

UNAPPROVED
**Candia's Virtual Selectmen's Public Session Minutes
December 16, 2024, 6:30 pm**

Note: Individual roll call has been taken after each motion.

6:30 pm Chair Brien Brock opened the Public Session Meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Chair Brien Brock, Selectman Patrick Moran, Selectman Boyd Chivers, Selectman Russ Dann, Selectman Susan Young and Town Administrator Andria Hansen.

Approval of Minutes:

Public session minutes of December 2nd, 2024.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the December 2nd, 2024, Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Dann seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Public session minutes of December 4th, 2024. None noted.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to approve the December 4th, 2024, Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Moran seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

NEW BUSINESS:

Employee of the Year: Selectman Chivers suggested nominating Facility Supervisor Chuck Whitcher of the Recycling Center for Employee of the Year. Selectman Dann said C. Whitcher is a dedicated employee, and he works well with the public and his employees.

Motion: Selectmen Dann made a motion to approve nominating Facility Supervisor Chuck Whitcher of the Recycle Center as Employee of the Year. Selectman Chivers seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Town Report Dedication: Selectman Chivers recommended dedicating the Town Report to Reggie Henshaw and Donna Becker. The Board verbally agreed to add them both.

Motion: Selectmen Chivers made a motion to dedicated the Town Report to Reggie Henshaw and Donna Becker. Selectman Dann seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Mark Chalbeck said, as a member of Rockingham Lodge 76, both Reggie Henshaw and Donna Becker were very loved by everyone there, and he thanked the Board for honoring them in the Town Report.

Encumbrances:

Smyth Memorial Building: The Smyth Memorial Building is requesting \$4,750 to be encumbered out of the balance of the remaining Operating Budget. The money is to be used in 2025 to replace the last section of their roof. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Selectmen Boyd made a motion to approve encumbering \$4,750 to cover the roof at the Smyth Memorial Building. Selectman Young seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

ITS (Island Tech Services): To remove the lights from the cruiser and add them to the Building Inspectors vehicle costing \$850.

Motion: Selectmen Moran made a motion to approve encumbering \$850 to remove the lights from the cruiser and add them to the Building Inspectors vehicle. Selectman Young seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

SNHPC (Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission) will be working on the School Impact Fees and Solid Waste Impact Fees and encumbering \$14,200.

Motion: Selectmen Young made a motion to approve encumbering \$8,000 for SNHPC to work on the School Impact Fees and Solid Waste Impact Fees. Chair Brock seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

The Cemetery Trustees are looking to encumber \$18,400 for tree removal. Cemetery Trustee Mark Chalbeck said it will be done by Northern Tree, and they have all the equipment needed to do the work.

Motion: Selectmen Moran made a motion to approve encumbering \$18,400 for the Cemetery Trustees for tree removal in the cemeteries. Chair Brock seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Selectman Young is looking to encumber \$5,650 for mulch and \$2,000 for Bio Spray at the Park.

Motion: Selectmen Young made a motion to approve encumbering \$7,650 for the mulch and Bio Spray at the Park. Chair Brock seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Farmers Market request: Mark Chalbeck said the Farmers Market has requested adding in a four-gang outlet on the pedestal, in order to plug in more people during their Farmers Market and have additional electricity there. He has requested a quote from 3 electricians to change the breaker, by adding in a double pole breaker and add in another circuit. Selectman Young said this affects the Parks electricity, and asked him if they could encumber the \$600? She said, she has some money left over in her budget, however next year her budget is cut in half. If they could encumber this \$600, and hopefully they could increase the Parks electrical, because they are right at the edge of their budget, not including this bill.

Motion: Selectmen Moran made a motion to approve encumbering \$600, for electrical work to be completed for the Farmers Market located near the library. Selectman Dann seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Default Budget: Town Administrator Hansen presented the Board with the adjusted budget, and it was reduced by \$5,000.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Review: Town Administrator Hansen went over some of the numbers on the 2025 Budget with the Board. She noted that after they had met last time, she had brought the budget down to \$31,000. The Budget Committee had a meeting the next evening, and they brought it down to \$4,205,989, in which they will need to find \$47,383 however, it may change. The Board continued to make additional adjustments.

Selectman Young questioned, if they have a Highway Winter Fund why do they have 2 Warrant Articles? Chair Brock explained the Winter Fund was designed to compensate if they had any bad winters, and if it exceeded the budget. It does not get spent unless the Winter Budget goes over. Selectman Young said, if they add up all the Warrant Articles, it is going in there.

Selectman Young said the Appraisal line went up 10%, and this is a major revaluation year, so can they get rid of some of the property appraisal? They are not doing half as many housing permits. Town Administrator Hansen said this budget has been overspent. The Assessor submitted two separate bills to them. Selectman Young said that is unacceptable to her and questioned if the Assessor was going to all the residents homes for the revaluation. Town Administrator Hansen said she will ask the Assessor to come in and talk to the Board to clarify. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Young said the Budget Committee might be looking at making some additional adjustments to the 2025 Budget in their next meeting. She stated the School's Budget went down to 3%.

Warrant Articles: Town Administrator Hansen explained that Town Counsel said they are to take this money and putting it into the Designated Fund Balance.

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to direct the net proceeds from the sale of Town owned land be deposited in the Future Capital Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. The said funds to be expended under the authority of the Board of Selectmen.

Town Administrator Hansen said this Article will be submitted to the DRA and Town Counsel. Discussion ensued of how the article should read and the Board made the decision to change it to read:

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to direct that the net proceeds from the sale of Town owned land be deposited in the Unreserved Fund Balance. Said fund to be expended under the authority of the Board of Selectmen.

Brenda Coughlin (resident) said she is submitting a Citizen's Petition to the Board. It is to add in a Warrant Article on the Ballot this year for the Voters to decide if they would like to have the Tax Impact placed on each Warrant Article in the substitute years and this will give the Board the Voters' wishes.

ARTICLE: Do you approve requiring the Board of Selectmen to include the estimated tax impact following each proposed warrant article on the ballot. The purpose is to provide the registered voters clear understanding of the financial impact on each warrant article.

Selectman Young asked if the Board supports the article? Selectman Dann said, we put things on, and no one explains them, and voters wonder what it is and that's the problem with anything you have. To him it does not matter one way or the other if they put it on. Chair Brock said the Board can approve it without the petition warrant article. It needs to be written that it is estimated. They could add something on their flyer also that states, this is not an accurate number, and it is only an estimated number of what the tax impact would be. Discussion ensued.

Brenda Coughlin clarified that this warrant article request is for the School and the Town. Kevin Coughlin (resident) gave his reasons on why he believes the Tax Impact should be added to the warrant articles. He feels this is a good piece of knowledge the Taxpayers should be able to have at their disposal and he would be hard pressed trying to defend why not giving the taxpayers more information about how they are spending their tax dollars. Selectman Moran said the information is at the Deliberative Session, where they can get all the information and can ask all those questions and get completely informed of what you're voting on, so that you know what the needs are and not just the tax impact. It all goes together, and it is not only the tax impact. Selectman Young said they do not tell everyone the tax impact for each thing they are voting on. Selectman Moran said no, but they get an understanding of what they are voting on, and at that point they can decide yes or no if it's worth it or not. Selectman Young said, but they don't know what the tax impact is. She thinks the people are getting more interested in their needs at this point, because some of them are running out of money.

Dean Young (resident) said many years ago when they had town meetings, Jim Wang (resident) would figure out the tax impact on every single warrant article and tell the voters as they voted for each of the articles the impact it would cost them. He said to Selectman Chivers point in regards to his 2 warrant articles for the Fire Department that have been in there for many years, that someone's taxes are not going to go up, because they vote for his 2 warrant articles if it shows a 2% impact fee after it. He can see where some people might not understand it and that it is already in there. Mrs. Coughlin said to make it clear on the warrant, such as this article is already included in the budget. Selectman Dann said that is not. If they don't vote the warrant article it's not in the budget. Mrs. Coughlin said, you just said it was in the budget. Selectman Dann said no, because this last year it was passed, and it was included in your tax bill. So what happens is someone goes down there and with these big dollar amounts items and turnaround and say, oh that is going to increase my bill, it is a lot of money, so they cut it out.

Selectman Young said if the Budget Committee decides that they will do it, not on the ballot, but in a handout, and they have a very simplified thing and maybe that is what happens. Mrs. Coughlin said that is

not what the voters are asking for. Selectman Young said she knows that, but she does not think that it will happen this year.

Town Administrator Hansen said the deadline for Petition Warrant Articles is January 14th, 2025. She pointed out that they could provide the Tax Rate Impact at the Deliberative Session. There was discussion of providing some type of a televised, zoom option or voice recording of the Deliberative Session to be published for their residents to have access to it.

Calendar:

- The Town Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th, 2024, for Christmas.
- The Town Offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st, 2025, for New Years.

Public Input: None noted.

7:36 pm - Selectman Dann made a motion to enter into a Non-Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Moran All in favor. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Linda Chandonnet
Recording Secretary