

WOLFEBORO BUDGET COMMITTEE

December 15, 2014

Minutes

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Dave Senecal, Selectmen's Representative, Brian Black, John Burt, Matt Krause, Harold Parker, Frank Giebutowski, Bob Tougher, Bob Moholland, Members.

Members Absent: Frank Giebutowski, Vice-Chairman, Steve Johnson, Member.

Staff Present: Dave Owen, Town Manager, Pete Chamberlain, Finance Director, Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

AGENCIES

Central NH VNA & Hospice; \$19,200

Betty Coffey, Branch Director, requested level funding from 2014 and noted the request is based on the amount and level of services provided to Wolfeboro residents. She stated the services (home care, health, pediatric and community services) is not covered by grants or insurance and Wolfeboro residents receive 26% of all visit provided by the Wolfeboro office; noting Wolfeboro is the only town that currently receives nonprofit Hospice services. She stated the agency requests all the towns served to fund the program (approximately \$200,000). She stated the agency reported \$760,316 in community benefits of unreimbursed services last year; noting the Town's funding only covers a portion of the costs.

John Burt stated data was provided last year with regard to the analysis however, the data and analysis wasn't provided this year. He stated the agency is requesting level funding without providing the basis for such.

Betty Coffey stated the agency budgets \$84,000 for the towns covered by the Wolfeboro office and then the percentage of services provided to each town was reviewed. She stated 26% of the services to Wolfeboro equal \$21,860. She stated the reason why the exact services were not provided on the information sheet is because not all the towns receive all the services; noting there are other nonprofit VNA agencies that provide services to towns. She stated it is very hard to provide a certain amount per unit price; noting Hospice visits are more expensive than other services. She stated that if the formula produced by David Booth was used the request would be \$21,000 however, the Committee reduced the request to \$19,200 last year therefore, the agency requested the same amount for 2015. She stated she doesn't know what other data the Committee wants; noting the same amount of services is provided annually.

John Burt stated he would like the information that was provided last year and isn't comfortable just approving the amount requested without the information.

Betty Coffey stated the agency tries to budget \$200,000 from the towns to help towards the \$760,316. She stated the agency has an office in Laconia and Wolfeboro.

John MacDonald questioned the number of visits provided to other towns. He verified the total number of visits to Wolfeboro residents was 4,297.

Betty Coffey stated the agency provided 2700 visits in Ossipee and the agency requested \$14,000 from that town. She stated she doesn't like to put a unit cost on a visit.

John MacDonald questioned the number of visits provided to the town of Meredith.

Betty Coffey stated she doesn't know and noted Brookfield was around 2,000 visits.

Bob Moholland questioned the amount of the budget offset by individuals who have insurance.

Betty Coffey replied between 80% and 90%. She stated most of the funding is through Medicare and Medicaid and noted that many people are underinsured.

Appalachian Teen Project; \$2,400

Jeannie Clark, Americorps volunteer, stated the agency served 74 youths in 2014.

John MacDonald questioned the amount of youths in the program currently.

Jeannie Clark replied 36.

John MacDonald questioned the amount of funding from other towns.

Jeannie Clark replied the agency has received funding from Wakefield and Ossipee this year. She stated Alton and Tuftonboro provided funding last year.

John Burt questioned the new programs started in 2014.

Jeannie Clark stated there weren't any new programs however, a pathways program and community service program is being restructured.

Matt Krause asked if the agency receives funding from Laconia; noting a majority of the youths are from that town.

Jeannie Clark stated Laconia denied funding for 2015.

John Burt stated he read about a program that shows kids how to go from one classroom to another in the middle school.

Jeannie Clark stated the agency assists 6th graders with the transition into middle school.

Kingswood Youth Center; \$5,000

Jeannie Clark stated the Kingswood Youth Center's after school program was established in 2000; noting 30% of the students are from Wolfeboro.

Meals on Wheels; \$7,500

Dave Owen distributed a letter from Cheryl Dempsey, Treasurer, requesting a decrease in funding from \$9,000 to \$7,500.

Cheryl Dempsey confirmed the decrease in the funding request.

Bob Tougher asked why the request is less than the previous year.

Cheryl Dempsey stated fundraising was increased, several one-time donations were received and there are less people receiving meals; noting she believes this trend will continue.

Wolfeboro Area Children's Center; \$15,000

Susan Whiting, Executive Director, requested \$5,000 less than what was requested for 2014 due to demographic issues. She stated the agency may not need all the money because enrollment is extremely low and that if the funds are not expended they will be returned to the Town.

Brian Black questioned the number of children enrolled.

Susan Whiting replied 70 full time children; noting the facility is licensed for 200.

Community Action (Fuel Assistance); \$5,000

Lisa Hinckley requested level funding from 2014 and noted the organization served 146 Wolfeboro households this past year.

John MacDonald asked how the organization coordinates with the Town's Welfare Office.

Lisa Hinckley stated she has not met the new Welfare Director however, does communicate with the Towns of Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro and Ossipee.

John MacDonald confirmed that a person has the ability to apply to the Town in addition to what is received from CAP.

L.I.F.E. Ministries; \$11,000

Stanley Anderson, President, Board of Directors, requested level funding from 2014 and stated the numbers continue to climb; noting more people are looking for support. He stated 400 residents in Wolfeboro qualify and are registered with the program. He stated the organization receives \$5,000 from Ossipee, \$2,000 from Tuftonboro and their funding request to Alton was denied. He stated they intend to submit a Petitioned Warrant Article to Alton for funding. He stated residents are allowed support once per week and noted there are food pantries in Ossipee and Alton as well. He stated the computer systems are linked to track the recipients at all the food pantries. He stated 10,000 meals per month are provided.

Medication Bridge; \$741

Jack Drinkwater stated the program is requesting less than the previous year (\$1,082). He stated the clients served are not covered by insurance or Medicare D.

Northern Human Services; \$7,449

Eve Klotz, Director, stated the agency is requesting level funding from 2014 and 145 Wolfeboro residents were served in 2014; noting that a lot of the clients do not qualify for the Affordable Care Act.

John MacDonald asked if the clients served are strictly for mental health issues.

Eve Klotz replied both mental health issues and substance abuse issues.

Wolfeboro Senior Meals; \$20,000

Dave Owen stated his office was unable to contact a representative to inform them of the change in the date of the Budget Committee meeting.

Starting Point; \$1,876

Melissa Couture noted the program provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Carroll County. She stated the program served 30 Wolfeboro residents; noting 170 services in total were provided.

Red Cross; \$500

Dave Owen stated the BOS did not approve the Red Cross's request for funding.

Caregivers of Southern Carroll County; \$4,000

Phil Wasmuth, Treasurer, distributed data through November 30, 2014; noting the organization is 100% run by volunteers. He stated the clients are provided transportation to doctor appointments; noting if the trip is under 50 miles there is no reimbursement however; for trips over 50 miles the volunteers are provided partial reimbursement for mileage/gas. He stated 94% of the budget is for gas reimbursement and noted the other two expenses incurred by the program are insurance for its board members and an office telephone. He noted the following figures to date; 595 trips in town, 249 trips out of town and 23,252 miles as reimbursable.

John MacDonald asked Mr. Wasmuth to provide the phone number for the public and asked if there is a time notice for the requests.

Phil Wasmuth replied 569-6780. He stated a 48 hour notice is requested unless there is an emergency.

John MacDonald asked if transportation would be provided to a spouse if the other spouse is in the hospital.

Phil Wasmuth replied yes.

Dinner Bell; \$6,000

Donna Young stated there was a change in management in April 2014; noting the program is now managed by the Finance Committee. She stated the average weekly attendance is 28-35 and the current expenses include food, cleaning and a chef. She stated previously the program served prepackaged food however, now home cooked meals are being provided.

John MacDonald asked if All Saints Church continues to oversee the program.

Donna Young replied yes.

John MacDonald stated he feels the program should be its own nonprofit organization; questioning what is to preclude every church to have its own program.

Dave Owen stated the Committee requested an opinion from Town Counsel as to whether a church could be the fiscal agent of the program and Town Counsel replied yes. He stated the former Welfare Director began the program however, she is no longer employed by the Town and the program is now run by the Director of the church.

John MacDonald requested a copy of Town Counsel's letter.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate); \$500

No representative present.

John MacDonald asked if a representative attended the BOS meeting.

Dave Senecal replied yes.

John MacDonald asked if the representative reports number of residents served.

Dave Senecal stated the information included clients from Carroll and Belknap counties.

CAP Restorative Justice; \$2,006

Lance Zack, Program Director, stated the program is a juvenile diversion program (ages 11-17) that allows first time offenders to reconcile their court involvement through community service. He stated 26 Wolfeboro residents participated in the program last year; noting there are currently 19 clients from Wolfeboro. He stated the program focuses on the victim and restitution.

John MacDonald asked why the funding request is separated out of the CAP funding request.

Lance Zack stated he was advised by the Town to submit the request separately.

Dave Owen stated he recommended the agency submit a separate funding request because it is a new agency request and noted the fiscal agent has a different budget for each program.

John MacDonald asked if the agency receives funding from Carroll County.

Lance Zack replied no; noting this is the first time the agency is requesting money from the Town.

John MacDonald questioned the program fee.

Lance Zack replied \$450.

John MacDonald questioned the success rate of the program.

Lance Zack stated there is an 8-12% recidivism rate over the past 12 years.

Brian Black asked if the case associated with the Town is based on residency.

Lance Zack replied yes.

Carroll County Transit; \$4,000

Peter Reynolds stated there were 6,663 trips in 2014.

John Burt questioned the ridership statistics.

Peter Reynolds stated from 7/1/13 to 6/30/14 there were 1,362 total trips to Wolfeboro with an unduplicated number of 109.

John MacDonald questioned the distance of the route.

Peter Reynolds replied from Ossipee to Wolfeboro.

Brian Black requested ridership statistics be provided to the Committee.

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION & GENERATION

ADMINISTRATION

Bob Tougher questioned consultants.

Barry Muccio stated the Town is changing from Real Time Market to Day Ahead Market; noting such would pay for itself in generation. He stated the linemen contract is up this year and the Town will be going through negotiations.

Bob Tougher questioned building maintenance; noting an over expenditure the last two years.

Barry Muccio stated there have been issues with the boiler; noting a pellet boiler has been installed.

DISTRIBUTION

Bob Moholland questioned the number of employees for the department.

Barry Muccio replied 4 line workers/supervisors, 3 full time employees, 3 part time meter readers and 1 part time staker.

GENERATION

Bob Tougher questioned building maintenance; noting an over expenditure the last two years.

Barry Muccio stated there have been plumbing and heating issues however, two new heaters have been purchased in addition to a backup heater.

ELECTRIC FUND CAPITAL OUTLAY

03-49615-730 Sewall Road Upgrade Engineering; \$30,000

Barry Muccio stated the ongoing project includes converting voltage throughout the Town; noting Sewall Road is scheduled for such (engineering in 2015, warrant article in 2016).

Bob Tougher questioned the decrease from the original request of \$50,000 to \$30,000 by the BOS.

Barry Muccio stated the original request was based on an estimate however, since that time he received a firm quote.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob Moholland to decrease 03-49615-730 from \$50,000 to \$30,000. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

03-49615-731 System Planning Study; \$25,000

Barry Muccio stated the original study was done in 2002; noting this study would review the previous study, prioritize, re-evaluate and determine what should be focused on for the next ten years.

Other Business

Default Budget

Dave Owen distributed such; noting the BOS would be acting on such on 12/17/14.

Community Television

Dave Owen stated the BOS approved a request from Community Television for an additional \$3,649 to purchase equipment.

Ryan Noonan requested an increase in funding of \$3,649 to purchase a receiver, transmitter and audio equipment.

John MacDonald verified the purchases are necessary due to the conversion by Metrocast.

Ryan Noonan stated the digitalization incurred additional costs.

Bob Moholland asked why there are three channels when only two are being used.

Dave Owen stated three channels were dedicated to the Town.

John Burt questioned the revenue.

John MacDonald replied \$112,000. He asked if additional advertising revenue has increased.

Ryan Noonan replied yes.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by John Burt to increase 41301.381 Cable Channel from \$95,737 to \$99,386. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

It was moved by Brian Black and seconded by Harold Parker to adjourn the December 15, 2014 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

Lee Ann Keathley

****Please note these minutes are subject to approval and amendments at a later date.**