

Meeting of the Candia Municipal Budget Committee

August 10, 2016

Town Offices, Candia, NH

Members present: Chair Allyn Chivers, Kevin Coughlin, School Board Rep. Rebecca Cronk, Susan Gill, Jodi Hedstrom, Paul LeBlond, Bob Stout, Selectman's Rep. Susan Young

Members absent: Dana Buckley

Chairman Chivers opened the meeting at 7:02pm

Pledge of allegiance

OLD BUSINESS

Approve minutes

Correction: top of page 6, 2nd sentence, change 'core' to 'course'.

Motion: To approve minutes from the 6/8/16 meeting (1st – Stout, 2nd – Young). **Approved 6-0**

Answer Questions from Last Meeting

School:

Chivers: From last time, "The Association for School Principals, that's not going to be listed under Office of the Principal Service?" Cronk: I haven't gotten answer back on that and we haven't met again. I will get that for you.

Chivers: "How do they base the structure of their fees?" Cronk: Same answer. I will get that.

Chivers: Then we were talking about co-mingling and whether the funds were going to be separated. There was an issue whether or not the state funds should be comingled with these funds. Cronk: We can ask, but that is going to up to the Business Administration.

Hedstrom: I did a little research on lobbying after I went home. There are a ton of companies that we deal with day-to-day though the town and through the school that are listed on the lobbying group. So if we're saying that they need to separate the funds from that because they're listed on that lobbying group that means that the town would then have to do that as well. PSNH is there, Unitel. This would be an issue with all towns across the state. Does that mean every town is doing it incorrectly by paying these bills that are listed on the lobbying site with town and state money? There are pages and pages

listed. It's Unitel, it's Blue Cross Blue Shield, it's our healthcare, it's fireman. Young: the Police Association. Hedstrom: If we're going to ask the school board to do that we then have to ask the town to do that. And if that had to happen don't you think a lawyer would have already told us that had to happen?

Chivers: Next, you (Cronk) were going to email us the information about the state funds & grants. Cronk: I thought I forwarded it to you? OK, I'll look into that.

Chivers: There was a question about Childfind because we hadn't spent any money. You thought maybe nobody had registered but you were going to find out. Cronk: We didn't have any students. Chivers: nobody registered for Childfind? Cronk: No. Chivers: OK.

No questions from town reports from last time.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Town Reports

No questions.

Review School Reports

Chivers: I forwarded you all of you the email I got from Karen, no school reports this time.

There was an article in the Union Leader that 'Manchester school OK's agreement with Candia residents. And it talks about the Pinkerton settlement. I'm going to share this with everybody else and then you can explain to us. Cronk: Actually I can't explain anything because that hasn't been approved by the Candia board yet. There were changes that were made with all of our negotiations, and we haven't reviewed what Manchester finalized. Chivers: I'll read this, and you can explain whatever you can to us.

This talks about the contract between Manchester and Candia. "The settlement includes payments to the Queen City of more than \$322,000 within two weeks of the agreement taking effect, along with capital cost payments over the next five years ranging from \$146,000 in 2016-17 to \$101,000 in 2020-21, regardless of whether any Candia students attend Manchester schools during those years." Then it goes on, but it sounded to me like this was a done deal. Can you explain to us what this is all about?

Cronk: I can't because it's still in litigation. This is our attempt at a settlement, but our board has not reviewed it and we need to approve it before we can discuss anything further on it. Honestly I can't tell you anything about why we made certain changes. That's the entire reason why we've set up a special meeting that our council will be at next week – the 17th @ 6pm at the library. So that the board can hear it, town people can come and hear it. Hear what's happening and why we're doing certain things within the contract. And then we'll discuss it if the board approves it. Chivers: Is there any talk of changing the effective date of the contract? Cronk: I don't know at this point because we haven't had a chance to discuss it yet. Chivers: When we started this process, we had the issue with the capital costs for the past years – it had nothing to do with Pinkerton. Hedstrom: As far as I could fathom from the article, this is settling the capital cost lawsuit. If you go to Manchester's agenda, the contract is there on the agenda. From what I could read, it's the negotiation of the litigation that we've been watching.

Chivers: So you believe this has nothing to do with our decision to sign a contract with Pinkerton?

Young: well, our decision not to sign with Manchester. Chivers: OK, I don't want to speculate. We should talk about this more next month. Coughlin: So where is the money going to come from? Chivers: For the last few years, the amount of the capital costs we did not pay because of pending litigation was just held. It was budgeted, and put in an account. So it's still there, the money that we budgeted for capital costs but haven't paid over to Manchester. Anyway, when we know exactly what happened, we'll revisit that issue.

Other Topics

Budget Committee Budget

Chivers: I have to submit the Budget Committee's budget for next year. This year was 2,254, and we haven't spent any. I'm still going to budget for a secretary, and the FICA & Medicare. We put in a printing line because a few years ago we made up a sheet that showed all the dates of when the deliberative sessions were and we mailed it to everybody in town. Last year we just put it up on the website, and passed it out, but we didn't mail it out. For Seminars, we only have a \$1. I was thinking of changing the printing line to printing / publications and that way we could use that money to buy budget books for everybody. The Selectman have said they will do that for this year, but that way we could sure our new members always get a book. When we go to the budgeting conference we'll get some, and then after that I'll get a current book for everybody. Susan (Gill) and I are going, and Susan (Young) from the Selectman. If anyone else wants to go, it's Sept 20th. So next year I think we should budget for the conferences / seminars. Cronk: Is this a yearly conference? Chivers: They have a conference every year. I don't know if they're all the same because sometimes there's different issues. So we'll find out next year if it's the same as this year. How about if we say \$250 for seminars, and \$50 for postage, just in case we need it. We won't increase our budget, we'll stay with 2,254. Agreed? OK, I'll send that in.

The next thing I wanted to ask Sue about was the tax-deeded properties. We sold tax deeded properties last year. Are there any plans to sell tax-deeded properties this year? Young: I don't want to speak for the board, but not that I've heard of. Chivers: Why not? I looked at the town report, pages 97-98. There are a lot of tax deeded properties that have been sitting on here for quite a while. Young: I don't know, without being specific, if some of those are making payment plans. There have been some agreements with certain individuals to try to catch up so we don't take their homes. Chivers: We didn't take anybody's home this year. And I don't think it's the intent to take anybody's home. But all the properties that we sold there was nobody living there. Could you find out for us for the next meeting what the plan is with the tax deeded properties? Hedstrom: Is there a cut-off date? Is there a guideline, say after 5 years or after 10 years? Chivers: Yes, there is. But this one here was tax-deeded in 1997. Others in 2009. 2003. 2002. These are way beyond the time limits and they're still just sitting here. This one here is a \$124,700 piece of property that the town owns. Young: Is that the exit 3? Chivers: No, these are all tax-deeded properties. This is on Crowley Rd. 14 acres on Crowley Rd. I counted 7 that specifically say taken through tax deed.

Chivers: I got a memo from Andria, in the Selectman's office, wanting to know if we needed help with our administrative assistant. Can you tell me what that's about? Are we going to get help? Young: There are a couple of committees and some of the board members questioned why they weren't submitting minutes or their agendas on time. So I went through all the committees and departments that are not

covered under the town offices, and we came up with quite a few. My idea was to hire someone part time, a couple nights / evenings a week so that a committee member didn't have to do it. They can take the minutes, be present at the meetings, during their free time they can type the minutes up within the 5 days that is legally required and get them posted to the website. And they would get paid to do it. Chivers: We've been advertising for over a year and haven't found somebody. Young: I took all the money out of all these little committees the ones I knew about and we sent out a memo asking if people thought they needed help. The Selectman has one of the in-office secretaries who has hours devoted to doing that, so does the land use for the planning board and the ZBA. So that's already covered. It's all these little committees. Hedstrom: Does it have to be a townsperson? Young: No, it doesn't. Hedstrom: I think it's a great idea to pool all the money. That way someone can actually make some extra money. Young: It would be part-time, it wouldn't be a full time position. Chivers: Well, we hope it works. I've already sent it back. As you know, we definitely need help!

Chivers: We're getting into budget season. Have you scheduled your dates yet for the deliberative session, and when you're going to put your budget together? Cronk: I think so, just let me double check. Chivers: And you guys have already done yours? Young: Town Sat, Feb 4th @ 9am, snow date Feb 8th @ 6pm. Chivers: I'll get all the dates from Andria, then hopefully by next meeting I'll have the calendar all done so we can see all our meetings. They'll pretty much follow the same as last year. I just hope that we will get the warrant articles from the school more than the day of. Cronk: I already mentioned that. Young: Is that normally after the Selectman's budget meeting on Sept 17th? Chivers: Last year, review of the Select Board budget was Oct 28th and then we formulated our questions. Then we had a joint meeting with the Selectman Nov 11th. That was probably our regular meeting. Then we had preliminary recommendations Nov 12th. Young: So after the 17th, can you at least do the town portion? Or do you do both on the same day? Chivers: We don't do them both on the same day because we don't get the school budget until later. Cronk: We have a budget workshop in November. Chivers: Dec 2nd last year – review the school budget and formulate questions. Then we had a joint meeting with the School Board on Dec 9th, then preliminary vote, then the public hearings, then the warrant articles are due, then the supplemental hearings, then the deliberative sessions, then the town... so as soon as I get all those dates I'll make up the calendar. We also have to figure out when we can have a joint meeting with the school board and the SAU and a joint meeting with the Selectman. I'll check with both of you when I tentatively figure that out. Young: So if ours is earlier, can you start earlier than you did last year? With the town portion? Regular budget, not the warrant articles. Chivers: I was just looking. I don't know why our first meeting was Oct 28th because you guys do your budget in Sept. There was a reason, I'm sure, but at this point I have no recollection why we scheduled it at that point. But we could do our regular Oct meeting. At the September meeting we can't – at the September meeting we'll have all the end of the year stuff from the school. Then the October meeting, I don't know why we couldn't look at the town budget. Cronk: I don't recall that we got the town budget by our town meeting. Chivers: I think that was why. We didn't have the town budget. There was something wasn't ready. Anyway, it will all work out.

Motion: To adjourn (1st – Cronk, 2nd – Young). **Approved 8-0.**

Link to Union Leader article:

<http://www.unionleader.com/Education/Manchester-school-board-OKs-settlement-agreement-with-Candia-08092016>