

T o w n o f E n f i e l d

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Public Meeting Minutes ~December 9, 2003

Mr. Michael Dudley Chairman convened a business meeting of the Enfield Budget Committee at 6 p.m., on December 9, 2003, in the conference room of the Department of Public Works facility, on Lockhaven Road, in Enfield, NH.

Present:

Mike Dudley-Chairman

April Whittaker-Town Manager

Richard Martin

Lee Carrier

Lynn Baker

Shirley Green

Lori Bliss

Gayle Hulva

Paula Rowe-Recorder

Absent with Apologies: Dominic Albanese-Selectman

· Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 22, 2003 came forward from Chairman Dudley, second by Lee Carrier.

Corrections: Incorporate "Lynn Baker" as being present.

Page three under Committee vacancy, take out the parenthesis. Change the word expiry to expiring.

Page 4 near the bottom, last paragraph change affect to effect.

Page 5, last paragraph that begins with Captain Crate The word 'an' before attack animal.

Check on comma use for 'as well as.'

Page 6, under 4414-Animal Control change complaint to compliant.

Being no other discussion or changes, a vote of unanimous came forward to accept these minutes with the editing.

· WISE

Peggy O'Neil and Regina Rice, Assistant Director presented on behalf of WISE (Women's Information Services), an organization based in Lebanon. They are requesting \$2300.00 in support of their operations for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Previous handout indicated 7% of their clients are from Enfield, though they are asking for a donation of 14% of the \$16,000 share from New Hampshire. This prompted questioning from Mr. Carrier who suggested information by way of spreadsheets illustrating town comparisons for all outside agency funding requests this year. Ms. Baker asked about the figures from Vermont, noting that only \$3500 is received

annually. Peggy O'Neil advised that this question has come forward from other towns, and she is addressing this issue for due fairness, noting that not all towns served fiscally donate. Ms. Rice explained the role of WISE and its support to Anne's Place, informing that they have placed 4 families at this Enfield location. Ms. Rice said that the typical person they refer to Anne's Place is a single Mom with two or three children, who are coming out of unhealthy relationships and are starting new lives in a safe environment. Ms. Rice said that WISE is providing service to Enfield on a weekly basis in the community room at Anne's Place. Mrs. Hulva asked about the numbers on staff at WISE, and Peggy said that there were currently 7. All committee members were invited to stop by and see the facility in Lebanon There is currently a 24 hour hotline and the agency is within reach to the police departments. TM Whittaker welcomed the Kayak Race that has become popular in the Upper Valley as a necessary fundraiser. Ms. Rice said that it was successful and will return, and informed of the upcoming raffle that has been successful in the past as well.

Chair Dudley thanked the representatives for their presentation.

The Committee requested Mrs. Whittaker to formulate a spread sheet based on the following questions :

- * Number of Town that are served and a listing of those Towns
- * Of the towns listed, which ones are supportive and the amounts of money given
- * Number of Clients Served by community
- * Total population of the community served

The above questions will be handed to each agency.

· West Central Behavior Services:

Mr. Ron Michaud, Director presented on behalf of West Central Services. Mr. Michaud said that they serve two cities and 22 towns, and are requesting monies from all towns. The agency is asking for \$4,220 from Enfield this year; said request being based on one dollar per head of population. TM Whittaker asked what the State Development Expenses line was for and what are Professional Fees and Consultant, quizzing why this would be needed with the fulltime staff that they have, producing a payroll of \$6.9 million. Mr. Michaud said that he would look into this and get back to the committee. When asked about the services to the school district, Mr. Michaud said the agency does not have a contract, saying the school district has cut back, and hired an individual on staff to assist with the services that are needed. This statement was queried as the Town understood that a contract for services was in place at the Mascoma School District.

TM Whittaker praised Mr. Michaud for the "Paddle for Power" fundraiser this past year. However, felt that the recently received elaborate thank you Christmas card was frivolous and not necessary, suggesting perhaps saving the money that was spent for these. She suggested that most organizations print donor's names in a newsletter.

According to Mr. Michaud, 252 people from Enfield received service from West Central

in the past year, with a number of those receiving services having insurance. Mr. Michaud said that the agency is mandated by the State to provide 24-hour service and this is a great cost to the agency. Contact between client and professional usually by pager.

Mr. Michaud said that two years ago West Central received \$7,000 from Enfield, and is unclear why they were cut to \$1,000 last year. This year they are asking for one dollar per resident, or \$4220.

Chairman Dudley asked if West Central interacted with "Headrest", and Mr. Michaud informed that Headrest refers individuals to West Central as Headrest is the first initial emergency response in many cases. Mr. Michaud informed that West Central has been of assistance to the Enfield Police Department, and has worked with Peter Giese. Mr. Carrier informed Mr. Michaud he would like a break down of those towns that are served. TM Whittaker requested qualification of the statement contained in their request letter to the town, namely "By providing effective services at free or discounted rates to Enfield residents, West Central Behavioral health helps to reduce the costs to the Town of paying for increased housing, food, and medical care our clients would request directly from the Town." Mr. Michaud explained that the mental health needs of individuals, and opined that this decreased the assistance sought from local municipal offices. Mrs. Whittaker advised that their experience in the human services department did not seem to indicate reduced requests due to West Central's assistance.

TM Whittaker asked about the support from Dartmouth Hitchcock, and Mr. Michaud explained "The Alliance," in that they pay to be a part of the alliance to belong and obtain services. But concurred that programming was underwritten by the hospital.

In conclusion Mr. Michaud will provide statistics as requested by the town.

Of Note: Later on in the evening a contract between the school district and West Central Services was viewed by committee members.

- Visiting Nurse Association

Beth Griffin, Coordinator for Hospice, Family Services, and the Visiting Nurse Alliance, came before the Budget Committee. TM Whittaker requested information as to how the monetary request was collated and if a formula was utilized, in this case they had requested \$16,850. Ms. Griffin advised that it was her understanding that the amount requested was based on approximately \$3 to \$4 per head of population. TM Whittaker expressed that the town had received aid from a couple of the nurses who live in Enfield, and had provided very valuable assistance to the community as a whole. TM Whittaker asked Ms. Griffin to provide a spreadsheet with information comparing surrounding towns. Mr. Carrier asked for a breakout of the Municipal/County/United Way showing how much is from Municipalities.

Statistics showed 372 visits to Enfield in the past year; accordingly, this figure would involve all professional services. Insurance funds are obtained, if individuals do have insurance. Additionally, Ms. Griffin said they do a large amount of fundraising. TM

Whittaker asked about the type of fundraisers. Ms. Griffin said that they have had a concert in the past year, and most recently the annual appeal, selling bears, and going to the towns and asking for support. Mr. Carrier asked what grant or grants fund the agency. Ms. Baker asked Ms. Griffin what is generating the income re interest and dividends from their revenue report, and what assets provide the revenue in this case.

· Headrest

Mr. Greg Norman, Executive Director of Headrest, was present and informed that they provide a referral service, and crisis hotline, on a 24 hour basis, and a residential substance abuse detoxification process with 8 beds with a goal of transition back into society. Out-patient abuse counseling is provided in-house to New Hampshire residents, on a sliding fee scale. Mr. Norman informed that Headrest has been in existence since 1971, and will provide a spreadsheet illustrating those towns that receive services with statistics.

Headrest is requesting \$7,000, and believes this amount is consistent with past year's amounts. Mr. Carrier pointed out that towns have directed their funds to either out-patient services, or to the 24-hour hotline crisis. Mr. Norman said that staff reductions in the past year, have brought this year's budget in line but posed a stress on the in-house residence program. Mr. Carrier asked about the program descriptions, goals, and objectives that state a possible reduction in hours of operation. Mr. Norman said that he is attributing this to the financial situation of Headrest. Ms. Baker asked about the number of clientele from the college, and Mr. Norman said that it is very limited, as it is not advertised on the campus. Ms. Baker asked if the audit of 2003 figures were available, and Mr. Norman said he just received this last week.

Mr. Norman emphasized that Headrest is physically staffed 24 hours in a true crisis and emergency basis, whereas West Central has an 800 number and a professional would then provide counseling to the caller.

Mr. Norman said that there are only eight beds at Headrest and in the past year he does not have knowledge of in-house residential services going to an Enfield resident. Mr. Norman said that those individuals who do come into the residential programs usually do not have any funds to pay for the services.

TM Whittaker asked about the fundraisers that Headrest is involved in, and Mr. Norman said that they have the annual appeal, foundation grant writing, and proposed "vacation auction" through donations and stated that they are currently reviewing how they can facilitate fundraising within the organization.

He advised that the request for \$7,000 was not based on any formula but was simply a repetitive request from prior years that had been supported.

· Senior Citizens Council Inc

Roberta Berner, Executive Director of Senior Citizens Council Inc presented her request of \$5,000 to the committee, accompanied by Doreen Bowlin, RN for RSVP, and Adult

Day Program. Ms. Berner spoke on the community-based services provided out of the Canaan and Lebanon office for this area, allowing senior citizens the capability to stay at home and provide interaction of seniors. Services provided: Meals on Wheels, transportation to appointments, grocery shopping, social service interaction, and activities. The agency provides a wonderful staff of social workers. A new program for Enfield residents will be an in-home adult care and companion program.

Ms. Baker noted in the financial report, that the Grafton County Senior Council has participants from several outlying areas that participate in the 8 senior citizens council establishments. Tm Whittaker asked if the Council would be open to the suggestion of setting up a Senior Citizen Council in Enfield once the new Community Building is opened, and Ms. Berner welcomed this.

Mr. Carrier asked what do they charge for, and Ms. Berner said that they request donations for services, and a great share of the people cannot afford to donate.

- Advanced Transit

Though not present this evening, correspondence from Van Chestnut, Executive Director of Advance Transit, Inc. shows that they are requesting \$5,150 from the town. Chairman Dudley researched the statistics of the number of riders in Enfield, versus the donation of the town, the average cost for an Enfield individual was \$1.30 last year, versus, Canaan's .67, Hanover 1.06, Lebanon .60, Norwich .77, and so forth, with the average being .95.

Chairman Dudley suggests reducing the \$5,150 figure to \$3,675, based on his previously described research of average cost per rider. This will be discussed in the future.

- DOT Public Information Meeting

TM Whittaker briefed Budget Committee members as to the public hearing conducted by the DOT for improvements to route 4A and Shaker bridge replacement scheduled for 2007.

Motion to adjourn came at 8:50 p.m. from Ms. Baker, second by Mr. Martin and the motion carried.