

Explanation of the March 14, 2017, Town and School Warrant

The following is paid for and authorized by the **Candia Communications Committee**, a citizens group created as a result of the April 2016 community profile event. It has been reviewed by members of the Board of Selectmen, School Board, and the Budget Committee to assure the information is as accurate and as unbiased as possible. Please feel free to reach out to Mark Laliberte, who wrote the piece, at mark.laliberte@gmail.com with additional questions or concerns you may have.

Please note the following:

- **Articles 1** on the warrants are to vote for Town and School officials. Your annual report will have the positions on the warrants and the names of the candidates for said offices.
- In addition to town and school articles is a zoning amendment. This was proposed and approved by the **Planning Board by unanimous vote**.
- The **Board of Selectmen** recommend all the town warrant articles by a vote of **5 to 0**.
- The **Candia School Board** recommend School Warrant Articles 1-4 by a vote of **5 to 0**. BSC did not make a recommendation for Article 5, since this was a citizen's petition.
- The **Municipal Budget Committee** recommended all of the warrant articles by a vote of **9 to 0, unless otherwise noted**. The MBC only recommends articles that raise and appropriate funds.

Zoning Amendment

ARTICLE XV: SPECIAL EXCEPTION USES, Section 15.04E Accessory Dwelling Units. To replace current Section 15.04E with the following:

Any single-family dwelling unit in the residential or mixed use districts may be converted or constructed to provide for one accessory dwelling unit subject to conformance with Section 15:02 Special Exception Standards and any additional requirements imposed by the Board of Adjustment under Section 15:03, Special Exception Conditions and subject to the following restrictions:

1. There shall be no more than one accessory dwelling unit for any single-family dwelling.
2. There shall be no more than two bedrooms in the accessory dwelling unit.
3. Adequate sewer and water service shall be provided. One septic system shall serve the entire property and the adequacy of the system shall be certified by a licensed septic installer.
4. There shall be a maximum of 750 square feet for the accessory dwelling unit.
5. On-site parking for one additional vehicle shall be provided.
6. All existing set back requirements shall be met.
7. The accessory unit shall be within or attached to the main dwelling unit.
8. Architectural enhancements will be employed for the purpose of maintaining aesthetic continuity with the principal dwelling unit resulting in both units appearing as a single-family dwelling unit.
9. Either the primary or the accessory dwelling unit shall be occupied by the owner of the property.
10. The current State Building and Fire Codes for two-family dwellings shall apply.

In 2016 New Hampshire passed a law (SB146) that requires municipalities with zoning ordinance to allow an attached accessory dwelling units (in-law apartments) in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings. They still must meet other town ordinances, but cannot be denied. Candia allows in-law apartments; this amendment addresses areas where the current ordinance may conflict with state law.

2017 Town Warrant Articles

Article 2 is to see if the town will raise and appropriate funds for the 2017 town operating budget. This is what the town runs on, and voters have two choices. **If you vote yes, the 2017 municipal budget will be \$2,521,358. If you vote no, the default budget goes into effect, which shall be \$2,478,904.** This is the same amount as last year, but with adjustments such as insurance, workers' compensation, and other items required by previous action of the town or by state or federal law.

Articles 3-14 are considered the “charity articles,” as they are funds raised and appropriated for non-profit agencies the Board of Selectmen determined provide services that are more cost-effective than if done by the town itself. They are as follows (BC: recommends Articles 3-13, 7 to 2; does not recommend Article 14, 2 to 7):

- **Article 3: \$6,807** in support of Rockingham County Community Action
- **Article 4: \$4,000** in support of Visiting Nurse Association of Manchester
- **Article 5: \$3,250** in support of American Red Cross
- **Article 6: \$1,854** in support of Lamprey Health Care
- **Article 7: \$1,250** in support of Child Advocacy Center
- **Article 8: \$1,000** in support of Big Brother/Big Sister Program
- **Article 9: \$1,000** in support of Home Health and Hospice Care
- **Article 10: \$1,000** in support of Rockingham County Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Program
- **Article 11: \$700** in support of Aids Response Seacoast
- **Article 12: \$500** in support of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children)
- **Article 13: \$225** in support of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
- **Article 14: \$200** in support of the Southeast Watershed Alliance.

Article 15 asks voters if they want annual deposit of Cemetery Maintenance proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots to go into the Cemetery General Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. This is for cemetery maintenance starting with 2015 plot sales. The town approved this trust fund in 2016.

Article 16 asks voters if they approve the sum of **\$15,000** to conduct an engineering study of potential traffic circulation and roadway alignment improvements on NH Route 43 and NH Route 27. The revised Master Plan contains a Transportation section and a subcommittee that is looking at traffic issues in town. The Transportation subcommittee is exploring all traffic within the town with a focus on intersections within Routes 43 and 27 (i.e. by Holbrook Cemetery, Candia House of Pizza, and Viking Oil). If approved, this would begin the process of finding ways to improve the safety and flow of the named intersections as well as placement on the state’s 10-Year Transportation Plan. Town funds would not be required for the construction of the final plan (BC: recommend 7 to 2).

Article 17 asks voters if they want to adopt a \$300 “all veterans’ property tax credit.” Under a new NH law, municipalities can offer a property tax credit to any resident veteran provided they served not less than 90 days on active service in the U.S. armed forces and was honorably discharged or was an officer honorably separated from service, and are not eligible for and not receiving the credit for veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with a service-connected disability.

Article 18 asks voters to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell town owned property, identified as Map 410, Lots 162, 161, and 162-1. These are properties near Exit 3 (across from the Irving Station) and, in the past, were deemed by Town Meeting to be sold only for use as a grocery store. This would allow Selectmen to sell the property to a developer that may have other economic development in mind.

Article 19 asks voters to approve **\$17,500** to the Candia Youth Athletic Association. This is a perennial citizens’ petition request by CYAA to help defray costs of providing recreational activities to town youth.

Article 20 asks voters to approve **\$3,500** to be placed in the existing Smyth Memorial Building Expendable Trust Fund. This is for ongoing maintenance for the currently vacant building on the corner of South Road and High Street. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 2-7. A major reason is members feel there is already enough money allocated in the town budget that goes toward this purpose, as well as a need for the town to develop a future plan for the building. Selectmen feel this will help defray future issues that need to be addressed, such as water and septic to the building.

Article 21 asks voters to approve **\$2,500** to be placed in the existing Town Office Building Maintenance Fund. This is for larger projects that the town may be needed for the building.

Article 22 asks voters to approve **\$20,000** for the Revaluation Capital Reserve fund for the Future Revaluation of the municipality. The town is required by state law to reevaluate all property every five years. The expected cost for this service is \$100,000, so this prevents taxpayers from having to pay for it all at once.

Article 23 asks voters to approve **\$4,000** for the operation and maintenance of the Fitts Museum (the museum on High Street dedicated to Candia's history). This is a perennial request from the museum trustees.

Article 24 asks voters to approve **\$100,000** for excess winter road maintenance. This is insurance in case the existing winter road maintenance line-items in the budget are expended. These funds are not used otherwise.

Article 25 asks voters to approve **\$150,000** for the final phase of Chester Turnpike. This is to complete the repair and paving project on the road.

Article 26 asks voters to approve **\$50,000** to be deposited in the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. This is to help spread out the cost of replacing fire trucks and other major equipment, which can run up to \$500,000 or more.

Article 27 is to see if the town will vote to establish a Fire Station Infrastructure and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund, and then to see if the town approves of **\$50,000** going into that fund. Fire Chief Dean Young stated that Manchester may be making its ambulance service in-house in the coming years, and that may require Candia to have its own service, as Candia uses AMR, which would go away if Manchester had its own ambulance service. This reserve fund could be used to expand the current fire station to address this need, as well as any future expansion needed at the fire house.

Article 28 asks voters to approve **\$127,891** for Smyth Public Library operating expenses. This is a perennial request by the Smyth Public Library Trustees.

Article 29 asks voters to approve **\$37,000** for the implementation of a mosquito control program. This has been an ongoing article since the discovery of eastern equine encephalitis in town a few years ago. This program is designed to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquito-borne diseases such as Zika, and West Nile virus. The majority of funds go toward testing areas of town for these diseases and spraying of common areas in town. Spraying of private properties is authorized only if these diseases are found in town. The Budget Committee recommended Article 29 by a vote of 5-4. Concerns include the effectiveness and the safety of the spraying, as well as if the company contracted to conduct spraying is adhering to the wishes of property owners that do not want spraying on their property.

Article 30 asks voters to approve **\$6,000** for the review and update of the current All Hazard Plan. This is a FEMA requirement. According to the town's Emergency Management Director, the town will be reimbursed through federal grant funding.

Article 31 asks town voters to change the purpose of the Future Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund. Selectmen would like to use the funds for purchasing replacement equipment and capital improvements at the current recycling center. However, the present capital reserve fund limits expenditures to the former incinerator site on New Boston Road which is decommissioned and has been closed for 10 years. **Article 31 must pass with a 2/3 vote.**

Article 32 asks voters to transfer responsibility of two properties from Selectmen to the Candia Conservation Commission. These properties total 38 acres, and are land-locked between the Town Forest on Deerfield Road and the former incinerator site on New Boston Road. There will be at no cost to town taxpayers. These properties would then be placed into the Candia Town Forest System.

2017 School Warrant Articles

It is important to note that the Candia School District works on a fiscal year budget (July 1-June 30). School leadership forecasts expenses that occur 18 months in the future. As a result, the expenses expressed in these warrants have not occurred, and are referred to by dual years.

Article 2 is a contract agreement between the district and the Candia Education Association, the union that collectively bargains on behalf of the Moore School teachers. The article is twofold. First, it asks voters to approve a three-year contract based on the following increases in total salary and benefits:

- **2017-18: \$51,596**
- **2018-19: \$65,842**
- **2019-20: \$66,167**

The second part of Article 2 asks voters to support to the sum agreed to by the union and school board for 2017-18, which is \$51,596. **The negotiated contract includes a decrease in the health insurance costs. If this article is rejected, the teachers will revert back to the more expensive health insurance plans.** (BC: recommend 8 to 1).

Article 3 is very similar to Article 2, except it asks for these agreements for the Moore School paraprofessionals. In addition, this agreement is for two years, as opposed to three years.

- **2017-18: \$16,575**
- **2018-19: \$17,209**

The negotiated contract includes a decrease in the health insurance costs. If this article is rejected, the paraprofessionals will revert back to the more expensive health insurance plans.

Article 4 is to see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate funds for its operating budget. This is what the district runs on, and voters have two choices. **If you vote yes, the 2017-18 district budget will be \$8,522,673. If you vote no, the default budget goes into effect, which shall be \$8,431,103.** This is the same amount as last year, but with adjustments such as insurance, workers' compensation, and other items **required by previous action of the district or by state or federal law.** This was recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 3.

Article 5 is a citizen's petition. It asks the Candia School Board to hold a public hearing regarding policy "JBAB – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students." This is in regard to the May 2016 decision by the School Board to approve the policy, 4-1. The result of this article's vote is advisory only.

For more information about this policy, please refer to the following resource:

Policy JBAB – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students:

<http://candiaschoolboard.sau15.net/policy-manual/transgender-gender-non-conforming>

Go to candiaschoolboard.sau15.net, and click on the "Policies" link to find the above page.