

APPROVED
Candia's Virtual Selectmen's Public Session Minutes
August 10th, 2026, 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 Stephanie Helmig, Selectman Susan Young and Town Administrator Amy Spencer.

John Stephen – DNCR (Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) – Cemetery Grant

NH Executive Councilor John Stephen addressed the Board regarding a recent incident involving a fallen tree at Hill Cemetery. He promptly contacted Commissioner Adam Crepeau and his team at the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), recognizing their valuable contributions to various historical projects in his district. Their efforts have included providing funding, grants, and educational resources to local towns and communities.

Mr. Stephen had a conversation with Selectman Young to talk about the idea of inviting DNCR to the Board to take a closer look at the cemetery. The goal was to evaluate the damage and consider possible solutions. He introduced DNCR Interim Commissioner Adam Crepeau, and Director Ben Wilson for the great work they do in NH, and also for attending the meeting to help out the Town of Candia.

Mr. Crepeau praised the lovely appearance of Hill Cemetery, noting that some tree maintenance is necessary. There is also a chance to secure LCHIP Funding for the site's preservation. Additionally, the DNCR runs the Conservation License Plate Program, which allocates a portion of the proceeds from these plates to Fish and Game and DNCR, supporting the preservation of historic sites and natural resources, along with meeting specific criteria.

Mr. Wilson shared that his office focuses on supporting communities in preserving and exploring their historic resources, which Candia has plenty of. He also provided a short informational sheet outlining educational resources and potential funding options, including grants for cemetery maintenance and repairs. They maintain an inventory of documents and files at their office and also online which is an electronic database that only requires you to have an email address to be registered to use. It will allow you to use it and to look up all the historical properties that have been inventoried as digital files. Hill Cemetery has not been inventoried yet, but it can be. The NH Historical Society in Concord, N.H., is a hidden gem that offers an extensive resource database on the Civil War, along with a wealth of genealogy information.

Mr. Wilson mentioned that they will be meeting in the next few weeks to coordinate dates for towns to apply for the grants, as he believes Hill Cemetery would be a great candidate for this program. The NH Land & Community Heritage Program, known as LCHIP, provides funding for conservation and the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes, which includes cemeteries, and it operates on a 50/50 matching basis. Additionally, there are planning grants available that would send someone out to assess all the cemeteries and create a prioritized written proposal for maintenance efforts going forward. He briefly covered the topic of warrant articles along with some options for private funding. He feels that the Town is doing an excellent job maintaining and repairing Hill Cemetery. There are definitely some trees that will need to be cut due to their lifespan as well as safety hazards and would qualify for it. Discussion ensued. See attached.

John Stephen – Rural Health Transformation Grant

Mr. Stephen stated that the Rural Health Transformation Program is a crucial initiative focused on healthcare within the state. Following the recent Federal Budget approval, concerns arose among acute care hospitals in rural areas regarding insufficient rate increases for Medicaid. This prompted extensive discussions, leading to the development of a plan to allocate \$50 billion to rural communities across the United States. The initial distribution involves \$25 billion being shared among states, with amounts based on their application, allowing for some variation in funding. The rest of the funds will be available as discretionary grants.

Mr. Stephen shared his experience collaborating with Governor Kelly Ayotte and Councilor J. Kenney to host several hearings in the north, where they expressed concerns about defining rural areas and ensuring that this definition aligns with federal standards. As they assisted Governor Ayotte with her application, they generated numerous innovative ideas, particularly drawing from Mr. Stephen's background in healthcare. He emphasized the importance of homecare to support the EMS community, aiming to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits through preventative measures. One key proposal in their report focused on enhancing EMS response by shifting towards proactive strategies to prevent incidents before they occur.

Update on Fire Department Grant

In addition to their focus on telehealth and mental health, Mr. Stephen said they also addressed workforce development, which are all vital areas of concern. Remarkably, New Hampshire obtained more than \$206 million in funding, the largest allocation for any New England state in the initial year of a five-year program. The challenge lies in ensuring sustainability over the full five years. To address this, it is crucial to invest in projects that are designed to be sustainable in the long run. Mr. Stephen said he wants to make sure the towns in his district that need help will receive a fair shot at the dollars that will be available. The approved money will be distributed in 5 hubs and he explained how each of them would work. The Governor created a central hub called "GO-NORTH". There is an internet site called GO-NORTH and it shows where all of the money is going. The reason he has called Fire Chief Kelley to attend this meeting is for the local fire departments to work together and take advantage of these dollars for some type of response. There will be a lot that comes out of GO-NORTH, and the Town of Candia could sign up and ask for notification when RFP's (Request for Proposal) come out. You must also be on the CMS Register (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) for definition of rural. Our state is working on this and that there is still negotiations going on. The early grants that came out of GO- NORTH are \$50,000 Planning Grants for EMS and Mobility Capabilities for municipal governments, qualified health centers and some of the acute care hospitals. They have given almost \$2 Million from GO-NORTH and of those can be \$40-\$50 million Planning Grants. Fire Chief Kelley has meet with some other nearby towns and filed an application to begin the \$50,000 Planning Grant, which could also start some implementation. They will also be giving extra point to those municipalities that combine their efforts and file together. Mr. Stephen said he will gladly help out any of the 19 towns that he represents.

Fire Chief Kelley mentioned that he had a meeting with the Fire Chiefs from Deerfield and Raymond, and they agreed to work together on this. The Raymond Ambulance Service will be discontinued in June 2027, and the Raymond Fire Department will take over. He also pointed out that both Deerfield and Fremont will be losing their ambulance services. The five towns have had discussions and are planning to collaborate to enhance each other's services. They wrapped up the Planning Grant on Friday and are now waiting for a response. A coordinator has been appointed to liaise among the five

towns. Mr. Stephen requested that the Chief keep him informed about the progress, as many towns, hospitals, and communities will be applying for those grants. If the \$2 million is exhausted and more funding is needed for additional Planning Grants, they will pursue it. If the Federal Government fails to recognize Candia as a rural area, he will be reaching out to them. A discussion followed.

Cemetery Donations

Town Administrator Spencer said in order to move forward with this fund they will need the Board to vote and create a new trust fund called the Philanthropic Cemetery Maintenance Fund with the specific use as outlined in the attached draft.

MOTION: Selectman Young made a motion for the Expended Funds Interest to be expended to support the purpose of this new fund called the Philanthropic Cemetery Maintenance Fund. The fund shall be from private donations or gifts and may not include any tax payer appropriations. The funds may be expendable for general cemetery maintenance of Candia Cemetery. The funds shall be expended under the direction of the Trustees of the Cemetery, and the Candia Board of Selectmen shall vote to accept all donations. Candia Trustees of the Trust Fund shall receive the funds and it will be enforced according to the guidelines. Selectman Moran Seconded. Motion passed by a vote of (5-0-0).

MOTION: Selectman Moran made a motion for accept two cemetery donations including one for \$100 from Nancy Colburn and the second one for \$1,000 from Dan Scanlon. Selectman Chivers Seconded. Motion passed by a vote of (5-0-0).

Lt. Stanton – Highway Safety Grant Acceptance

Lt. Stanton reported that he submitted an application for a Highway Safety Grant and was awarded funding for Highway Safety Grant Patrols, Speed Enforcement Patrols, DWI Enforcement Patrols, and Distracted Driving Patrols. He clarified that the funded hours are allocated in 4-hour blocks per shift, during which Officers are required to make 12 contacts and also conduct 3 stops and 3 contacts each hour. The State granted them \$4,800. The Board approved the Highway Safety Grant.

MOTION: Selectman Moran made a motion for the Selectboard and the majority vote to accept the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of \$4,800. Selectman Chivers Seconded. Motion passed by a vote of (5-0-0).

NHDES Grant Application

Selectman Chivers pointed out that a number of residents are changing their vehicle's motor oil, and until now, they have been disposing of it at the Recycle Center, which has been a cost to the Town of Candia. Due to the increased volume, the cost of transporting it has gone up, leading Facilities Director Chuck Whitcher to propose a budget of about \$7,000 for waste oil disposal for the next budget year. They also found an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Department of Environmental Services for as much as \$2,500 to help reduce the cost of used motor oil. He presented a completed Grant Application and will need the Board's approval to authorize Chair Brock sign and submit it.

MOTION: Selectman Young made a motion for accept the Grant application for NHDES in the amount of \$2,500 and to authorize Chairman Brock to sign the application. Selectman Chivers Seconded. Motion passed by a vote of (5-0-0).

Tom Cavanaugh/Bob Pike - Cemetery Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient

Tom Cavanaugh was not able to be present at this meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

Police: Chief Shevlin read the report and gave updates.

Fire Department: Selectman Helmig read the report.

Building Department: Building Inspector Lavoie read the report & gave updates.

Solid Waste: Selectman Chivers read the report and gave updates.

Budget Committee: Selectman Young said the Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, August 12, 2026.

Planning Board: Chair Brock stated that the Planning Board had another continuation regarding the reclamations, as they were not yet prepared. They discussed some internal clean-up efforts. Additionally, they received the report from the HOP Committee, which was established to assess the Town's housing needs in relation to the HOP Grant. Furthermore, they have been collaborating with their new engineer, and the partnership has been progressing positively.

Approval of Minutes: Public session minutes of July 13th, 2026. None noted.

MOTION: Selectman Moran made a motion to approve the July 13th, 2026, Public Session Minutes as presented. Selectman Young Seconded. Motion carried by a vote of (5-0-0).

OTHER BUSINESS:

Selectman Young pointed out that she saw something on Facebook claiming that Candia's Veterans Credits are the lowest of six communities, and some folks are wondering why it is so low. She recommended that we explore this issue and think about possibly raising the amount. Mr. Chivers said he would check into it.

Calendar:

- **Next Board of Selectman Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2026 @ 6:30pm**
- **Old Home Day will be held on Saturday, August 22nd, 2026 @ Moore Park from 11am-2pm**
- **The Board of Selectmen's Proposed Budget Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 28th, 2026**
- **The Town Hall Building will be closed on Monday, September 7th, 2026, for Labor Day**

Selectman Young mentioned that the bathrooms at Moore Park had to be closed as a result of some recent damage to the toilets, however a porta potty has been set up nearby.

Selectman Young reminded the Board of State Primary Election Day Voting on September 8th, 2026, and will be held at the CYAA from 6:00am-7:00pm.

7:54 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