

**Meeting of the  
Candia Municipal Budget Committee  
May 13, 2015  
Town Hall, Candia, NH**

**Members Present:** Chair Allyn Chivers, Vice-Chair Paul LeBlond, Kevin Coughlin, Mark Laliberte, Andrea Peach, School Board Rep. Kim Royer (*filling in for Rebecca Cronk*), Selectman’s Rep. Carleton Robie,

**Absent:** Matthew Broadhead, Rebecca Cronk

**Also Present:** Richard Snow (*7:20 p.m.*)

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Chivers asked that the word “have” be changed to “has” within the fourth paragraph of Page 2.

**Motion:** Approval of April 13 Municipal Budget Committee minutes with grammatical change (1st – Robie, 2nd – LeBlond) **Approved 7-0.**

**Appointment to Fill Unexpired Term**

With the election of Cronk to the Candia School Board, and her subsequent appointment to the Budget Committee as its representative, her elected position became vacant. The MBC posted a request for application to fill the unexpired term of Cronk until March 2016, at which time the remaining year on the term will be on the municipal ballot. The board received two letters:

- Robert Stout; 21 Diamond Hill Road
- Richard Snow; 127 Depot Road

Laliberte spoke on the issue, stating that he was excited to see a new name apply for the position, and that Mr. Stout’s experience and commitment to the town would be a great help to the Budget Committee.

**Motion:** To name Robert Stout to the Municipal Budget Committee to fill the unexpired term of Becky Cronk (1st – Laliberte, 2nd – Peach) **Approved 7-0.**

**Review of town budget report**

Chivers asked Robie about town officers expense increase of \$22,000. Robie stated that in was a renewal of software license fees within town offices. Chivers also noted that there was an increase of \$139,000 within the solid waste expenditure line item. However, much of this was due to the purchase of a new baler.

Robie also noted that the town meeting approved a budget that was \$80,000 less than the selectman and budget committee first approved in January – which was modified to allow for a warrant article to be placed on the March town ballot regarding the purchase of land at 23 Main Street. He is working with departments to address issues.

**Review of school budget report**

Royer noted that the town-wide kindergarten registration was ongoing and that the last day of school will be June 19, 2015. Laliberte asked about enrollment numbers for 2015-16. Royer said she hadn't heard anything different. She was expecting a net loss of 28 students (as 54 eighth-graders graduate and approximately 26 kindergarten students enroll), for an estimate of 323 students at the start of the 2015-16 school year. Royer also stated there is a lot of movement within enrollment numbers as some students live with aunts and grandparents.

Royer stated that, with less than two months in the school year, she estimated that there would be an approximate surplus of \$250,000. Of that, the school board will be using some of those funds toward unbudgeted maintenance projects and safety suggestions recommended by a report issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The repairs include such items as door replacement, window repair, painting, and other issues that pop-up with older buildings.

Royer also explained how this surplus is used. Each year, the School Board appropriates about \$80,000 toward repairs. Certain line items within this appropriation may be encumbered for other purposes. When the end of the year comes around, the school district uses some of the surplus funds to address these repairs.

Another cost comes from capital costs due to Manchester, as an obligation from being a tuition town. There is a lawsuit pending on whether Candia owes Manchester \$175,000 for repairs that were already covered as part of an exit agreement with other towns and through federal funds in 2013-14. While Candia has already paid this amount for 2014-15, there is still a question on whether the town owes this amount.

Discussion turned toward a meeting the School Board was hosting on May 15, 2015, which would address the stagnant population growth of the town, and the subsequent decline in school enrollment. SAU 15 Superintendent Dr. Charles Littlefield would attend and School Moderator Clark Thyng would run the meeting. The public and all major town board members were invited.

LeBlond stated that Auburn also had a declining enrollment (as opposed to Hooksett) and it has many homes for sale as well as foreclosures versus other towns.

Royer also stated the district was hosting a Get to Know Pinkerton night on June 3, 2015. Through a process of looking at other high schools throughout the region, Pinkerton met all the criteria. She also stated that the Manchester contract allows Candia a chance to opt-out of the contract by 2018 if it announces its intention by June 2016. This would happen if a warrant article appeared on the 2016 School Warrant and passed. If it failed, Candia would be under contract with Manchester until 2023.

**Other business**

Chivers noted that there is still a vacancy for a secretary.

Robie stated that the town voters supported a master plan in March and appreciates what the School Board is doing on May 15. Robie hopes that the Planning Board and other boards work together to get this process off the ground.

Royer stated that the school has an aging playground problem involving pavement and a sinkhole. It would like future input from the budget committee in regards to how to fix it and what financial mechanism it should use.

Coughlin suggested maybe use end-of-year surplus. Royer stated it might be tricky to do that, as they want to make sure the money is there for any emergency.

**Adjournment**

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

*Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.*