

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 29, 2007
DPW – 6:00 PM**

Present: Lee Carrier (Chair), Shirley Green, Gayle Hulva, Gail Malz, Roberta Morse, Curtis Payne (Selectman) Lori Saladino, Steve Schneider, David Stewart (Vice-Chair)

Absent: Judy Finsterbusch, Richard Martin

Guests: Roberta Berner, Mary Boswell, Van Chesnut, Mike Cryans, Suellen Griffin, Diane Heed, Gaye LaCasce, Ron Michaud, Paul Mirski, Peggy O’Neil, Doug Smith, Meredith Smith, Jan Stryker, Danielle Thompson, Lavinia Weizel

Committee Chair, Lee Carrier, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes: 11/15/2007

It was moved by MORSE, seconded by SALADINO, to approve the minutes of 11/15/07. The Committee voted 5 in favor (CARRIER, HULVA, MORSE, SALADINO, SCHNEIDER), 0 opposed, 2 abstained (MALZ, PAYNE). GREEN & STEWART were not present for the vote.

2. 4588 Heritage Commission (Requesting \$16,200; Received \$500 in FY2007)

Paul Mirski and Meredith Smith, Commission Chair, appeared on behalf of the Heritage Commission. They handed out a supplemental package of information in support of their funding request.

Mr. Mirski said the proposed funding increase was attributed to a one-time, \$15,700 appropriation, to pay the Preservation Company to prepare an application to nominate the Enfield Village Historical District to the National Register of Historic Places. This would allow for the identification of structures of historical significance within the defined area of the historical district. These structures would then qualify for investment tax credits for rehabilitation efforts which would raise property values, increase tax income, and promote better use of existing infrastructure. Mr. Mirski said the Copeland Block provided an average of \$12,000 in taxes over the 2000 rate. This one building demonstrated the value of the proposed expenditure. Ms. Smith added that there was not currently any grant funding like this in place. She said being listed on the National Register was also a prerequisite for other grant funding. Mr. Mirski clarified for the record that nominating a property to the National Register would not impose any federal restrictions on a property owner’s use of the property nor would it obligate an owner to open their property to the public, or restore or maintain the historical structures.

SCHNEIDER spoke about the community support for this program. He said the Town voted unanimously at Town Meeting to establish the Historic District Commission. PAYNE said the unanimous vote was done under the auspices that this would be studied and then acted upon. He said he was not yet sold on the idea but was getting more comfortable with it. MALZ said this funding would move the process along further.

Ms. Smith said this should be looked as an investment, not an expense. The nomination was guaranteed to be granted. CARRIER agreed the return would be very beneficial.

MALZ asked if the district boundaries had been established. Ms. Smith said the boundaries would follow the guidelines set in a 1978 Department of Transportation report.

3. 4197 Regional Associations

Enfield Shaker Museum (Requesting \$5,000; Did not request funding for FY2007)

Mary Boswell, Executive Director, and Doug Smith, President of the Board, appeared on behalf of the Enfield Shaker Museum. They handed out a supplemental package of information in support of their funding request.

Ms. Boswell said the Museum had reduced its debt and paid back taxes in recent years. The funding requested would be used to strengthen the Museum's relationship with the surrounding communities and to increase economic and cultural growth to benefit the quality of life.

Ms. Boswell reported that visitation records had increased 41% in 2007; this went against the national trend. She spoke about the variety of program offerings, some of which specifically benefited the Town. Ms. Boswell said their focus was to develop more kids programs and hands-on family activities. Benefits of the hands-on programs included increased repeat visitors and economic vitality through encouraging people to shop and stay in the downtown.

SALADINO asked if the Museum offered school programs. Ms. Boswell said yes, they had great relations with the Ray School in Hanover as well as the Enfield Village School. Mr. Smith added that Chuck Stone, former Enfield Village School Principal, had recently joined the Museum Board to continue working in the field of education with Enfield children. Mr. Stone will plan specific programs for the kids. STEWART asked if the

Museum reached out to schools statewide. Ms. Boswell said the Museum did not have the staff to support that but it was a long-term goal that was very attainable.

CARRIER asked the Museum representatives to submit updated Profit/Loss statements detailing expenses and contributions and a balance sheet when available.

Mascoma Valley Health Initiative (Requesting \$3,463, Received \$1,000 in FY2007)

Danielle Thompson, Executive Director, appeared on behalf of the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative (MVHI). She handed out copies of their latest news letter and other materials in support of this funding request.

Ms. Thompson said MVHI was a non-profit health organization created to maintain and increase the health and wellbeing of the residents of the Mascoma Valley. They were a relatively new organization, incorporated less than 5 years ago. Ms. Thompson said MVHI did not provide direct services but worked to facilitate connections to existing service providers. MVHI was working with 13 towns, 5 of which were in the Mascoma Valley, to write a Pandemic Plan. They recently sponsored a flu shot clinic and organized a full-region communication exercise scheduled for December 13th. Ms. Thompson said the MVHI Board of Directors included folks at the town level. Their bylaws required member representation from 5 municipalities.

Ms. Thompson said a majority of their funding was provided by the State but was tied to specific deliverables. She said the focus of the proposed funding request was:

- (1) Emergency preparedness
- (2) Tobacco Communication Coalition
- (3) Provide access to healthcare offered in adjacent communities

CARRIER asked of the MVHI staffing. Ms. Thompson said they staffed 2 full-time and 2 part-time employees.

CARRIER noted that 2 major grants were expiring and that 98% of their expenses were fixed. He said MVHI reported a \$26,000 loss in 2006 and appeared to be \$60,000 short in 2007. CARRIER said the expiration of these 2 grants could potentially create an \$80,000 loss in 2008. Ms. Thompson said the Endowment for Health grant was prepaid. MVHI was now booking expenses to it for the entire year. She said MVHI could continue to invoice the State against the pandemic grant until all funds were expended. She suggested this might be the case for the second grant and offered to look into the matter.

CARRIER asked if they were trying to do too much. Ms. Thompson said no, their services were limited to the current grant designations. Additional grants and foundation support would be put in place in December and January. They hoped to get additional capacity from the State and were looking to solidify relationships with municipalities.

CARRIER asked for a breakdown of the services provided to Enfield residents. SCHNEIDER said Enfield shared a wonderful relationship with the MVHI and would benefit from the completion of the Pandemic Plan. SCHNEIDER said the MVHI was incredibly well run and attributed their leadership in the ability to bring together the 13 towns to work out the plan. STEWART asked when the Pandemic Plan would be done and who it would be delivered to. Ms. Thompson said the plan would be distributed at a regional meeting in December for review before the 12/13 exercise.

Ron Michaud, of West Central Services, spoke in support of the MVHI funding request. He said the Endowment for Health approached the MVHI to target this area.

Tri County (Requesting \$2,580; Received \$2,280 in FY2007)

Diane Heed, Director of Human Services, said the Tri County representative could not attend the meeting due to illness but had planned to be present.

Bonnie CLACC (Requesting \$1,500; Received \$1,500 in FY2007)

A representative was not present to speak to this request.

CARRIER commented on the lack of information provided in support of this request. He suggested Bonnie CLACC should comply with submittal requirements for the funding.

Advanced Transit (Requesting \$5,006; Received \$4,120 in FY2007)

Van Chesnut, Executive Director, appeared on behalf of Advanced Transit (AT).

Mr. Chesnut said AT provided and sponsored public transportation for 24 years. He mentioned the materials submitted previously in support of this funding request which were rather complete. He asked to speak about ridership success.

Mr. Chesnut said ridership was up 13% over the past year and up 73% over the last 4 years. He attributed the success to the fare-free service sponsored primarily by Dartmouth College and DHMC. He advised of a Route 4 corridor study that highlighted its growth potential and future management. One strategy of future management was public transportation.

Mr. Chesnut said the AT funding focus included grant funding, sponsorship and municipal funding. The method of cost sharing was pretty well accepted by the local communities. Hanover, Hartford, and Norwich approved 100% of the funding requests submitted to them individually. AT was still working with the City of Lebanon to achieve full funding of their requested amount. Mr. Chesnut said passenger boarding had been the basis of funding requests in the past. The current request to Enfield was simply for the same amount provided in 2007. Mr. Chesnut said increased fundraising efforts were also in the works. AT received support from over 600 new donors in 2007. Mr. Chesnut said the community understood what they were trying to accomplish with the Keep it Free Fund. CARRIER requested a list of approved contributions for Fiscal Year 2008 and for financial statements from the 2007 audit.

LISTEN (Requested \$2,900; Received \$2,900 in FY2007)

No one was present to speak to this request.

Headrest (Requested \$7,000; Received \$5,000 in FY2007)

Mike Cryans, Executive Director, appeared on behalf of Headrest. He handed out a supplemental sheet of information in support of this funding request.

Mr. Cryans said Headrest was started in 1971 and provided a variety of services including a 24-hour crisis hotline. He said it was phenomenally difficult to obtain funding for hotlines. Headrest answered the national suicide hotline for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. It also took over the State help line after hours and occasionally received calls from around the nation when other systems were closed. Headrest also offered substance abuse counseling and 8 beds for drug detoxification. They reached out to homeless shelters, the local jail, and schools.

Mr. Cryans said Headrest raised 20% of its budget through fundraising. He said a local couple donated a Suburban on Thanksgiving to replace a previously donated vehicle. Mr. Cryans said the State also provided a big part of their funding. They received a \$10,000 grant 11/28/07 to answer a Department of Health & Human Services' hotline after hours. Mr. Cryans said Headrest did not take insurance and most clients were unable to pay for their services.

SALADINO asked of the number of Enfield residents served by Headrest. Mr. Cryans offered to provide that information if it was not already reported in the materials submitted.

CARRIER asked for a list of community contributions from surrounding towns issued in 2007. He asked how the current \$7,000 request was calculated. Mr. Cryans said \$7,000 was the amount requested in previous years. He said a former Enfield Town Manager instituted a dramatic cut in funding in 2003. Appropriations since have been closer to the reduced amount than the \$7,000 requests. CARRIER asked why Enfield was asked to provide the same amount of funding as Hartford and Hanover whose populations were twice that of Enfield. Mr. Cryans said Headrest received very few clients from Hanover. Funding from Hartford had been stuck at that level for a long time. Mr. Cryans said Claremont did not begin contributing to Headrest until 2005. Claremont funded the least amount but utilized the most services. Mr. Cryans noted that the City of Lebanon had voted to recommend increasing all of the regional association requests by 50%, with the exception of AT funding.

VNA/VNH (Requesting \$18,030; Received \$18,030 in FY2007)

Gaye LaCasce, Director of Development, and Jan Stryker, Town Liaison, appeared on behalf of the VNA/VNH.

Ms. LaCasce said the VNA was celebrating its centennial anniversary this year providing services to people in their homes from birth to the end of life. The VNA was under-reimbursed for many of the patients they served. Ms. LaCasce said Medicaid patients absorbed a loss of \$1.9 million last year. All services were provided regardless of reimbursement.

Ms. LaCasce reported that the VNA made 2,000 visits to Enfield residents in 2007. She questioned how many of those visits would have resulted in emergency services expenditures had the VNA not been available.

Ms. LaCasce said Enfield's funding supported 4 programs in the past: home health care, maternal child health program, family support services, and Hospice. Hospice services increased 42% over the last year and future projections appeared to be significantly higher.

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council (Requested \$6,650; Received \$6,450 in 2007)

Roberta Berner, Executive Director, appeared on behalf of the Senior Citizens Council

Ms. Berner said the Council helped people to remain in their homes as long as possible. She reported that Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have the largest proportion of elders in their communities based on population ratios. They also have the largest aging

group too. Ms. Berner said the Council provided services to 40 towns including: adult daycare, social work, meals on wheels, transportation, etc. They assisted 161 people in Enfield in 2007, however, that did number not reflect their full efforts to help older, more frail and vulnerable people.

Ms. Berner said much of the balance of the funding shortfall between services provided and financial support received was made up by municipal appropriations. State and federal funding accounted for only 11% of their adult day care costs, 7% of their social work services, none of the meals on wheels, and only \$0.39/mile for transportation. Core funding was provided by the Older American Act. The Act restricts the Council from imposing fees for services. They were only able to collect donations. Ms. Berner said the average ride donation was \$0.47; the average meal donation was \$0.97. The Council relied on the support of local municipalities, county agencies and charitable gifts.

GREEN asked of the percentage of patients that utilized the social services in concert with other services. Ms. Berner said obtaining meals only attributed to half of the reasoning to seek assistance from the Council. The social aspect of attending the dinners or having a visitor to deliver the meal, accounted for the other half.

WISE (Requested \$2,300; Received \$2,300 in FY2007)

Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director, and Lavinia Weizel, Development Director, appeared on behalf of WISE.

Ms. O'Neil said WISE was started in 1971. Their current focus was to improve relations with local police departments, courts, and hospitals. They witnessed a tremendous increase of people reaching out to WISE throughout the local communities. In Enfield they achieved great success with transitional housing programs. Ms. O'Neil said WISE guaranteed rent payments and the Enfield clients had been able to make those payments without financial assistance from WISE. A new service underway involved the Child Advocacy Center at DHMC to assist with interviews of children treated for abuse and/or neglect. They also provided counseling to non-offending parents. Ms. O'Neil said WISE had also received funding in 2007 to collaborate with DCYF on intervention programs for domestic violence and abuse/neglect cases. Ms. Weizel added that WISE was more than a crisis center for victims. They offered community education/outreach programs, serving 6 high schools to promote healthy relationships. Ms. O'Neil said WISE continued to staff a 24-hour crisis hotline with 20-30 trained volunteers.

Ms. O'Neil said WISE was requesting on-going support from Enfield. They requested level funding from each town they submitted requests to. Ms. O'Neil said WISE could use more money but they too were beefing up their fundraising efforts. Their annual audit was wrapping up.

CARRIER said WISE was in good shape financially. He asked where contributions came from. Ms. O'Neil said contributions were generally received by individuals and a few special events.

ACORN (Requested \$2,000; Received \$1,000 in FY2007)

No one was present to speak to this request.

West Central Behavioral Health (Requested \$5,280; Received \$5,280 in FY 2007)

Suellen Griffin, President, and Ron Michaud appeared on behalf of West Central Behavioral Health (WCBH).

Ms. Griffin said WCBH was a stand-alone, not-for-profit outfit under the Dartmouth Hitchcock alliance. They were not funded by DHMC. Ms. Griffin said WCBH provided mental health and substance abuse services to children, adolescents, and adults in 22 towns and cities. They assisted 188 Enfield residents in 2007. Ms. Griffin said it was difficult to quantify a dollar amount for services provided. Much of what they do would have to be provided by emergency services if WCBH were not around. Ms. Griffin said WCBH appreciated the support Enfield afforded them in the past.

Mr. Michaud spoke of the community support for WCBH. He said Former Police Chief Giese spoke up at a Town Meeting on their behalf. Mr. Michaud asked that the Committee please endorse the current request. He said WCBH also experienced the Town Manger funding cuts in 2003, as much as \$6,000/yr. Mr. Michaud said WCBH assisted 4% of the Enfield population. The work was very labor intensive.

HULVA asked if WCBH was reimbursed by insurance companies. Ms. Griffin said yes, but the rate of reimbursement barely covered the cost of services. She pointed out that 84% of their budget was from insurance reimbursements. Mr. Michaud added that private insurances did not pay at all. WCBH was designated by the State to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursements. In exchange, WCBH must provide services to a large area of people. GREEN asked if they received reimbursements from school districts. Ms. Griffin said no, but they were able to bill the students directly.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW:

CARRIER suggested the Committee review the materials received at the current meeting and discuss them at a later date when all of the Budget Committee members are present. He said the Committee had endorsed a number of these agency requests for a long time. The new requests should be considered very carefully. PAYNE agreed everyone should be available for the discussion.

CARRIER expressed concern for the MVHI request. He estimated a potential loss of \$100,000 for 2008. PAYNE said the MVHI was far-reaching and had good vision. SCHNEIDER added that a lot of professionals (police, fire) respected them. Many of the local communities were talking about the need for a regional group to administer these types of services. MVHI had the opportunity to fill that role. MALZ agreed it would be better to have one agency oversee these services and decide how the funding should be distributed. She said it appeared that many of the agencies provided overlapping services such as the hotlines and mental health. GREEN suggested it was MVHI's services that overlapped the others. PAYNE clarified that MVHI looked at the health perspective, not a

crisis perspective. He said MVHI was very committed. They were working to prioritize their responsibilities.

MALZ noted that most of the agencies that did not appear before them had requested level funding. Some that did attend the meeting had specific purposes for the funding requested. Others were not able to explain how the money would be spent. She asked if any of the agencies were associated with the United Way. CARRIER suggested 2 or 3 were. SCHNEIDER said some agencies just did a better job justifying the requests.

CARRIER said he'd like to develop a process for future budget reviews to follow. The current requests totaled \$13,360. He agreed WCBH had not been treated fairly in the past. He suggested the 2007 figures might provide a good baseline for comparison for future requests. SALADINO asked if every agency would receive funding. CARRIER said that would be decided at a later date.

SCHNEIDER said the Museum request was new this year. He said the Town helped them in other ways financially (forgiving back taxes, interest). CARRIER suggested counting all of the new proposals separately. He said the Committee should consider designating an increase percentage that would be provided to all. SCHNEIDER said 3% was given in 2007.

MALZ recalled the 2003 Town Meeting when the funding requests were cut dramatically. She said Town Meeting asked the Budget Committee to research how the various appropriations benefited the Town and to justify funding amounts. CARRIER said the result of that was the development of submittal requirements the Town now asked of each agency.

HULVA reported that Medicare was cutting funding by 9% in 2008.

Adjourn: It was moved by HULVA, seconded by CARRIER, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. The Committee voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rivard, Secretary