in his budget. He questioned if he needed to be at this meeting. Selectman Snow explained the only time they encumber money is if you have a contract that is going to extend beyond the first couple of weeks in January. Fire Chief Young said he has \$7,000 estimate to rebuild a pump on engine one. It failed the pump test in the summer. They have someone who is going to fix it, but hasn't done it yet. He asked the Board if he doesn't do it until February 1st what happens. Selectman Snow said you will need a purchase order. He explained you need a formal purchase order to be able to legally encumber money. He asked if this was the only item he had. Fire Chief Young said he doesn't quite understand the encumbering process. He has as of December 11th \$26,898 in his budget. He thought he had to make a commitment to all of that money this evening. Selectman Snow said not if it's in your normal budget. You can spend your budget up until 12:00 am on December 31st. You can get a purchase order that extends into next year. Then you come to the Board and say you need to encumber that money. The invoice needs to be in by the 14th of January, so they can pay it in this year's budget. Fire Chief Young said last year he needed to encumber \$10,000 to buy pagers and that didn't put him over budget. He wanted to use the rest of his money last year to buy whatever pagers he could. They spent \$10,000 and he didn't go over his budget last year. He thought he had to come to the Board to do this. He's getting mixed messages about this. Selectman Snow said they had significant input from the Budget Committee about the legality of encumbering things like a half of a police cruiser. This isn't the way you're supposed to do business and you can run into problems with it being legally accepted. He said you have up until the end of the year to spend your budget. He explained next year you don't have to come to the Board unless you have things that need to be done i.e. in February that you have a purchase order for. Fire Chief Young said rebuilding the pump could cost anywhere from \$4,000 to \$7,000. He would like to take any money left over and fix the front of the fire station. There will never be enough money left over to do the whole job, but he could add it to his building maintenance for next year. He felt with the money left from this year he might have

enough money do that project. Selectman Snow noted you can't do that, because your money goes away at the end of the year. He explained that he would need to increase his budget and say you need to increase it to do this maintenance. Then they can take the money out of the surplus to pay for the \$3,000 that you would like to have left over. Then you are letting the legislative body know what it is you're doing and why you are doing it and they vote on it. He mentioned the town building maintenance fund. You put money into that and the voters vote for it so they know what they are voting for. He noted the statutes say your appropriations die at the end of year. You can't use it for something else, it becomes surplus at the end of the year if it's not encumbered. Unless in the next cycle you put in a warrant article or put it in the operating budget. He asked if he would like to encumber \$7,000 for the pump. Fire Chief Young replied that he didn't have an invoice to encumber it. Road Agent Lewis said all he needed to do is get the invoice in by December 31st and do the same for the paving. If you don't spend the money you encumbered it goes back into the general fund. As long as the project has a dollar figure attached and an invoice or a purchase order to go with it. Fire Chief Young explained the \$26,000 left in his budget is mostly spent. He has \$8,000 worth of bills and if they encumber the \$7,000 that's \$15,000 of the \$26,000 right off the bat. Selectman Snow noted this is why he asked the department heads how much they expected to have left at the end of the year after they were done buying all of their stuff in December. Selectman Kelley replied he didn't get that message. Selectman Snow said he sent the message. Fire Chief Young noted he has been working out of town and hasn't been in to see Sharon. He said it's going to cost about \$10,000 to do in front of the Fire Station. If he has \$5,000 after the pumps fixed he would like to encumber from this year's budget and put it with \$5,000 from next year's budget and do this project. Chairman Duarte told Fire Chief Young to come in tomorrow and talk with Selectmen's Assistant Eastman about this. He felt this was getting confusing. Selectman Snow asked the Board if they wanted to do any authorizing. Chairman Duarte replied no. Selectman Kelley reiterated the deadline for invoices is January 14th. **Heritage Commission:** Selectman Snow noted the Heritage Commission has asked the Board formally to encumber the money for a well and a septic tank. He understood that there are residents that don't want to spend that money because we don't know if that warrant article is going to pass. His suggestion would be to make the encumbrance contingent upon the passing of the warrant article. He felt the estimates seemed reasonable for putting in a well and a septic system. No matter what we use it for we may decide next spring that this is an important thing to do, but for right now we are saying we want to encumber that money because we have a reasonable amount of surplus in our revenues. This would allow us to encumber \$13,000 and put a contingent upon the warrant article passing. Chairman Duarte felt the warrant article is where they should be going first before they spend any money. Selectman Kelley said no matter what we do something needs to be done with that building. It's a historical building in this town. He thought the \$13,500 should be encumbered and if we have the money we should do it. We are going to totally lose that building and it's worth nothing without septic or water. Selectman Soares asked how much are we putting in our unreserved fund balance. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman said she couldn't answer that yet because it will depend on what bills come through the 14th of January and what our revenues come in at the next couple of weeks. Selectman Soares asked when they figured out the tax rate they figured out a rough estimate number. Selectmen's Assistant

Eastman clarified the surplus at the end of last year was a little over a million. She was fairly sure it was going to be a plus of something. Selectman Soares said her concern was would it cover what they took out of the fund balance to cover the tax rate. Chairman Duarte noted just because we have money doesn't mean we have to spend it. Selectman Soares noted that her concern was that what we are putting back in will balance out what we took out. She wanted to make sure that it does. She didn't want to take too much money out and spend it on other stuff. They already took money out of the fund balance to balance the tax rate. Selectman Snow noted this isn't coming out of the fund balance. She didn't want to put a significant amount less than what they took out. Selectman Snow said is this because she is interested in using the same amount as last year. Selectman Soares replied she wanted to make sure there was a decent amount in the fund balance at all times. She was not in favor of taking the money out of the fund balance this year. This is why she wanted to put a decent amount back. She didn't want to spend money on encumbrances without a decent amount in the fund balance. She didn't want to cut it short. Selectman Snow said he was pretty sure there were going to be more expenditures and he wasn't sure if the number has been modify from the 3rd (of December). Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained the budget is updated as of today. Selectman Snow noted that the revenues are better than they were last year. They have a couple of hundred thousand which was basically what they had last year. This is good because it means our people are doing a good job. We are going to have the money when it comes time to set the tax rate and we will be able to say do we or do we not want to stabilize the tax rate. He felt they were doing everything in their power to keep the tax rate under \$20.00. It depends on what the state does for giving us money amongst other things. He didn't see any problems with encumbering \$13,000. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman said her best guess was they will be putting money into the fund balance unless it snows through the end of January. Chairman Duarte questioned why we would want to put a septic system in if the people in town vote the other warrant article in and this one goes out the window. He questioned why we would encumber this money when we may need it next year to reduce taxes. He stated he is not going to be spending money just because we have it. Selectman Kelley said they have a building up there they need to do something with it. Chairman Duarte said they could tear it down and it might be cheaper in the long run. Selectman Kelley didn't think they could tear the building down because it's on the historical register. He suggested maybe selling it to the Fitt's Museum across the street. Selectman Soares noted the option to sell it was up a while ago and the town's people decided not to sell it. Selectman Snow said he wasn't suggesting that. Selectman Kelley felt the warrant article to restore the building wasn't going to pass. He felt a lot of the warrant articles weren't going to pass next year. He was worried about putting warrant articles in for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Selectman Snow said they are giving the legislative body the opportunity to vote for it. Chairman Duarte reiterated just because we have the money doesn't mean we have to spend it. The Budget Committee thinks if we don't spend the money in the budget the Selectmen split it up, but it goes back in the budget. If they have a warrant article going in let's see how the people vote. He noted that he is not in favor of encumbering this money. Road Agent Lewis mentioned that people might say that you are making improvements without the voter's approval. This decision might come back to haunt the Board. Selectman Snow said they were covering our bases by saying contingent upon the March vote. Selectman Soares

would agree with it if they say it's contingent upon the outcome of the warrant article. Selectman Snow would like to make a motion. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker said they have an interesting point. You are asking for a warrant article for \$150,000 and you're putting in another \$13,500 for a total of \$163,500. You are asking the people of the town to pay for this. The Board has asked the department heads to keep their budgets the same, but yet you are trying to take \$13,500 out of this year's budgets to pay for a well and septic system. This should be added to the warrant article. Selectman Snow said that should come out of this year's budget. Superintendent of Cemeteries Becker replied no it shouldn't it should come out of the warrant article, the whole thing not \$13,500 out of the surplus. Selectman Soares felt he made a good point. Chairman Duarte said he wouldn't appreciate this if he was a taxpayer especially if they have a warrant article coming in March. They shouldn't piece mail this. The town may surprise us and say they want this. He was concerned if they act on this he didn't think the townspeople would be happy with us. He would rather hear what they say about it since it's their tax dollars. Selectman Kelley said he wanted to see this as a separate warrant article and didn't want it added to any other warrant articles. Selectman DePuy mentioned that Heritage Commission Chair Philbrick said they were going to try to get the project done for less. It maybe for the whole \$150,000 and they'll get it done for the money they are asking for. This won't cost the people \$163,500. It should come out of this year's budget. Selectman Snow moved to encumber \$13,430 from the 2012 town building expenses building maintenance line for Smyth Memorial Building well and septic system installation contingent upon the vote of the town at the March 2013 town meeting on the Smyth Memorial Building restoration and renovation warrant article. Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

The Board to authorize payment of payroll checks and accounts payable checks. Chairman Duarte announced the grand total of payroll and accounts payable checks for December 13th and December 20th is \$555,886.70. Selectman Snow motioned to accept the total payroll and accounts payable checks in the amount of \$555,886.70 for December 13th and December 20th. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Public meeting minutes of 12/03/12. Selectman Snow motioned to accept the December 3, 2012 Selectmen's meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Announce Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date. The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 14, 2013.

Other Business

Recycling Center Holiday schedule: Selectman DePuy said they talked about five floating holidays they currently get two. They would get three more which would require a change to the personnel policy for the town. He felt the new revision would work for any year. He noted it would vary from year to year. Selectman Snow clarified this would be a revision to an existing policy. Selectman DePuy motioned to adopt the

revised policy to replace what is presently in the personnel policy. Seconded by Selectman Snow. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HB 1223: Chairman Duarte mentioned there will be some changes to the right to know law. He would like the Board to review the changes and put a copy of the house bill in everyone's folder.

Insurance change: Chairman Duarte said he has been working with Selectmen's Assistant Eastman and the the health insurance changed. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained December is open enrollment period meaning anyone can make any changes to their plan. They have had some changes and given they are such a small group their rates will increase approximately 3%. The total cost with a rate increase is around \$69,000. Selectman Soares said it was a good thing they raised it to \$175,000. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained it didn't go all the way to \$175,000 because there was a miscalculation and we were waiting to see where we were going to come out. She just found out about the rate change on Friday afternoon. Selectman Kelley said they made a motion to make it \$175,000. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained they did and then it went to another meeting because there was a miscalculation and the Board voted to leave the bottom line as it was.

Budget Committee Public Hearing: Selectman Snow said the Budget Committee is having their public hearing this Wednesday on the town budget. If the department heads have a concern the Budget Committee said they will listen. Chairman Duarte said he had a list of concerns and would attend the hearing. He felt the way they handled the emergency management budget was absurd. He noted Emergency Management Director doesn't even get wages and they cut his budget. Chairman Duarte noted he is part of the FEMA Committee (as a State Rep) and they spoke extremely highly of EM Director Panit. The department heads deserve a pat on the back they did a good job this year. Selectman Snow mentioned the Budget Committee dropped one of the Fire Departments lines. He suggested that Fire Chief Young or one of his representatives attends the hearing. Fire Chief Young confirmed they dropped the fire prevention line. Selectman Soares replied yes. She noted the Budget Committees concern is the overall dollar amount and reducing it. They didn't like the proposed budget and they look to where cuts should be made. They may not agree but they are looking out for the tax payers and their not making it personal. Fire Chief Young asked if the Budget Committee add lines, because it always seems like they are cutting. He didn't think this was right. He asked if they would ever add money to his fire prevention line. Selectman Soares replied no, but they did add money to Road Agent Lewis's budget. Fire Chief Young said the overall impression of the Budget Committee is to cut, cut, and cut. He didn't think that was their job and he didn't vote for it. Selectman Soares explained they look at lines that were not consistency being used and they cut them. Chairman Duarte said they should look at their budget and look at what the surrounding communities are doing. They are the third lowest. It's not that our people are spending a lot of money. You have to look outside the box and if all you were looking at was Candia's budget you would think it was astronomical. He felt some of the decision didn't make sense. They need to look outside Candia. He felt the employees and department heads are doing a good job.

These figures don't lie. He felt the Board had a pretty good control on the budget. He was one of the residents that voted for a Budget Committee and he regrets it, because it's another layer of bureaucracy. He felt the Police Department does a great job and the Budget Committee wants them to take over Animal Control. This decision didn't make sense to him. They are making changes and there are no counter actions. They have a good group of people working here and they are getting a chance to have their say.

Selectman Snow moved to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Andria Hansen, Recording Secretary