

**Meeting of the
Candia Municipal Budget Committee
April 8, 2015
Town Hall, Candia, NH**

Members Present: Chair Matthew Broadhead, Vice-Chair Allyn Chivers, Mark Laliberte, Paul LeBlond, Andrea Peach, Selectman's Rep. Carleton Robie, School Board Rep. Rebecca Cronk.

Absent: Kevin Coughlin

Also Present: Selectman Boyd Chivers, Road Agent Dennis Lewis, Richard Snow.

Chairman Broadhead called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Broadhead announced that Geraldine Cole could not commit to being recording secretary and resigned her position. Broadhead announced that he would ask the webmaster post the position on the town website.

Election of Officers

Broadhead announced that he would not run for re-election as chair of the Municipal Budget Committee. Nominations were taken from the floor.

Motion: To nominate Lynn Chivers as chair (1st – LeBlond, 2nd – Laliberte) **Approved 7-0.**
Broadhead handed over the running of the meeting to Chivers.

Motion: To nominate Paul Leblond as vice-chair (1st – Peach, 2nd – Laliberte) **Approved 7-0.**

Motion: To nominate Mark Laliberte as secretary (1st – Cronk, 2nd – Broadhead) **Approved 7-0.**

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approval of Jan. 31 meeting during Town Deliberative Session (1st – Robie, 2nd – Broadhead) **Approved 7-0.**

Motion: Approval of Feb. 5 meeting during School Deliberative Session (1st – Laliberte, 2nd – LeBlond) **Approved 6-0** (Chivers abstained, as she missed the meeting).

Discussion of Election Results

Broadhead said the Town Deliberative Session's decision to allow the purchase of the 23 Main Street property to go to the ballot was the right decision. The will of the people was expressed at the polls and the voters decided that they did not want to purchase the property. Broadhead also commented on the \$80,000 budget cut approved by the deliberative session and the voters on March 10, saying that while it might be tight, if you compare budget lines from this time last year, the numbers are similar.

Robie stated that the town overwhelmingly supported \$5,000 for the first phase of an updated master plan. He has spoken to the Planning Board about working with Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) to move forward. As for Town Article 25 (purchase of Fitts Property on 23 Main St.), he believes the voters may have been misinformed about the purpose of the land. He said that voters across Southern NH voted against building safety complexes and he believed there was a perception that's what the land would be used for. He also thought there might not have been enough information about the project, but if they supported the master plan, then the voters should have supported the land warrant.

Chivers asked whether the voters would be asked for \$5,000 each year on the warrant to address the Master Plan. Robie said that's up to what the Planning Board decides. A full first phase would likely cost around \$15,000, but what's important is bringing everyone together, including SNHPC. However, there is interest in addressing the master plan.

Review of town budget report

Broadhead asked if there was a final budget available. Robie said he and Donna Becker from the town office would work on a final draft and have the Board of Selectmen approve it on Monday, April 13, as the NH Department of Revenue needs those numbers next week.

Laliberte asked Road Agent Lewis on the status of his budget, considering the difficult winter. Lewis stated his entire winter line item and \$75,000 approved by town meeting for supplemental snow removal was exhausted. He said he has moved \$80,000 from his paving line item to address plowing for the rest of the year (particularly November and December). He will leave \$20,000 for minor projects. Chivers asked what would be affected by moving the money. Lewis said it would affect putting the topcoat on Critchett Road and some work on Island Road. Lewis did say he was expecting money from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), but wasn't sure how much. In addition, he would use interest from the Moore Highway Trust Fund (approx. \$13,000) for projects, but said there were certain conditions for using these funds. Once projects are identified, he'd bill the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

Laliberte asked about the status of the baler at the Transfer Station. Robie said that they placed the deposit down on it. Chivers asked why the solid waste line item was \$40,000 more than last year. Robie stated that it was likely from the deposit. Chivers asked about why the Forestry and Fire line item was \$60,000 higher than last year. Robie believed it was because the Fire Department purchased new air packs, but were expected to get funds back from a grant used to purchase them, and would be reflected in a future report. Chivers asked about an increase in the police line-items. Robie stated it was probably from part-time salaries. Selectman Boyd Chivers, from the audience, stated it was due to two reasons. First, the auditors stated the expenses line in 2014 was short by \$8,000, and it's restated in the 2015 budget. Second, the town erroneously credited prosecutorial services in 2015 instead of 2014, which is reflected in the budget. Finally, Chivers asked about the increase in the Town Offices line item. Robie said the town needed to spend \$4,000 on back-up server batteries.

Review of school budget report

There was no school budget report. Cronk, as the new school board representative, would speak to Karen Lessard at SAU 15 to make sure the Budget Committee gets reports before each meeting.

Other business

Cronk officially resigned as an elected member of the Budget Committee once she was elected to the Candia School Board, but was then named the school board representative. As a result, her elected position on the board is vacant. Cronk hand-delivered the resignation to the town last month, but Broadhead suggested the board formally accept the resignation with regret.

Motion: To accept, with regret, the resignation of Becky Cronk (1st – Broadhead, 2nd – Robie)
Approved 6-0 (Cronk abstained).

Broadhead stated that he received one letter looking to fill the position, that from Snow. Chivers stated that the board will vote upon filling the position at the May 13 meeting, and will ask the webmaster to publish a notice on the town website announcing the vacancy.

Robie noted that 23 Main Street went under purchase and sales agreement for \$359,000 the day after the election.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn (1st – Robie, 2nd – LeBlond) **Approved 7-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.