

**CANDIA SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF  
September 17th, 2024**

UNAPPROVED

**SFC Members Present:** Brien Brock (BOS), Russ Dann (BOS), Tom Severino, Ed Domingos (FD), Josh Reap, Jake Robie, Police Chief Chad Shevlin, Dennis Hebert, Jeff Wuebbolt and Mark Chalbeck (PB).

**Absent:** Chief Mike McGillen (PD), Rick Langlois (PD), Jim Wilson (FD), Joe Flanagan, Captain Michael Kelley and Andria Hansen (TA).

**5:02 pm** B. Brock called the public meeting to order immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Brock said in their last meeting, Joe Flanagan and Josh Reap were going to look into any possible Grants or funding, to assist the Committee with their project.

J. Reap said he has contacted NH Congressman Chris Pappas's office and spoke with Colin there, and he was very helpful in navigating what would be the most optimal route for seeking Grants.

- They looked at the USDA (United States Dept. of Agriculture) that has a qualification process involved, and one of the qualifications is town hustled income, but we do not qualify for anything under that.
- They also looked at items through FEMA, however they did not find anything that did not already have a matching Grant requirement on it. The match was very substantial and with the incomes of the Town, most likely they do not qualify for much or anything at all. According to the Feds, people make too much money in this Town.
- They were directed to the NH Dept. of Safety (administers some of the FEMA items) and there is a competitive Grant process. They were told the Grants that come through this are for smaller amounts of money, consisting of a few hundred thousand dollars, however this is not enough to complete their project or what they are looking for.

At some point they will be connected with Senator Shaheen's Office to talk about Member Item Money. It is not a matching grant program, it is a discretion of the member of Congress. That funding has closed for this fiscal year, however they are starting to plan for next year. It would be a good idea to get a proposal to the Senator in saying this is something we are trying to do, as there is a need for it, and we would like to have it done. If you could please help us with any assistance, and the Senators Office could put in the request for the budget process. There is a two-step process to apply for this. We would need to apply with the member to be approved for it and then go to the agency to fill out the Grant Application. He indicated there is no matching requirement. However, given that our town has already purchased the property, it is great capital that we could leverage in saying we have already done this part, we have our plan, and we are shovel ready. This will put us in a good standing position.

B. Brock asked if the Town would need to approve it first, in order for us to receive the money ahead of time? J. Reap said no, we can begin to move forward with making the request numbers. Someone at Senator Shaheen's Office would be able to assist us with the process. There is some hope that we might be able to ask members of Congress for financial assistance towards our project. B. Brock asked what they base the grant amount that would be allocated to us? Is it based on the total costs or is it just a portion that they would give out? J. Reap said traditionally some grants require a match or a dollar threshold that would need to be met. In this case it is called Member Discretionary Spending, because it is up to them to decide on how much to provide, and how much they can have to bring to the table for the Town will be the politicking of the DC and the budget line allocations. Senator Shaheen is in the Influential Appropriate Committee and the Senate Finance, therefore it would be most advantageous for us to go through her office, because she has the most leverage on that conversation. He pointed out that at this time, there is a majority in the Senate, and it would be beneficial for us.

B. Brock asked if he had a timeframe on this. J. Reap did not think they would have anything ready for this coming March 2025. The Federal Congressionally Spending Calendar starts in October. He will get additional information before our next meeting and will share it with us.

B. Brock asked D. Hebert if he had any other information. D. Hebert said there was nothing available with Chris Pappas's Office. J. Reap said Chris Pappas could be helpful with other Per Member Items, but there is nothing for grants that would fit our scope of what we need right now. If we need to do a 50% match to go through FEMA that will be an issue, as given the experience they have had, he does not think the Town would vote for a 1.5 million bond.

R. Severino gave some ideas on what they could do to present it to the Voters. He feels they should be better prepared, with a better budget along with a goal of what they are trying to go to vote with, to have the write up make sense and to have it in chronological order of what we have done. B. Brock asked if he knew the time frame to apply for it? J. Reap said all the information is on Jeanne Shaheen's website and indicated now would be the time to start the process and to send our information in for fiscal year 2026. The good news is, we are starting to plan early. If we can have everything done for Shaheen's Office to have this file out this year, for next year's spending, that tells him that they will have an answer well before March. If there is any supplemental funding, we need support from the tax base, it would this time next year.

B. Brock said if we apply for a Grant in the near future, we could use the figures we have now. Then by next year at this time we might be able to fine tune it a little better, especially if we are approved for the Grant and the economy is better in a year from now.

J. Reap suggested having a formal outreach from the Town and to schedule a meeting with Senator Shaheen's office. Once he has information about the contact person, someone on our Committee should formally reach out to them, to find out how to apply for the Grant. He is happy to be part of the conversation, however, he thinks it should come from town's leadership, as that would be appropriate. B. Brock said that he and A. Hansen would be able to work on that.

J. Reap said when he had the discussion with Chris Pappas's office, he found out there are Supplemental Grants that could be available for some of their smaller purchases, training and other things of that nature, and he will forward the information to them. It would allow for purchasing of radios and equipment the Police and Fire vehicles need. He has not checked if it would require a match, but it might be useful for some of the things they need. There are additional items that it would also cover for the Fire Department.

R. Severino asked D. Young if he knew the yearly percentage amount of accidents that occur on Highway 101 vs. in town. D. Young did not have that information readily available and said he would get it. M. Chalbeck asked if it would be beneficial for the Police Department to find out also. B. Brock said absolutely. R. Severino said it would be beneficial to have the actual data.

R. Dann asked if some of the FEMA money could be used for the Fire Department, because D. Young has a lot of things he needs to do at the Fire Department. J. Reap said yes, there is some grant money from FEMA for specific requests that are needed, such as equipment, trucks and retrofitting things. D. Young said they have a person that works on grants for the Fire Department, and they have been very successful. Selectman Dann said there is a lot that needs to be done at the Fire Department. He said D. Young's letter in 2021 about their diesel fumes that is cancer causing, and it is our liability. Since 2021 it was recognized, and since then nothing has been done and it would be up to the Town for the liability. The Firefighters cannot take their clothes to clean them at anyplace, and the Firefighters take them home and take all that with them. We are a Safety Committee, and we have to be concerned about our Employees. D. Young said they do not take their gear home. R. Dann said if a person wanted to take a shower, because they got into something, they can take off their gear, but what about the clothes they wore underneath. D. Young said all the people that work on the ambulance bring a second set of clothes to work every day. They have a shower now and a washing machine that washes all their gear. It is a state of the art machine just for fire gear. He said trust me, our employee George May is a stickler when it comes to clean gear and in making sure our people are safe from anything bad. R. Dann said that is what is important, the safety of our employees. But you need to have

water, and there is a water problem there. D. Young said not anymore because they had it fracked last Wednesday.

B. Brock said that R Severino mentioned they might look at the facilities in square footage, but in their last meeting they agreed this is the plan they want to use, and he does not think it is necessary to go back and reduce it more. R. Severino said absolutely, at this point they only need to update the budget that they are going to present in this letter, with a contingency on it and to update the number. B Brock said this time they will explain it better regarding the tax impact to the voters. D. Hebert revealed information that interest rates could be starting to go down.

R. Dann asked the members about adding in a warrant article for \$300,000. The members had conversations about the benefits of starting to accumulate money into the Capital Reserve Fund for their project.

B. Brock said they would need to do something now for the residents to know our Committee is continuing to work on it whether it is adding funds to the Capital Reserve or sending out a flyer. D. Hebert mentioned that using social media for advertising is helpful and that people do look at it. He said they can all feel good in knowing that they are truly transparent about the project costs and what they are trying to accomplish, whether the people agree with it or not, as long as they are upfront with it is what is most important.

B. Brock asked C. Shevlin if he had a chance to review their plans yet and what his opinion is of the layout. C. Shevlin said he definitely agrees with it and likes the layout plan as well as putting money aside each year while they work on it. If the economy happens to get better, then it will be even better for them. The members discussed how much they would want to add in for the warrant article.

J. Reap said he would gather information for A. Hansen to contact Senator Shaheen's Office in order for them to have a conversation about what is available for them.

**Approval of Minutes:** SFC Minutes for August 7th, 2024. None noted.

**MOTION: R. Dann made a motion to accept the June 18th, 2024, SFC minutes as presented. Seconded by J. Robie. M. Chalbeck abstained. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The members talked about creating a flyer for the residents to be informed with the boy scout packets. They would like to set up a table during the next election for any taxpayers that have questions on the project. C. Shevlin suggested creating a form for any interested residents to schedule a time to take a tour of the current facilities and offered to give the tours. C. Shevlin will coordinate with L. Chandonnet to create the form. B. Brock said he would talk to the Town Moderator to see if they are allowed to have a table set up at Town Voting in November.

The members made a verbal agreement for a warrant article in the amount of \$200,000. L. Chandonnet offered to create and send out the warrant article flyer when it has been completed for the members to review.

**5:43pm R. Dann made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by T. Severino. All in Favor. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Chandonnet