

UNAPPROVED
Candia's Virtual Selectmen's Public Session Minutes
February 10th, 2025, 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 Amy Spencer.

Approval of Minutes: Public session minutes of January 27th, 2025.

Motion: Selectmen Dann made a motion to approve the January 27th, 2025, Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Young seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Non-Public session minutes of January 27th, 2025. None noted.

Motion: Selectmen Moran made a motion to approve the January 27th, 2025, Non-Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Dann seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Highway: Road Agent Wuebbolt read the report and gave updates.

Police: Chief Shevlin read the report and gave updates.

Fire Department: Selectman Chivers read the report.

Building Department: Building Inspector Donovan read the report.

Solid Waste: Report not available at this time.

Budget Committee: Selectman Young said she has no updates.

Planning Board: Chair Brock said they have not met yet and there are no updates at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recycle & Energy Committee: Member Al Couch informed the Board that the Town of Deerfield is looking to work with the Town of Candia in order to bring some of their recycling into our Recycling Facility. They would like to know the Boards opinion about it. There is a lot of information, and they have had several meetings and discussions on it. The problem is that Deerfield is not where they should be for recycling, and they are behind like Candia was many years ago when it was on New Boston Road. At this point they are recycling some materials, however it is set up poorly and the residents do not like it.

Member Suzanne Steele of the Deerfield's Recycle Committee had contacted Candia's Recycle Facility Supervisor/Operator Chuck Witcher in asking if Deerfield can have some of their recycling brought to Candia's Recycle Facility. That is when they all started having very detailed discussions

about it, because they would strictly limit them to only the items Candia could make money on. The Town of Deerfield would need to have special stickers made and pay to have them printed for each of the residents. There would be a limited number of residents for this test program in order to find out if it works. They would not be able to bring in anything that costs our town money such as household trash or glass and it would be very limited items. Suzanne Steele told him she was extremely impressed of how Candia's Recycling Center is run and C. Whitcher does a fabulous job keeping things flowing and tied up nicely.

A. Couch said he believes one of the major benefits of Deerfield partaking this, is that it would be an opportunity for their residents see what real recycling is like, and that maybe they would support it moving forward to what Candia did in 2008 to building a recycling center. Since 2008 Candia's Recycling Center has paid for itself, and now it is making money for the Town from all the good recycling they have accomplished. He made a rough draft of the limitations on it for the Selectmen to look over.

Chair Brock asked C. Whitcher for his thoughts on what is being presented. C. Whitcher said if the project happens, it cannot cost the Town of Candia any money or add additional burden to the staff. The idea is to have it open only on Wednesdays and Thursdays for Deerfield is because those are the slower days for Candia. He said he is not against the program as long as it is not overburdening his staff or that it creates any financial strain because the Candia taxpayers should not be paying for it.

Selectman Chivers asked C. Whitcher how he will avoid inconveniencing the Candia residents when someone from Deerfield is sort through their cans. C. Whitcher said the program is for a very limited amount of people it would be opened up to, therefore with that small amount, he does not think there would be a huge inconvenience or a big impact to the Candia residents. A. Couch said if Deerfield residents observes how Candia does the separated recyclables, they should do it just like our residents and come in with it all pre-sorted in containers, as it would eliminate the time of sorting everything out.

Selectman Young asked how they will come up with an amount of people? C. Whitcher said their main intention is to ask the Board if they are open to the idea of proceeding with the project and to come up with a real plan. The plan is for 50 people/stickers and to see how it goes, and if it does well maybe they can increase it to 75-100. If it needs to be a lottery system they could do it that way. He did hear there is a lot of disappointment with the Deerfield residents, and how they are handling their recyclables. Selectman Moran asked if it would be possible for Deerfield to have collection bins and for Residents to bring their items once a week or every other week, instead of increasing traffic. C. Whitcher said it is a great idea. His idea was to encourage the Deerfield residents to have one person for a group of people to gather all the recyclables and bring to Candia's Recycle Center to eliminate several cars coming into Candia. Selectman Moran said the plus side of doing it this way is that it becomes measurable, and they have some numbers. C. Whitcher said that is something they can definitely look at and talk about. He added that it would be helpful for Deerfield. Selectman Moran said and it would also be helpful for Candia. C. Whitcher said this would be for a designated time frame of approximately 6 months. If it goes well and if it is something that can work, it would be short-term afterwards. It is not intended for long term, it is aimed to help Deerfield function effectively and it will give them some time to figure out what they want to do, and it will benefit the Deerfield residents that want to recycle. He mentioned there is some potential for the Town of Candia to benefit from the revenue part of it. Chair Brock thanked C. Whitcher for the awesome job he does at the Recycle Center. Selectman Young agreed and said everyone says it. C. Whitcher stated that the staff is a big part of it. He said that every penny that goes out of the Recycle Center are from taxpayers that are

supporting it, and we should be giving good service since it is costing a lot of money. Chair Brock said all of the workers at the Recycle Center do a great job, and they never received a complaint about the service. C. Whitcher thanked the Board. Selectman Young said her thought would be that if they are both in agreement, to give them the go ahead with it and to put a plan together. C. Whitcher said that is why they presented it to the Board first. Now they will put more time into creating a good plan and present it to the Board. Selectman Chivers mentioned adding in an end date and that this is a trial period. A. Couch presented the Board with a rough draft of what Deerfield would need to follow in order to use Candia's Recycle Center. They will meet again with Deerfield's Recycle Committee. Chair Brock asked C. Whitcher if he felt that his employees would be able to handle the project. C. Whitcher said yes, it seems like they should be able to. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Chair Brock made a motion to allow the Recycle & Energy Committee to continue with developing a process and to get back to the Board with a detailed program at a later date and officially approve it. Non-Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Young seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Selectman Young thanked C. Whitcher and the Recycle & Energy Committee for the good job.

NH Executive Council – John Stephen: John Stephen, NH Executive Council said he has read the minutes and listened to the recording from the last Board meeting, and he is present today to hear the Town's thoughts on what he can do with the Highway Safety Issue at Exit 3. He introduced Steve April that has some mechanical background, and John O'Neil with civil engineering experience that were there to assist him. Chair Brock said they have big concerns about the Exit 3 Intersection and so far, they have not been able to get anywhere with it. He said Bill Lambert of NHDOT was in their meeting last March and he had presented some concepts which the Town was not excited about. They were looking for a more immediate and less expensive fix that would help the problem. In his opinion it was not engineered well from the beginning, as it creates too many possibilities for accidents at that location. Selectman Young said, if they could put up flashing light stop signs, as they are not going to re-engineer that corner right now. Chair Brock agreed with her on installing the motion activated flashing light stop signs. J. Stephen said there was a serious accident last summer and several other accidents at that intersection. It was mentioned that there is a lot of traffic at that location. NHDOT was asked what their department has done to meet the Town's request, has any engineering or what is NHDOT thinking? B. Lambert of NHDOT said he was at a Board Meeting last March that was prompted by another project down the road for the two end roads of Raymond Road and Route 43 that is in the 10-year program. In the public meeting for that, someone had approached their project manager that Candia had issues with the Intersection at Exit 3. Chief McGillen has also brought that to NHDOT's attention over the years and NHDOT has gone to look at that with him. He said this is one of the busier intersections, but that kind of alignment happens all over the state. He was here in March right after they heard that the states of NC & DE were having a lot of success with implementing All-ways stop signs at rural intersections. Since last March there are now 6 locations in the state that have started using All-ways stop signs, and now there are an additional 4 more towns said they want to add to it as well. The NHDOT has found that when the flashing light stop signs were invented, everyone wanted them. Generally, it is for a stop control that drivers do not see, which probably happens here sometimes, but you have to understand that a majority of the concern is that people on Old Candia Road stop and think that the left turn is in the other direction as opposed to the yield to them, which is the normal All-ways stop control with a no 4 lane intersection, and then they come to the intersection when someone is coming around and making a left turn. Therefore, that is not what a flashing light

stop sign would be meant for. With a lot of intersections, they have identified are places that they have done that by making bigger stop signs and adding flashing lights on top where they put an intersection or a beacon on top, unfortunately they continue having crashes. Some of these places that NHDOT has gone back to revisit, are the locations using their recommendation to the all ways stop signs, and it seems as though people have figured it out. In Chester and Dunbarton he was receiving negative feedback at the beginning for the All-ways stop signs and then a short time after the complaints stopped. The closest to this intersection that they have made a change to, is in Dunbarton on Routes 113 and 77. The traffic volumes are similar to the Exit 3 Intersection in Candia. The problem they had at that location was because when coming in from Weare the drivers would not recognize the stop sign. NHDOT had installed 48" stop signs of flashing light and added a strobe in the flashing light in order to get the drivers attention, however it did not work. It is in a 10-year plan program, and it will be in the 2029 or 2030 timeframe to get fixed, and reported the Chief reached out to NHDOT last July to see if there is anything that they could do in the interim, so they met with the Town and they said could put an All-ways stop sign, and again 3 of locations were stop controlled and the one coming from Concord was not. NHDOT met with them in July and a few weeks after they put in the extra stop sign is when the Police Chief reported back that summer during that they no longer had any issues at that intersection. He said they are learning a lot more about the all ways stop signs and they are finding it as an interim solution. He agrees with Candia that the Exit 3 Intersection needs a different design all together. However, to prove the safety NHDOT believes the all ways stop signs is a good solution. He has listened to the audio from the Boards last meeting, and is convinced that no one else in the room thinks that way? Selectman Young and Chair Brock said no. Selectman Young said, because of the work traffic that comes from Deerfield and Nottingham, and it would back up traffic going past the gas station. B. Lambert said he does not deny that during short periods of the day there would be more delay than they currently have, but for the other 23 ½ hours, you would have a lot safer intersection. He gave an example of Chester that is now using the All ways stop signs and they no longer hear complaints. He feels it processes traffic better than they think. Certainly, there would be some delay in the morning for the traffic turning left, however he is confident that it would work. He believes it would be a good idea to have something placed into the 10-year plan and with geometric changes there.

J. Stephen said he wanted to make sure he understood that for a 10-year plan NHDOT wants to do for a roundabout, that it would need to be in the 10 year plan? B. Lambert said yes, it is a 4 or 5 million dollar project, therefore that is not something they can do operationally. J. O'Neil said the Police Chief reported there were 10 accidents in 2024, 3 accidents in 2023 and 2 accidents in 2022. There are 2 or 3 descriptions of eastbound traffic at the Old Candia Road turning movement that does not appear to be affected. Could that intersection be staggered back 50 ft. with the slip lane so that it is clear cut? The eastbound traffic is stopping and the westbound is not. That is where no one sees the stop sign and that it is a very unclear intersection. If it was rounded, and he thinks they had alluded to the idea of rounding it, has that been run in the traffic trip counts to see if it functions? He knows it functions it is not in the level or service of failure, it is in a level of service of everything that is going on here. There are 16 turning movements all within a short area and a lot of confusion for someone driving there, and especially at nighttime. If that could be unpacked a little more without a roundabout as there are wetlands to one side, ledge on the other and requires a big area for tractor trailers, therefore it does not seem possible. The four-way stop signs is what seems to be workable. Spreading it out more and having the access points further apart with a clear stop here eastbound flowing westbound. All the answers seem to be in here. B. Lambert said he is not following by what he said about Old Candia Road

and setting the stock-bar back. J. Stephen replied, by accessing the highway westbound 75 ft. further up from the road, so that now there is a flow through. The turning movements are not going to answer your problem, because the drivers look at all of the congestion of this intersection and are thinking what is that driver going to do and what am I going to do, and that is the problem there. Chair Brock said the drivers stop until they can figure it out. B. Lambert pointed out that it is all the eastbound in every accident he has seen there, and it is related from what he has read in the minutes. In the global picture that is his question. If you stagger that, does that eliminate the confusion of eastbound/westbound where all the accidents occur, if that is what it is according to the Chief and residents. B. Lambert give details of what had occurred in the most recent accident at the Exit 3 Intersection. Selectman Moran said there are a lot that factors in it and in their instance, it is hard to remove emotion from the situation. J. Stephen said even with what J. Stephen is describing it would still have to be in the 10 year plan probably, or not? B. Lambert said yes, if you are looking at moving a new righthand turn outside of the physical intersection now we can restripe and do some minor geometric work. He gave an example of No. Hampton on Routes 111 & 151 that they could accomplish with their own forces and that they could do a few every year, but beyond that it has to be a Capital Program. Chair Brock said from his observation, one of the issues there is when driving eastbound on Old Candia Road, is that stop sign is set back off the side of the road further than most stop signs. Therefore, it is not in a driver's immediate sight as though you would coming up to a normal stop sign. He understands why it has to be set back, however that is why they said if this one was motion activated and illuminated, it would catch their peripheral vision. The other issue is with the 8" x 18" yellow sign with small black print is written "other direction does not stop" and he feels you cannot read it unless you are close up to it. In the other direction when traveling westbound and want to turn on the highway, the backside of the eastbound lane stop sign that states they need to "turn Here" is covering $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the octagon sign. If the entire octagon sign was visible, it might spark the drivers to think there is a stop sign on the other side. He also mentioned including rumble strips at the intersection as they are all small and very inexpensive improvements, but it would lessen accidents at that location, and then they can start working on a 5 or 10 year plan. B. Lambert said there are rumble strips in Effingham, Peterborough and at the Hampton Tolls. NHDOT has gone back to the locations that have changed these signs and lights. However, people still think they have the right of way at these locations and accidents continue to happen. He listened to the audio of the Board's last meeting and there was a discussion about whether the State should pay for the signs. The reality is if they start putting stop signs up on state roads, everyone will want them and they certainly cannot maintain that, because they really do not have criteria about where they would be placed. That is the first thing people want to do when there is a crash problem, is by putting up a flashing light stop signs. NHDOT has allowed towns to put them up on state roads through a maintenance agreement because NHDOT are not in a position of putting them up everywhere. Chair Brock said NHDOT still has the option to say no to people, but if the need is there, they can also say yes because the need is there, so let them do it. B. Lambert said the option to say no to people does not work. Chair Brock said NHDOT has been saying no to them in Candia. J. Stephen said they could with the illumination with a stop sign that is well lit in that area. In this case, the State would pay for that as it is a state road and there is enough money in the highway budget for this small expense. If he needs to talk to the commissioner about it he can, but they need to at least get started on one solution right now and then they can start to plan for a bigger solution. You cannot see the sign, therefore It is a highway safety issue. If there is no money in the NHDOT for it, they will find it in the Highway Safety Grants. The important thing is saving lives. When he saw the data on the accidents that made him think that they need to do

something before someone is killed. Let us see if that is a stop gap that can work right now. He noted it is a unique intersection, and he knows that it is not like every town in the state. He said there is the fair and all kinds of things going on like the car shows in the summer, a lot of people working and the town is growing. If the town Board feels that is a solution, then he would like to bring it to the Commissioner when he sees him tomorrow. Selectman Dann discussed having the rumble strips. B. Lambert said that is something NHDOT would need to contract out. He asked if they wanted the rumble strips that go across the road and the Board said yes. Chair Brock clarified that the rumble strips are saw cuts into the pavement and it would only be on the eastbound side of Old Candia Road. S. April said according to his sources, there is a big problem when driving westerly and exiting from east to west and in addition to Route 43 and Old Candia Road where normally you would have the right of way if you were going straight. Chair Brock said and there is the south, north. S. April said he does not think rumble strips are applicable to the off ramp in going westerly and how a stop sign would help. With those two improvements to signage at these locations and the rumble strips would keep the budget down and bring a good solution.

Chief Shevlin said he did a little traffic study at that intersection for a week and put it on a sign that flashes and when he sat there observing, it seemed as though the flashing sign was helping by getting the drivers attention. He believes having a flashing light stop sign would be beneficial at that intersection going from south to north. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Dann said in their last Board meeting the residents that attended said the sooner they can do something there and that it needs to be done.

J. Stephen asked if the residents' input was more in terms of exiting and coming from the east to west or more from Old Candia Road and Route 43? Chair Brock said it was Old Candia Road and the stop sign coming off the highway, and people that were going straight ran through the stop sign. Both of the stop signs could be eliminated on south and north and by having them illuminate as well as the ones that go from west to east. He would like saw cuts in the pavement and to take off the sign that is on the other side of the octagon sign. S. April verified what the Town was requesting. J. Stephen said the bottom line is that the sign needs to be luminated and he asked B. Lambert if that is something he can raise internally with NHDOT to find out if he could get this going and let him know through the Commissioner? B. Lambert confirmed he would talk to the Commissioner. Their policy has always been that the red light stop sign would allow Towns to have them if there is a maintenance agreement in place. If they did decide to change, it would be a Commissioner decision. J. Stephen said he would talk to him tomorrow, because he really believes that it is a unique intersection and there is no other that is similar. B. Lambert said Candia's intersection is similar to other Towns. J. Stephen said if the illuminating light becomes an issue it is because NHDOT would not want to set up precedence and they would not be willing to pay for it therefore, it would be the Town's expense. B. Lambert said that is what NH DOT's current policy is. J. Steven said but they have made some exceptions in the past for that. B. Lambert said temporarily, as the one in Hampton, but that was short term. J. Stephen said in bringing this to closure he will talk to the Commissioner tomorrow and at the end of the day they will start with the illumination lights first. The Board can discuss the different concepts for the rumble strips. Some of the things might get closer to the 10 year plan and he wants to make sure it is okay to move forward on that, but it will need to be more of a Town involvement thing. If B. Lambert does not have the funding for it they will figure out where else they can find it. The Board was informed the flashing light stop signs cost \$2,500 each. He will come back at the next meeting or send them a letter if he is not available to let them know how his conversation went with the Commissioner. The Board thanked everyone for attending.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Smyth Memorial Building – roof repairs: Chair Brock said a request was submitted from Carla Penfield of the Smyth Memorial Building Committee for the last phase of the roof repair for the Smyth Memorial Building that was \$3,250 and now it has increased to \$7,250. The Board would like Ms. Penfield to come to their next meeting to explain what she is asking for.

Municipal Resource Inc. (MRI): The Board was presented with information from MRI for the Finance and Payroll Specialist job position they will be assisting, with until a permanent candidate is hired. The applications that were received did not have any municipal experience. MRI has figured an average of around 16 hours a month that they would assist for that position. Town Administrator A. Spencer will reach out to provide the Board with additional information. It was noted that this position was advertised in In-Deed and on NHMA to find a candidate. Currently the Town does a Police Report/Background Check for all new employees through the Police Department.

Calendar:

- The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17th, 2025, for President's Day.
- The next Board of Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24th, 2025.
- Tax Abatements are due on Saturday, March 1st, 2025.

Public Input: None noted.

7:51 pm - Selectman Chivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Young. All in favor. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

Linda Chandonnet
Recording Secretary