

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
December 8, 2016
Minutes**

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman, Luke Freudenberg, Selectmen's Representative, Steve Johnson, Brian Black, John Burt, Robert Loughman, Bob O'Brien, Bob Moholland, Members.

Member Absent: Harold Parker, Member (excused).

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

Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM at the Great Hall.

AGENCIES

Central NH VNA & Hospice; \$20,000

Margaret Hauser stated the agency provided a total of \$61,893 in uncompensated care and 4,300 visits to Wolfeboro residents. She stated the agency is the only NH nonprofit agency that received a 4.5 star quality rating from Medicare and Medicaid. She stated the uncompensated care increased despite the Affordable Health Care Act and noted the agency conducts its own fundraising to offset charges.

Appalachian Teen Project; \$2,400

Nate Boston, Associate Director, requested level funding; noting the agency serves 62 teens. He stated Wolfeboro is the second largest community behind Laconia.

Kingswood Youth Center; \$5,000

Zachary Porter noted the Center provides an after-school program to students in the Governor Wentworth Regional School District; noting the agency provides services to 32% of Wolfeboro students. He stated the agency has expanded its programs to weekends, school holidays and summer vacation (68 additional hours this past year with a commitment of 100 hours next year). He noted the Towns of Ossipee and Wolfeboro are the highest represented towns; noting the agency receives \$3,000 from Tuftonboro and \$5,000 from Ossipee (an increase from \$4,000). He stated a funding request to New Durham has been requested.

Meals on Wheels; \$7,500

Cheryl Dempsey, Treasurer, requested level funding; noting 8,200 meals were delivered to Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro and Brookfield residents. She stated 74% of the total client base is from Wolfeboro.

Wolfeboro Area Children's Center; \$10,000

Susan Whiting, Executive Director, requested level funding and noted an increase in enrollment.

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

Lisa Hinckley requested level funding and noted the agency served 105 Wolfeboro households this past year, 40 of which were elderly (60+ years). She stated the agency recently received 1,100 applications for fuel assistance.

L.I.F.E. Ministries; \$15,000

Ken Cromwell, President, Board of Directors, requested level funding. He stated the program receives donations, both food and monetary donations and noted an increase in the number of families needing assistance. He stated the Welfare Department has reduced its number of vouchers being provided to clients and those clients are referred to the food pantry. He stated 419 people (258 families) of their clients are Wolfeboro residents (44%). He stated 23 towns are served however, the majority of the clients are from Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro and Ossipee.

John MacDonald asked if the agency requests funding from other towns.

Ken Cromwell replied no and stated a request for funding was submitted to Alton last year however, the town denied the request. He stated he would be requesting funding again this year from Alton because there has been an increase in Alton residents (12%). He stated 6% of their clients are from Tuftonboro and noted the agency has a food budget of \$156,000.

John MacDonald stated the request for funding (\$15,000) equates to more than 44% of Wolfeboro residents that utilize the program.

Medication Bridge; \$285

Jack Drinkwater noted a decrease in the funding request due to the number of clients being served. He stated the organization requests funding from seven towns; noting 22 towns are served however, many of those towns only 1-2 residents are clients.

Northern Human Services; \$7,449

Eve Klotz, Director, stated the request is level funded; noting the program provided 652 hours of treatment and 126 clients.

Wolfeboro Senior Meals; \$20,000

Eileen Gill, Treasurer, requested level funding and stated 86% of the meals are provided to Wolfeboro residents. She stated Tuftonboro and Brookfield residents are also served. She noted the program received three grants last year from Meredith Village Savings Bank, Bald Peak and the Town's Cate Fund and fundraised \$5,400.

Starting Point; \$1,697

Raetha Stoddard, Executive Director, requested a decrease in funding due to the number of Wolfeboro residents served by the agency (20 residents). She stated the agency has opened an office at Huggins Hospital and includes a full time advocate.

Caregivers of Southern Carroll County; \$4,000

Phil Wasmuth, Treasurer, requested level funding and distributed data through November 30, 2016. He stated the clients are provided transportation to doctor appointments; noting a 48 hour notice is preferred however, not required. He stated the program is supported by donations, service clubs, churches and other communities (Alton; \$2,000, Tuftonboro; \$1,000, Ossipee; \$2,500). He stated their phone number is 569-6780.

Dinner Bell; \$2,000

Donna Young requested \$2,000; noting the program did not request funding last year because they had received many contributions to support the program.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate); \$1,000

Jeanne Sheehan, Regional Director, stated the CASA program consists of court appointed advocates for abused and neglected children; noting 1200 children are served and funding pays for training the CASA volunteers. She stated 4 children in the program are residents of Wolfeboro however, there are several foster children that have been placed in Wolfeboro that are also served.

John MacDonald asked why the BOS decreased funding from \$1,000 to \$500.

Dave Owen stated the BOS decreased the request to remain level funded from last year. He stated Ms. Sheehan has provided justification for the increase.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob O'Brien to increase 01-44176-830 CASA from \$500 to \$1,000.

Discussion of the motion:

John Burt stated he wouldn't support the increase due to the lack of information relative to data from other towns.

Jenny Sheehan stated the courts place children with relatives or in foster homes. She stated half of their funding is provided by National CASA, 10% is provided by the State and the remainder is raised by the organization.

John MacDonald questioned the total budget.

Jenny Sheehan replied \$1.5 million.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob O'Brien to increase 01-44176-830 CASA from \$500 to \$1,000. John MacDonald, Steve Johnson, Brian Black, Bob Moholland, Bob O'Brien, Bob Tougher voted in favor. Robert Loughman, John Burt opposed. The motion passed.

Carroll County Transit; \$4,000

Dave Owen stated there is no representative available; noting he received notification from the representative that his father passed away and would be unable to attend the meeting. He stated the Committee has supported the program since its conception.

Luke Freudenberg stated the program provided 957 trip rides for the elderly and disabled; noting the program is fully staffed by volunteers.

Bob Tougher stated it would be in the Town's best interest to continue funding the program and supports such.

End 68 Hours of Hunger; \$4,000

Sally Humer, Director, noted an increase in the number of children being served therefore, the funding request includes a \$1,000 increase from last year. She stated there are 32 children total from Wolfeboro who have been identified as needing assistance (20 from Carpenter, 7 from Crescent Lake School and 5 from Wolfeboro Area Children's Center). She stated the towns of Tuftonboro and Ossipee increased their funding to \$5,000.

Bob Moholland asked if other towns provide financial assistance.

Sally Humer replied yes, Tuftonboro and Ossipee.

John Burt stated children from Wolfeboro and Brookfield attend Carpenter School.

Bob Moholland recommended seeking funds from the Town of Brookfield.

Bob Tougher noted the BOS reduced the amount to \$3,000.

Sally Humer stated food is being purchased for 120 children and noted the organization fundraises to assist with the cost of the food.

White Horse Addiction Center; \$10,000

Dave Owen stated the BOS did not recommend funding because there was no representative present at the BOS meeting when the request for funding was considered.

Sue Thistle, Executive Director, requested funding in the amount of \$10,000; noting the funds would be used to construct a bulkhead, back stairs, carpet replacement and purchase computers for their facility in Center Ossipee. She stated the organization provides residential and outpatient substance use disorder programs in Carroll County. She stated Wolfeboro reported 12 deaths by overdose in 2015 and 4 in 2016; noting there have been 121 overdoses in 2016. N She stated the organization initially requested \$2,500 however, is now requesting \$10,000 to assist with opening the Recovery Resource Center.

Robert Loughman asked if funding has been requested from Ossipee.

Sue Thistle replied yes, however they have not received a response from the town. She stated the organization received \$3,000 from Wakefield.

Brian Black asked if the organization is registered as a nonprofit.

Sue Thistle replied yes and noted the organization has opened a thrift store to assist with funding the program.

Bob Tougher questioned if federal or state funding has been sought.

Sue Thistle replied yes, and noted she spoke with the Governor's office and was informed there is no funding available.

John MacDonald asked how long the organization has been in existence.

Sue Thistle replied 2 years however, the nonprofit status was received one year ago and noted that up until 10 weeks ago there were only two employees.

John MacDonald asked if the building is rented.

Yvonne Meisner replied yes, from the church.

John MacDonald stated he would be more supportive if the funds were not being used to renovate the building.

Yvonne Meisner stated the renovations are necessary in order to open the facility.

Sue Thistle stated the funds could be re-appropriated to assist clients rather than to complete the renovations. She stated she has also requested funding from the Carroll County Commissioners for the organization's 28-day program. She stated that since the Commissioners agreed to support the program in the amount of \$75,000 that they are not permitted to request funding from towns within the county for that program. She stated the funding request is for the recovery center and program.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Robert Loughman to recommend funding in the amount of \$2,500 to the White Horse Addiction Center.

Discussion of the motion:

John MacDonald stated that receiving funding from other towns could jeopardize funding from the County.

Sue Thistle stated the organization was told that if they do not ask for funding for the same program then it was ok.

John MacDonald expressed concern for loss of County funding and recommended speaking to a State representative or delegate to confirm that funding would not be cut if the organization receives funding from Wolfeboro. He informed Ms. Thistle that she could approach the Budget Committee again at its public hearing on 1/10/17 for funding.

Bob Tougher withdrew his motion.

Robert Loughman withdrew his second.

Luke Freudenberg stated there is a need for the programs offered by the organization and noted that Green Mountain is a 30 bed facility however, only accepts private insurance therefore only 17 beds are filled. He stated the facility is Ossipee needs renovations in order to open and be able to treat clients.

John MacDonald asked if the extra money requested in the Police Department's overtime budget could be directed to the addiction program.

Luke Freudenberg stated Officer Keaton is acting as the liaison to the overdose cases.

HEALTH

No changes.

CODE OFFICER (revisit)

Dave Owen informed the Committee that the new Code Enforcement Officer would not be enrolling in the Town's health and dental programs therefore, the 200 series could be decreased as follows; 01-42400-210 Group Health Insurance from \$41,946 to \$12,617 and 01-42400-219 Dental Insurance from \$1,638 to \$250.

It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Robert Loughman to decrease 01-42400-210 Group Health Insurance from \$41,946 to \$12,617 and decrease 01-42400-219 Dental Insurance from \$1,638 to \$250. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Other Business

- BOS voted on the Warrant Articles on 12/7/16
- BOS approved the Default Budget on 12/7/16
- Town Clerk & Tax Collector security shutters; received cost estimate from Elite Door of New England, LLC in the amount of \$8,945

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob Moholland to increase 01-41941-435 by \$9,000. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by Bob Tougher to adjourn the December 8, 2016 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

Lee Ann Keathley

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