

Town of Candia

Budget Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025

Public Hearing on the Town Budget

Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Lynn Chivers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Lynn Chivers, Katrina Niles, William Saffie, Susan Young, Steve Tremblay, Joshua Reap, Janet Lewis, Admin. Assist.

Absent: Susan Gill, Stephanie Helmig, Ryan Young

Approval of minutes from previous meeting- no minutes

Stephanie submitted the following possible cuts to the budget:

Ambulance: -\$25,000. Ambulance wages, - \$7,500 for medical equipment

Auditor Services-contractual, cannot be changed

Cemetery- Fuel/oil: budgeted \$2,000., spent \$798., -\$1,000. Tree Removal (maintenance): budgeted \$16,000., spent \$6,244. - \$3,000.

Highway Maintenance & Repair: budgeted \$2,500., spent \$466., - \$1,000.

Solid waste: Landfill disposal: budgeted \$2,003., spent \$194. -\$3,000. Facility O&M electricity- no change, Loader O& M: \$16,000., spent \$14,000., \$ -\$2,000.

Disposal of recyclables: Budgeted \$2,500., spent \$288., -\$1,000

Tax Collector: Identifying mortgages budgeted \$1,870. Spent \$1100., -\$120.

Town Building: maintenance & supplies -\$1,000.

Public Hearing: Carla Penfield, High Street, Smyth Memorial Building maintenance, requested budget \$2,893., Can be reduced by \$3,000. Amy Spencer, Town Administrator, said they have only \$164.00 left in the supplies line. That is one that should be taken out.

Beth Chalbeck, 148 Podunk Rd., in the cemetery budget would like to know where they came up with \$10,000. out of the maintenance line? Steve answered noting the request was \$5,000. per day to remove trees. The committee thought that seems pretty high and there should be more research done on the cost of removing the trees. Beth replied they are still working on taking down trees. They have not sent in their bill yet, although we requested it. The weather has been impacting the work getting done. That \$16,000. is already gone. That is encumbered money. We are

waiting on the bill to get that paid. We have been working on this for two years now. The company had some internal problems and the work did not get done when it was supposed to. That is not our fault. Steve said the question is if they have an RFP (request for proposal), what somebody would charge to cut down trees, seems expensive at that price. Beth replied that the bill they just submitted was for the \$5,000 per day and they worked for three days for \$10,000. They are clearing as much land as possible, not just cutting individual trees. In the past a crane had come and removed 4 trees in the Hill Cemetery for \$10,000. This is a clearing job where they take out as much as they can in the 2.5 acres. The land in the Village Cemetery was donated to the town by Mrs. Kelly with the understanding she would get six lots from the land. The Selectmen signed off on it. If you take that money away, we will not be able to fulfill that promise. Steve said it seems it is a matter of timing. Beth said when the bill is paid the account line will be zero. Mark Chalbeck, 148 Podunk Rd. stated we try not to spend much in the beginning, with leaf clean-up things like that. A wet year we would have to spend more money. This year was dry so we did not have to spend as much. Beth said when it is dry year they do not have to spend as much on fuel and oil. If you take away the \$1,000. fuel and oil line and we do not have a dry year then it could be in the negative.

Mark Chalbeck stated that next year we will have to get the lot situated for Mrs. Kelley. It will take some money for the gravel needed to put in. If we are able to submit a warrant article, some money can fund that, and if the warrant article goes through, we will be asking to use the interest on the trust fund.

Going back to maintenance and repair, there was recommended a \$1,000. deduction. Road Agent, Jeff Wuebbolt said the maintenance and repair line pays for the porta potties. It also pays for upkeep on the shed. This year we painted the shed. Obviously, we do not have a whole lot of infrastructure. It pays for things needed like portapotties and light bulbs. I am not opposed to some of that coming out. Lynn asked if the Highway Dept. has a separate line for tree removal? Jeff replied yes, we do.

Lynn closed the public meeting. Looking at the list of items discussed, the property appraisal for \$8,000 is contractual, so we cannot reduce that line. The \$10,000 for the cemetery, will be used up according to Beth.

Starting at the beginning: ambulance: -\$32,500. (revolving fund) from Stephanie's list and \$13,000 from the other list. Cemeteries: Susan Y. spoke about the cemeteries being so close to level funding, she would like to level fund it. That means we are excluding the \$10,000. Highway: \$1,000., Legal: Recycling Center; No one is here. We did not have a problem before. Josh asked what O&M is for? Lynn said operation and maintenance. Susan Y. stated that many of the

departments use up what is left before the end of the year. Planning Board: we took 2,500. out of the Master Plan. Adding up all the ones on the list to be deducted: Steve said the deductions add up to: 56,800. total

Original	\$4,512,346.
Deductions	<u>56,800.</u>
New Budget	\$4,455,546.42

Bill made a motion for the new budget to be \$4,455,546. Steve seconded. All in favor. It is unanimous. Motion passes.

Looking at the warrant articles:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, this operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations vote separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$4,455,546.42**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$4,300,221.11** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Candia or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Katrina makes a motion to recommend article #1. Steve seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 2. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars (**\$28,615**) to the **Candia Youth Athletic Association** for the specific expenses of providing youth recreation programs to the children of Candia. Said expenses to be expended under the direction of the Candia Youth Athletic Association Board of Directors in accordance with the approved budgets. (Submitted by petition)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-1-0)

Susan Y. makes a motion to recommend article #2. Josh seconded. Vote taken 5-1

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (**\$726,000**) to be added to the Future Capital Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the undesignated fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (No amount to be raised from taxation; no impact on the tax rate)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Bill makes a motion to recommend article #3. Susan Y. seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy Thousand, One Hundred Fifty Dollars (**\$170,150**) for the operating expenses of the **Smyth Public Library**. Funds are to be expended under the direction of the Smyth Public Library Association.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Susan Y. makes a motion to recommend the article #4. Katrina seconded. Vote taken.6-0

ARTICLE 5.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (**\$30,000**) to be deposited into the existing **Recycle Center Equipment and Capital Improvement Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 adopted at the March 2017 Town Meeting, for the purpose of funding major capital improvements in the Recycling Center and the replacement of equipment used at the Center with the Selectmen appointed as agents. No increase over previous year's appropriation; no additional tax impact)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Steve makes a motion to recommend article #5. Josh seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 6.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$150,000**) for **Excess Winter Road Maintenance**, these funds will not be used unless the operating winter maintenance funds are exhausted. This will be a non-transferable appropriation. (No increase over previous year's appropriation; no additional tax impact)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Susan Y makes a motion to recommend article #6. Bill seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 7.To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$250,000**) for the reconstruction of **North Road** starting at the point of 2025 completion and heading towards Healey Road. Said funds to expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. (This is another phase of the same project approved in 2024. No increase in the previous year's appropriation; no additional impact on the tax rate.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Bill questioned if that would finish it? Jeff replied no it will not. Bill makes a motion to recommend article #7. Josh seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 8.To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$75,000**) for the installation of the wear course layer of pavement on **North Road** from Route 43 to 2026 point of completion. Said funds to expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. (This is an increase in the previous year's appropriation of \$75,000; the tax rate impact is \$0.79 per thousand assessed valuation)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-1-0)

Susan Y. asked for explanation from the Road Agent. Jeff Wuebbolt answered that the \$75,000 is for the top coat between what we did this year and what we are going to do next year. The plan is every few years we are going to do topcoat so you only have to do about 4 to 6,000 feet of topcoat, instead of a huge chunk. We are trying

to do it in phases. Bill makes a motion to recommend article #8. Katrina seconded.
Vote taken 5-1

ARTICLE 9. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000**) for the assessment and removal of dead and hazardous trees in the Town of Candia. Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. (This is an increase of \$25,000 over the previous year's appropriation. The tax rate impact is \$0.26 per thousand assessed valuation).

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Lynn asked the Road Agent to speak on this, as this a new one. Jeff replied yes, it is the same one he has put in for the last 5 years for the same amount. But it is a new warrant article to cut trees specifically because of the influx of very unhealthy trees in town due to insects and disease. The Emerald ash borer is killing trees rapidly, also the Blister rust affecting Beech trees, there is the woolly adelgid insect affecting Hemlock trees and a beetle affecting Pine trees. This is why there has become so many dead trees. We going to try and catch up on taking down more of the dangerous trees. This warrant article was put in because every rain storm especially with high wind results, or in the winter, we have trees coming down on the power lines or on the road where people are driving every day. Last year, on Rte.43 in a wind storm, a dead ash tree fell on a truck. We have not had that problem on town roads yet, but it can become more likely as the rate of dead trees grows. This was put in to try and mitigate the risk by cutting as many trees as we can. The tree cutting line in the budget is for a yearly expected loss; this goes beyond to try and get caught up.

Bill asked if he tries to work with the utility companies? Jeff replied yes, they are very good about it. But, if they are not affecting the lines, they do not take them down. Susan Y. had a question, going back to article #8, the \$75,000 and then says, this is an increase of last year of 75,000. Could you explain further? The wording does not make sense. Jeff said it is a different phase of the same project. Susan said get rid of the word increase because it is not really an increase. Brian Brock, Selectmen, said this is why he was opposed the tax impact wording for all these warrant articles. It makes it confusing. This does not affect the tax rate that was set this year, already. These warrant articles are not an increase. Susan replied it is a tax impact. And it should be consistent on the ballot. Lynn suggested having the Selectmen discuss it further at a later time.

Bill made a motion to recommend article #9. Steve seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$125,000**) to be deposited in the **Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund**, established under RSA 35:1 at the March 1991 Town Meeting, for the future purchase of the fire apparatus and equipment with the Selectmen appointed as agents. (This is an increase of

\$50,000 over the previous year's appropriation. The impact on the tax rate is \$0.53 per thousand assessed valuations.)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Bill made a motion to recommend as written. Steve seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000**) to be deposited in the **Fire Station Infrastructure and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 at the March 2017 Town Meeting, for the purpose of providing for major capital investments in the fire station building infrastructure and grounds to keep the building and property sound, functional and safe well into the future with the Selectmen appointed as agents. (This is a \$50,000 reduction from the previous year's appropriation; the tax rate impact will be (\$0.53) per thousand assessed valuations.)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Steve made a motion to recommend article #11. Bill seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be known as the Ambulance Service Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing and replacing capital assets used by the Candia Fire and Rescue Department for the benefit of the Town's Ambulance Service, including but not limited to ambulances, medical equipment, communication systems, and related apparatus; and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be placed in this fund. Further, to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund, in accordance with RSA 35:15

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING WARRANT ARTICLE IS CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL OF THE PRECEDING WARRANT ARTICLE.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the town will vote to rescind the Ambulance Revolving Fund established in 2022 pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of the Candia Fire and Rescue Department providing ambulance services. **The balance of funds on deposit in said Revolving Fund shall be credited to the Ambulance Service Capital Reserve.**

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (**\$20,000**) to be placed in the existing **Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund** for the Future Revaluation of the municipality. Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. (This is the same amount appropriated in the previous year. There will be no impact on the tax rate per thousand assessed valuation).

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Lynn makes a motion to recommend article #14. Susan seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (**\$4,000**) for the operation and maintenance of the **Fitts Museum**. Said funds to be

expended under the direction of the Trustees of the Fitts Museum. (By request of the Trustees of the Fitts Museum).(This is the same amount appropriated in the previous year. There will be no impact on the tax rate per thousand assessed valuations.)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Susan makes a motion to recommend article 15. Josh seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 16.To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars **(\$10,000)** to be placed in the existing **Town Office Building Maintenance Fund**. Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. (This is a reduction of \$5,000 from the amount appropriated in the previous year. The tax rate impact will be (\$0.05) per thousand assessed valuation)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-1-0)

Steve made a motion to recommend article #16. Susan seconded. Vote taken 5-1

ARTICLE 17.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars **(\$4,500)** to be added to the **Smyth Memorial Building Expendable Trust Fund** previously established. Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. (This is the same amount appropriated in the previous year. There will be no impact on the tax rate per thousand assessed valuation)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Susan makes a motion to recommend article #17. Josh seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of RSA 72:39-a & b, to Modify the Elderly Exemptions from the assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$99,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$144,500; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$180,500. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$60,000 for single or married; and who's net assets are not in excess of \$300,000 for single or married; excluding the value of the person's residence. (No appropriation and no impact on the tax rate.) (By request of the Board of Selectmen.)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Susan makes a motion to recommend article # 18. Bill seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 19.To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of RSA 72:39-a&b, to increase the exemption for the disabled to \$63,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$60,000.00 if married or single; and own net assets not in excess of \$300,000.00 excluding the value of the person's residence." (No appropriation and no impact on the tax rate)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Susan makes a motion to recommend article #19. Bill seconded. Vote taken 6-0

Josh asked if this is used very much? Selectmen Chivers answered that there is a total of 42 people that use it presently. Selectman Morin stated that it does help but does not add up to very much.

ARTICLE 20. Shall the Town vote to increase the optional tax credit for service-connected permanent and total disability provided for under RSA 72:35 1-a from \$2,000 to \$2,750 to compensate those veterans whose maximum tax benefit has been reduced by RSA 72:35 prohibiting eligibility for both the \$750 Standard Veterans Tax Credit and the \$2,000 Tax Credit for Service-connected and Total Disability. This modification will allow Candia veterans to receive the same property tax credit amount that was previously approved but at no additional cost to the town as the proposed \$750 increase in the tax credit for permanent or total disability would equal the sum of the two veterans tax credits that were previously combined totaling \$2,750. (No appropriation and no impact on the tax rate)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Steve makes a motion to recommend article #20. Bill seconded. Vote taken 6-0

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to pay for professional imaging, indexing, and digital conversion of its land use records to both enhance the security and accessibility of said records.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-0-0)

Selectman Brock stated that they have had various issues where they had to research a piece of property. The storage in the basement of the building is full and impossible to find anything. It should help with research access and protect the information if the building ever burned down. Bill asked if this is a one-time thing? Brian said yes. This will begin the process of downloading everything right now. Steve had a question involving an issue with fraud in another town for property records. Will this avert that? Brian said yes.

Bill makes a motion to recommend article #21. Steve seconded. Vote taken 6-0

Lynn said we usually vote the charity articles #22-#27 in a block. In the past the Budget Committee had generally agreed that they do not think it is appropriate to tax people to make charitable donations. If people cannot pay their taxes, they should not have to have an added expense. We always vote no on charities. Not that you have to. Susan adds the selectmen always vote yes. It is not that we are against the organizations. Katrina makes a motion to **not recommend articles #22 to #26**. Steve seconded. Vote taken 5-1

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (**\$1,000**) in continuation of its support of the **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children)**.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0) (No increase over the previous year's appropriation. No impact on the tax rate)

(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

ARTICLE 23.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars **(\$1,000)** in support of the **Home Health and Hospice Care**. (No increase over the previous year's appropriation. No impact on the tax rate)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

ARTICLE 24.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seven Dollars **(\$6,807)** in support of the **Rockingham County Community Action**. (No increase over the previous year's appropriation. No impact on the tax rate)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

ARTICLE 25.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars **(\$3,250)** in continuation of its support of the **American Red Cross**. (No increase over the previous year's appropriation. No impact on the tax rate)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

ARTICLE 26.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Four Hundred Dollars **(\$1,400)** in continuation of its support of **Waypoint (formally Child and Family Services)**. (No increase over the previous year's appropriation. No impact on the tax rate)
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

ARTICLE 27.To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars **(\$2,100)** in continuation of its support of the **Rockingham County Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Program**. (No increase over the previous year's appropriation. No impact on the tax rate).
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 0-0-0)
(Not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 0-0-0)

Susan spoke of another warrant article the Selectmen haven't seen. Due to extenuating circumstances did not meet the due date. Do you think we should consider it now? Lynn replied to let the Selectmen decide and we can address it at the supplemental meeting in January.

Lynn asked for a motion to suspend this meeting until January 21st. Josh makes a motion. Steve seconded. All in favor? Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lewis,
Admin assist.