

Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen
Public Meeting Minutes-Unapproved
COVID-19 Meeting- GoToMeeting
Budget Meeting
September 23, 2020

Board Members present: Chairman Brad Harriman, Dave Senecal, Dave Bowers, Linda Murray and Paul O'Brien

Staff present: Town Manager Jim Pineo and Recording Secretary Michele Chamberlain

Chairman Harriman opened the GoToMeeting at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Harriman read the following Preamble into the record:

MEETING PREAMBLE DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Good Evening, as Chairman of the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of town government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

The Board Members gave a Roll call vote, Dave Senecal - present and alone in his office in his house, Linda Murray– present and alone in a room in her house, Brad Harriman – present and alone in a room in his house, Dave Bowers – present and alone in a room in his house but his wife might walk through and Paul O'Brien – present and alone in a room in his house.

Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3, II d

Mr. Pineo stated a non-public session is needed to discuss acquisition of property and consideration of legal advice.

Agency Requests for 2021 Proposed Budget

Chairman Harriman stated there will be no decisions made tonight. We are just listening and then information will be provided to the Budget Committee as well. It will be decided when the budgets are put together at a later time.

i. VNA Hospice-\$22,000

David Emberley, CFO of Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice, addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for the virtual meeting format. He stated Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice is a non-profit agency that provides in-home health care to residents of Southern Carroll and Belknap Counties. We are requesting level funding of \$22,000.00 from Wolfeboro to support Wolfeboro residents. Within the Wolfeboro town limits, the agency offers three different services to residents from our office located at 645 South Main Street in Wolfeboro. These programs are 1) Home Healthcare, 2) Hospice and 3) Pediatric nursing services through Home Visiting NH and Healthy Families America. During our last fiscal year, the agency provided 7,254 visits to residents of Wolfeboro, which represents 6% increase in the volume of service to Wolfeboro residents. We thank the Town of Wolfeboro for their continued support.

Ms. Murray asked for a copy of their current year income and expense statement. It is really the 2020 to 2021 budget.

Mr. Emberley stated he would send that budget tomorrow morning.

Mr. O'Brien questioned the reason for the incline in assets.

Mr. Emberley stated the market took a terrible dip because of COVID-19. He is happy to report that since then the market has rebounded and we have made up the losses.

ii. Meals on Wheels-\$7,500

Cheryl Dempsey, Representative and Treasurer of Meals on Wheels, addressed the Board. She stated the program serves residents from three towns Wolfeboro, Brookfield and Tuftonboro. Wolfeboro represents 72% of our clients. We delivered over 9800 meals in the prior 12 months to the three towns. We are requesting level funding of \$7,500.00. She thanked the Board for their prior support from the Board of Directors.

iii. Children's Center-\$10,000

Terri Ann Cox, Executive Director of the Children's Center, addressed the Board. She stated we provide comprehensive childcare and early education to children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age. We just celebrated our 45th anniversary. We support before and after school programing. In April because of the pandemic we were certified by the State of New Hampshire as an Emergency Childcare Program. We have been operating at about 50% capacity. We are supporting 9 towns although Wolfeboro children are our highest population and a large portion of our tuition assistance goes to Wolfeboro families. Last year about 47% of assistance went to Wolfeboro families. We are requesting level funding of \$10,000.00. We thank the Town of Wolfeboro for their continued support. Many parents are just getting back to work and are continuing to need our support.

Mr. Bowers thanked Ms. Cox for her service.

Ms. Cox stated she appreciated their support. She stated they are happy to support the community and working families.

iv. Community Action-\$14,000

Chairman Harriman stated this a merger of two organizations.

Jeanne Robillard, CEO of Community Action, addressed the Board. She stated she sent a letter this year regarding the FY21 municipal funds request to make the Board aware of the changes to the Tri- County Community Action Program that have impacted how we structure these requests. Historically, only a few programs requested funds out of many than may be providing services in a community as part of Tri-County Community Action Program. We are asking for funds under one request as an agency and those funds will support all of the programs we offer in municipality. Our goal in this methodology is to streamline our requests, provide municipalities with a standard formula that is consistent, fair and equitable to all communities we serve, and reflects support for all of the services we provide in that community. We understand that some communities might be asked for more and some for less than they are traditionally used to appropriating. It was a difficult decision for us to make this change, but we felt it was a necessary. Some of the programs we provide in Wolfeboro include, Fuel and Electrical Assistance, Weatherization,

Transportation, Homeless Intervention and Prevention and Guardianship. We are respectfully requesting level funding in the amount of \$14,100.00.

Mr. O'Brien questioned the amount. Is it level funding?

Ms. Robillard stated correct level funding is not the correct categorization. It is a formula based on the population of the town with applied by \$2.25 per capita. We are asking for the same in an equitable fashion for each of the communities we are requesting funds from.

Mr. O'Brien stated he understands it is a formula basis request. He felt a level funding request would be the same amount requested as last year. This is a request for an increase.

Ms. Robillard stated we are requesting an increase in the sense from last year but the request is equitable for what we are asking from every other community in Carroll County.

Mr. Bowers stated level funding is the same amount that was requested last year and this does not seem appropriate here.

Ms. Robillard stated correct. The request is based on a formula.

Mr. Senecal stated Carroll County Transit is included in the request. This is a merger so if the two figures are adding together then it basically is level funded.

Mr. O'Brien stated Mr. Senecal could explain how it is level funding later.

Ms. Murray questioned how many communities are being asked to provide more funds. How many communities are being asked to provide less funds? What has the response been from other communities for the change in funding? Has this been supported?

Ms. Robillard stated this is our first year and Wolfeboro is the second town that we are reporting to so we have not received a lot of feedback yet. She can provide a sheet showing what is being asked from each town so the Board can review it.

Mr. O'Brien stated that would be helpful.

Ms. Robillard thanked the Board and stated she appreciates their support.

Ms. Amy Goyette stated the number from last year was \$12,123.00.

v. L.I.F.E. Ministries-\$15,000

Mike Turner, President of Life Ministries, addressed the Board. He stated we are a 501 (3) C profit organization. We were established 35 years ago by seven local churches. We are governed by 22 Board Members and operated by 50 volunteers. Our mission is to supply food to qualified people in need. We provide 10 meals per week for each person that we serve. Last year we distributed over 198,000 meals which was a 2% increase from 2018.

Wolfeboro has 32% of our total clients and currently we distribute food to 240 Wolfeboro residents. This is a slight increase. Our food budget for this fiscal year is \$147,400.00. We are fortunate to receive donations from individuals, foundations and organizations during the pandemic. We are requesting level funding of \$15,000.00. This is only 10% of our total budget. He thanked the Board of Selectmen for their support and hoped next year they would be able to make the request in person. Be safe everyone!

vi. Starting Point-\$4,274

Deborah Weinstien, Executive Director of Starting Point, addressed the Board. She stated our numbers may be a little down but our services are way up and the imminent danger is huge. COVID-19 has really affected us because we lost over \$65,000 in one fundraiser. She stated Starting Point serves victims of domestic assault and sexual violence. We provide a 24/7 crisis support line and community service at Huggins Hospital. We are staffed five days a week. We respond to Ossipee Court with restraining orders, provide peer led support groups, case management and social service advocacy. We work with the local police department with the program called LAP to make sure people are safe and this has been very vital during COVID-19. We have provided 1,519 beds between April 1st and June 30th. We are requesting funding in the amount of \$4,274.00. She thanked the Board for their continued support.

Ms. Murray asked for their budget for this year and their balance sheet. Then we will have all the same information for all the agencies. She thanked Ms. Weinstien for all the great work Starting Point has done.

vii. Kingswood Youth Center-\$5,000

Zachary Porter, Executive Director of the Kingswood Youth Center, addressed the Board. We are requesting level funding of \$5,000.00. We provide free out of school programs for high school and middle school students in the Governor Wentworth Regional School District. We have four main programs. We offer an afterschool program Monday – Thursday. We are focusing on teambuilding, leadership, life skills, substance abuse prevention, outdoor recreation and general peer engagement in a safe and positive environment in our program. We offer a BTAS (Beyond the afterschool program) which meets on weekends, school vacations and one day a week we stay late and provide dinner. We have asked for funding from the Town of Ossipee, Tuftonboro, New Durham and Wolfeboro. We have met many success against the many, many challenges of the pandemic. During the COVID-19 school closure, the Kingswood Youth Center offered a full schedule of remote programs and was in frequent contact with families. Through a ‘care packages’ program, over 16,000 lbs. of fresh food, pantry items, and household essentials were provided to families. In partnership with Granite United Way, over \$6,000 was raised and provided directly to families impacted by the pandemic. We opened on July 1st this summer. We are teaching life skills such as positive teen engagement during the pandemic like remote learning, good hygiene, hand washing and social distancing. We are providing a small group a safe place to learn these important skills that we have all had to learn. Mr. Porter and the Kingswood Youth thanked the Board for their continued support.

Mr. O'Brien stated last year he asked if some of his students could work with seniors in helping them understand technology better. He would like to help bridge the gap. We all need to know how to get connected and COVID-19 has shown how very important this is to everyone.

Mr. Porter stated he has had an ongoing conversation with Ms. Capone about these same topics. Sadly, the goal has to be on hold for now because of the pandemic.

Ms. Murray thanked Mr. Porter for his leadership at the Kingswood Youth Center. She is thrilled that they took on the mentoring of the middle school students that used to be done by Appalachian Mountain Teen because they had to close. She thanked him for all his support to the community of Wolfeboro.

Mr. Bowers offered to donate a piano to the Youth Center.

viii. Northern Human Services-\$7,779

Valeda Cerasale, Behavioral Health Director, addressed the Board. She stated they are a non-profit mental health community provider. We currently serve 200 clients in the Wolfeboro area and last year we served 185 so we are continuing to see an increase. We offer therapy, peace management, 24/7 emergency services and ACT services to help reduce the frequency of psychiatric hospitalizations. We are requesting funding in the amount of \$7,779.00.

Ms. Murray thanked Ms. Cerasale for attending the meeting this year.

Ms. Cerasale stated it was her pleasure and she hopes to attend the meeting for many years to come.

ix. Senior Meals-\$25,000

Amy Capone-Muccio, Welfare Director and President of Senior Meals, addressed the Board. She stated she would follow up with Mr. Porter. They have had a few conversations about the Senior Center and the Youth Center collaborating to get the senior computer savvy. This has been on hold because of the pandemic. She stated we are requesting level funding of \$25,000.00. We have been closed since March. COVID-19 had a big impact on us since we are a senior group and are located at All Saints Church. We have offered an online exercise program by one of our volunteers. We are trying to set up an on-the-go program and we should hear back in a few weeks if we will be allowed to do the program. Income back to All Saints Church. We will update the Board to the status of our program.

x. Caregivers of Southern Carroll County-\$4,500

Barbara Hunt, Treasurer of Caregivers of Wolfeboro Area, addressed the Board. She stated we have been around for 33 years and offer transportation to medical appointments (local and out of town) at no cost to participants. We serve the towns of Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro, Alton and Ossipee. Our organization has no paid staff at all. We are run by all volunteers. Approximately 95% of our budget goes to reimburse drivers. We provide mileage reimbursement to volunteers at 45 cents per mile for trips over 50 miles. We are requesting level funding in the amount of \$4,500.00. She thanked the Board for their continued support.

xi. Dinner Bell-\$6,000

Joanne Crow, Representative of the Dinner Bell, addressed the Board. She thanked them for their continued support. We provide a weekly meal on Thursday at 5:00 PM in the parish hall of All Saints Church. In the last fiscal year we have served 1,836 meals to our community which covers about 210 volunteer shifts. We have received \$5,661.25 in cash donations to support the program. We are requesting funding in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Ms. Murray stated she wanted to thank All Saints Church. They do a lot of social services for the Town and we are very lucky to have them.

Ms. Crow stated Dinner Bell was closed but we have started to offer a contactless distribution of food on Thursdays night as a to-go option.

Ms. Sundquist thanked Ms. Murray for her recognizing them. All Saints Church tries to do as much as they can for the community.

xii. CASA-\$1,000

Julie Lefluer, Representative of CASA of NH, addressed the Board. She thanked the Board for their continued support. We are asking for level funding of \$1,000.00. We served 12 children from the Town of Wolfeboro last year and throughout the state we served 1,438 children. We have seen a 50% drop in reported cases since the pandemic began since children are not being seen by their teachers and peers. We estimated there will be an increase in cases. We are operating virtually right now. Last year we had 30 volunteers and 3 were from the Town of Wolfeboro. We train our volunteers to serve as Guardian ad Litem which has saved the State about \$4.6 million dollars.

xiii. End 68 hours of Hunger-\$4,000

Susan Weeks, Volunteer for 68 Hours of Hunger, addressed the Board. She stated we faced many challenges this year. Last year we moved into the basement at Brewster Hall and we have had to move several times because of the pandemic. We are now operating out of a member's garage. We need a place for this winter and a plan for a permanent place. It is difficult to move all this food. We have had to cut back on volunteers so a few people are doing a lot of work. We developed a new partnership with the Governor Wentworth

Regional School district for disturbing the food. We are feeding more children. Donations have been very strong and people have recognized the need. The Wolfeboro numbers have been stable. We are asking for level funding in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Ms. Murray thanked them. It has been available to the children of our community. She asked for the amount they have in their checking account because it was missing in the documents that were provided to the Board. This had been included in the past.

Ms. Weeks stated she would send them to Ms. Capone.

xiv. Children Unlimited Inc.-\$2,730

Barbara Weiss, Director of Family Resource Center at Children Unlimited in Conway, addressed the Board. She thanked the Board for their continued support. We have been very busy due to the pandemic. We have added staff and we serve many families in Wolfeboro. VNA in Wolfeboro has been a wonderful partner. We are requesting level funding in the amount of \$2,730.00.

Other Business

Ms. Murray requested that the pages in the Budget Books be double sided. She stated according to our ordinance on Elections RSA 37-1 it talks about where campaign material can be placed. She suggested this material should be available on the website and to read the ordinance at our regular meeting. It is important for people to understand where they can and cannot do campaigning.

Chairman Harriman stated this is a good idea.

Mr. O'Brien questioned if Mr. Walker or Ms. Waterman should be handling this matter.

Ms. Murray stated she spoke with Ms. Waterman and she asked for help with this because she is extremely busy because of elections and the pandemic.

Questions from the Press

NA

Public Input

Limited to 3 Minutes per resident, not to exceed 15 minutes in total

NA

It was moved by Dave Bowers and seconded by Paul O'Brien to enter into non-public session. Roll call vote, Linda Murray – yes, Brad Harriman – yes, Dave Bowers – yes, Dave Senecal – yes and Paul O'Brien - yes. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

The Board re-entered public session at 7:55 PM.

Dave Bowers moved the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to seal the minutes of the September 23, 2020 non-public meeting. Paul O'Brien seconded. Roll call vote, Linda Murray – yes, Brad Harriman – yes, Dave Bowers – yes, Dave Senecal - yes and Paul O'Brien – yes. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

It was moved by Dave Senecal and seconded by Linda Murray to adjourn at 7:56 PM. Roll call vote, Linda Murray – yes, Brad Harriman – yes, Dave Bowers – yes, Dave Senecal - yes and Paul O'Brien – yes. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Chamberlain

