

~~Unapproved~~Approved  
**Candia's Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes**  
**February 25, 2013**

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

**The Board to appoint Isaiah Soucy as a firefighter/EMT to the Candia Volunteer Fire Department based on Fire Chief Young's recommendation.** Chairman Duarte read Fire Chief Young's recommendation letter (see attached). Selectman Kelley motioned to appoint Isaiah Soucy to the Candia Volunteer Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried. Fire Chief Young said Isaiah is from Candia and this is who he wants to see on the department. He wasn't knocking anyone from out of town, but Isaiah was born here and has been an explorer. He felt he was going to be an outstanding asset to the department.

**The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to accept quarterly donations and grants in accordance with RSA 31:95-b, III (a).** Chairman Duarte read the total amount for donations was \$7,580 (see attached) and the total amount for grants received was \$33,338.32. Selectman Soares motioned to accept grants in the amount of \$33,338.32 and donations in the amount of \$7,580. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Duarte thanked everyone that donated.

**Departmental Reports: Highway, Police, Fire, Building, Solid Waste & any other depts.**

**Highway:** Road Agent Lewis read from the attached report.

**Police:** Chief McGillen said there were no burglaries or major thefts to report. They had some minor incidents where they had some kids going through some vehicles on Winslow Lane. They were taking change and other things. He encouraged people to lock their vehicles.

**Fire:** Selectman Kelley read from the attached report.

**Building:** Selectman Soares read from the attached report. She noted that things have been slow this month, but inspections are up. They have a few projects that they are working on. Chairman Duarte commented that Building Inspector Murray has been doing a really good job.

**Solid Waste:** Selectman DePuy read from the attached report.

**The Board to accept Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman's resignation and discuss personnel within the Selectmen's Office.** Chairman Duarte read Selectmen's Assistant Eastman's resignation letter. He noted the changes in the office. Accounting and Payroll Clerk and Administrative Assistant Andria Hansen will split Cheryl Eastman's duties. Donna Becker will go from part time to full time at a new rate of pay of \$18.00 per hour effective February 17, 2013 and Andria Hansen's rate of pay will go to \$19.50 per hour effective February 17, 2013. Cheryl Eastman will stay on as a consultant as needed at a rate of pay of \$20.43 per hour effective February 22, 2013. He noted that Cheryl will surely be missed and she did a lot of extra work that we sometimes take for granted. Selectman Kelley agreed with Chairman Duarte and she will be missed. She was there any time you had a question and always had the answers. Chairman Duarte felt they would have a smooth transition. It was noted that Cheryl would be staying on as the Budget Committee secretary.

**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 February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> is \$790,548.08. Selectman Snow motioned to accept the total payroll and accounts payable checks in the amount of \$790,548.08 for February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Previous Minutes: Public meeting minutes of 01/28/13.** Selectman Soares motioned to accept the Selectmen's meeting minutes of January 28, 2013 as written. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **Other Business**

**Nixle notification service:** Chief McGillen said he had some flyers made up by a local business man Brian Joas. He donated the flyers and they will be going out in the town report with the Boy Scout packets. He wanted the residents to know that this is a free service and they can get messages on their cell phone or computer if they choose to sign up. Some of the notifications would be road closures, serious accidents, power outage, etc. It's secure and a lot of towns are using it. He has talked to other Chief's in the county and Auburn and Lee are using it. If you go to the town website there will be directions on how to sign up. Citizen Judy Szot asked if it was like Amber Alert. Chief McGillen said it's along the same lines. They aren't going to use it all of the time, because it gets mundane and people won't look at it. They are just going to use it for important issues. He mentioned the Auburn Fire Department has used this program and it's a good way to get the information out there.

Selectman Kelley mentioned that Judge Larsen was killed in an automobile accident this weekend. He was a nice man and will be missed.

**Town Report delivery:** Selectman Snow said the town reports will be delivered the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and the intent is to put it on the website as well.

**Conservation easement:** Selectman Snow mentioned the Conservation Commission is looking at an easement on North Road. Bear Paw came to the last Conservation Commission meeting and the owners name is Ken Hoffman. The Conservation Commission asked Selectman Snow to bring this information to the Board to make them aware of it.

**Political Signs:** Citizen Sharon Dewitt asked for an update on the sign removals around town. She mentioned the (YouTube) video said the state allows the signs to be removed. If the state allows this then the other signs need to be removed, because they don't note who paid for those signs. Chief McGillen said the matter has been reported to the Attorney General's office. They are conducting an investigation. There have been allegations of misconduct by several different people. He has seen the video and he doesn't like what he sees. There are some other parts of this that he can't speak about. No one can be taking the signs only law enforcement or highway officials can take down the signs if they are obstructing sight distance or traffic. There were also reports of signs being vandalized or taken out and tossed over the snow banks. If anyone knows about this type of activity please call the station. They have a meeting with a member of the Attorney General's Office tomorrow on this situation. Selectman Snow said he understood this was an ongoing investigation. Chief McGillen confirmed that it was. Citizen Becky Sarra asked if there was a requirement for content on the sign and what would it be. Selectman Soares replied yes and if you are opposing or in support of a candidate you have to put on the sign who paid for the advertisement and that it has not been authorized by any candidate. According to RSA 664:14 you need to have your name on it and who paid for it. Chairman Duarte said there is a bill that amends RSA 664:17 which is HB 459. It specifically says "no person shall remove, deface, or knowingly destroy any political advertisement which is on or affixed to public property or any private property except the owner of the property persons authorized by the owner of the property or law enforcement officer removing advertising political advertising placed on or affixed to any public property may be removed by state, city, town maintenance or law enforcement personnel." Citizen Bob Dabrowski said most of what Chairman Duarte just said is in RSA 664:17 it's a law enforcement function. Chairman Duarte replied the Chief is on top of that so he felt they had their bases covered. Citizen Nicole Laflamme asked if Selectman Kelley if he would like to address the audience and let them know what his thoughts are on this. Selectman Kelley replied not at this time. Citizen Nicole Laflamme asked Selectman Soares the same question. Selectman Soares replied no, but if you are going to put a sign up then put your name on it. Citizen Rudy Cartier asked if it was part of the discussion with the AG's Office if these signs were political or not. Chief McGillen said it will most likely come up. Citizen Sharon Dewitt asked if she put up a sign and it said "Vote for Sharon Dewitt" but it doesn't say who its paid for by is this a properly noticed sign under the RSA. Chairman Duarte said it depends on what is on the sign. This wasn't a candidate's sign; it was a sign making a statement

as to what someone said. He didn't believe there was a problem with that, but the Police Chief could give them more information on that once he meets with the AG's Office. He thought when you quoting someone it might be a little different than someone putting up a sign asking you to vote for them. There are different types of political signs. One with your name on it and the other one is with quotes someone made. He would prefer to have the AG's Office handle this. At this point in time the community has enough problems and he feels bad that this had to come out just before an election. As soon as they have information they will fill the residents in and he will announce it at the Selectmen's meeting. Citizen Becky Sarra asked for clarification and should there be a fiscal agent on the political signs. Chairman Duarte said he would rather not comment on something he's not sure about. There are some differences in the signs. Citizen Becky Sarra said if a sign says vote for me should it have a fiscal agent on the sign. Chairman Duarte replied yes. Citizen Judy Szot noted RSA 664:14-7 says "any advertising which is not political advertising because it does not advocate the success or defeat of a party, measure or person but which mentions or depicts a candidate shall include the statement – this advertise has been paid for by (name of sponsor) and has not been authorized by any candidate". So if you mention someone's name you have to say who did it. You cannot hide behind a cloak of anonymity. Citizen Sharon Dewitt agreed with that, but the signs that are out there that say "Vote for ---" they do not say who paid for those signs. It seems improper for a Selectperson acting on behalf of the town to pull up signs deemed inappropriate while putting up signs that are missing the exact same documentation. Selectman Snow stated she was not allegedly acting on behalf of the town because he is not aware of any vote by the Board of Selectmen that had to do with signs in Candia. Chairman Duarte said he has this noted on his signs because it is one of the requirements. Citizen Rudy Cartier asked if the meeting with the AG's Office is a public meeting. Chief McGillen said it will be private. Citizen Carla Penfield said there are two things you may want to think about in all of this. Most of the political signs around town are on private property, so they are probably exempt of having to say "paid for by --". However the signs that are being discussed are on public property. There is another RSA that says you can't put any political advertising on public property. It's a complicated issue. Chairman Duarte agreed that it's a complicated issued that is why they are going to let the AG's Office handle it. It's like anything else until they found out who screwed up and who is going to get hammered or not they won't know. Our position as a Board is to let the proper authorities handle it. Citizen Bob Dabrowski referred to RSA 664:17 and if you put a sign on public property it can only be removed by law enforcement. Citizen Judy Szot read from RSA 664:17 which says "No political advertising will be placed on or affixed to any public property ...." Citizen Sharon Dewitt noted then the other signs should have been pulled up. If you want to pull them up that's fine but pull them all up. This is showing favoritism and if you go under New Hampshire Bar issue there is information on this as well. You are supposed to give 24 hour notice to allow the person to remove the signs by themselves. In addition you have to maintain them for one week so the person can collect their property. Citizen Carleton Robie noted it's pretty hard to ask someone to remove their signs when you don't know who it was. The only thing on the signs

that were removed was "Amanda", so maybe she took it upon herself to take her own signs down. Maybe she put these signs out herself they had her name on them. Some people may interpret the signs this is the way she felt and what she thought was right. She may want the public to know that, because there may be some people in this community that don't want their money squandered away. She could have thought that someone put those signs out thinking they might help her in her campaign. He noted until someone surfaces and asks for their signs back all they have to do is put their name on them. He noted none of the political signs have a fiscal agent on them. He asked the audience to think about what happened here. Citizen Becky Sarra said she interpreted this a little differently and she was looking at all of the signs not just one specific sign. All of the signs don't have a fiscal agent on them. Citizen Carleton Robie disagreed and if a candidate agrees to be responsible for the sign that is all the state requires. If someone put their name on the sign Amanda wouldn't have touched them. He thought this was dirty politics and its sad our community has to operate like that. If you want to be negative to someone then put your name on the sign. Citizen Bob Dabrowski said the teachers at Moore School teach the children that you don't touch other kids and you don't touch there things. You don't touch other peoples signs it's pretty simple. The kids have this figured out by the fourth grade. Citizen Rudy Cartier asked if the signs have been returned to the owner. Chief McGillen noted he has some signs and some signs have been returned. Citizen Felix Sheppard asked if anyone has claimed the signs. Chief McGillen said the individuals name is Eric Shifflett. Citizen Felix Sheppard asked if he gave a reason as to why he put them up. Chief McGillen said he told the Sergeant he was leading with freedom of speech. Citizen Sharon Dewitt asked if they could take down all of the signs because they don't have a fiscal agent on it. Chairman Duarte thought at this point it is being handled by the proper authorities and they are just speculating at this point. They are not all going to agree and they need some more facts.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Selectman Snow moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andria Hansen, Recording Secretary