

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES
December 15, 2022**

I. Call To Order

Chairman MacDonald opened the meeting at 6:07 pm at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman, Steve Johnson, Bob Moholland, John Burt, Bob Loughman, Brian Black, Tom Bell, Members, Brian Deshaies, BOS Representative, Linda Murray, BOS Alternate Representative.

Member Absent: Matt Plache, Member (excused).

Staff Present: Jim Pineo, Town Manager, Steve Randall, Public Works Department, Rod Dempsey, Water and Sewer Utilities Department, Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Assistant.

The Committee participated in the pledge of allegiance.

II. 2023 Budget

AGENCIES

STARTING POINT \$6,728

Raetha Stoddard reviewed the program and services; noting an increase in the funding request from \$4,436 to \$6,728. She stated there has been an increase in services over the last three years. She stated there has been an increase in homelessness and the lethality rate.

John MacDonald questioned the formula used to determine the funding request.

Raetha Stoddard replied the average of individuals served and number of services provided in each town; noting the base request per town is the same). She stated Wolfeboro is the third largest percentage of need delivered to the Town.

Bob Loughman noted the increase to Wolfeboro's funding request is 51% and asked if each town is subject to that 51% increase.

Raetha Stoddard replied yes.

John MacDonald asked if the agency has expanded its services to homelessness in addition to domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Raetha Stoddard stated the agency addresses homelessness as a result of domestic violence and sexual abuse. She stated the agency also provides services to stalking and human trafficking victims.

Steve Johnson asked whether the State of NH should have more facilities, not institutions, to assist in an individual's recovery.

Raetha Stoddard replied yes however such is a question for homeless outreach. She stated that although the numbers have increased in victimization there has been an increase in prevention and outreach in schools. She stated Starting Point also provides support to local police and hospitals.

NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES \$7,449

Valeda Cerasale reviewed the program and services; noting the request is level funded.

John MacDonald asked whether child impact classes are included as part of the funding request.

Valeda Cerasale replied no and stated child impact classes are a court mandated program.

CASA OF NH \$2,000

John MacDonald reviewed an email received from Tarah Bergeron, see attached, and read his response to that email; *"This doesn't answer the main question. How did they come up with that amount for their request? It is sad they have to turn people away. But why should Wolfeboro pay for other communities short giving? CASA should understand that Wolfeboro families are struggling also. Further, they are the only agency that requested an increase. A doubling of our generous contribution from the previous year."*

Bob Tougher asked that CASA attend the Committee's December 20th meeting.

WATER FUND

Rod Dempsey stated the Department was down two employees this year and noted the following actions taken by the department; 7 water main breaks, 36 service line repairs, leak detection efforts, pump stations – panel upgrades, hydrant maintenance, and meter replacement.

Bob Tougher asked if the Town is at 30% for water loss.

Brian Deshaies replied 47%.

Rod Dempsey stated the department is evaluating overnight flows from the Water Treatment Plant to address the leaks.

Bob Loughman asked if the majority of the leaks are in the older pipes.

Rod Dempsey replied yes (iron pipes and iron pipe fittings). He stated that when vintage pipes are replaced the line to the house is also replaced.

Tom Bell asked who pays for the 47% loss of water.

Rod Dempsey stated it is unaccounted treated water.

Bob Tougher stated the line on Clark Road has 120-130 pounds of water pressure and asked if an increase in pressure in the system would push water out of the system.

Rod Dempsey replied no if the pressure does not fluctuate.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

No changes.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

No changes.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

John Burt questioned the over expenditure of outside services.

Rod Dempsey stated due to the staffing shortage the Department needed assistance repairing leaks in addition to the inspection and calibration of the Department's equipment.

John MacDonald stated he believes there is an error in supervisory salaries, specifically Mr. Dempsey's salary and requested a revisit of such. He also requested a revisit to Scott Pike's salary that will decrease to a laborer position.

John Burt questioned the 5-year average and increase in the funding request for vehicle maintenance.

Bob Loughman replied \$7,019.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Tom Bell to decrease 02-43320-430 Vehicle Maintenance from \$9,500 to \$7,000.

Discussion of the motion:

Steve Johnson asked why the Department requested an increase in funding from \$5,000 to \$9,500.

Jim Pineo stated the backup information provided states backhoe tires, one-ton pickup, four pickup trucks, rust proofing materials, WS-3 transmission, and unanticipated repairs.

Bob Loughman asked if the transmission work is a recurring expense and whether such should be a capital outlay request.

Rod Dempsey replied no it is not a recurring expense.

Jim Pineo stated it does not meet the \$10,000 threshold for capital outlay.

Bob Tougher stated the backup information provided justifies the request.

John Burt withdrew his motion. Tom Bell withdrew his second.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Revisit supervisory salaries.

SEWER FUND

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

No changes.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

No changes.

SEWAGE COLLECTION

No changes.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

John MacDonald asked if the Town is currently under contract for the operation of the treatment plant.

Jim Pineo replied yes and noted the Town is in year two of a five year contract.

John MacDonald asked if there are any funding changes in the remaining years of the contract.

Jim Pineo stated he would review such and requested such be a revisit item.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Primary Water Operator Truck \$50,000

Jim Pineo stated the existing vehicle will be reassigned to the Water and Sewer Superintendent and a new Ford electric vehicle is proposed; noting the vehicle is an expansion of the existing fleet. He stated there is no tax rate impact and the cost was factored into the rates; noting the water rate revenues would offset the cost.

Bob Tougher questioned the delivery time of the vehicle.

Steve Randall stated per an email he received, the truck is currently in production.

Brian Deshaies questioned the price of the vehicle.

Jim Pineo stated the Town was quoted \$45,000 to \$50,000.

Steve Johnson recommended vehicle erosion prevention on all Town vehicles.

Steve Randall stated the Department has a pressure washer and noted such is used to wash vehicles.

Brian Black questioned other towns that are transitioning to electric vehicles.

Jim Pineo replied Dover.

Meter Replacement \$15,000

Jim Pineo stated he is recommending an Asset Management Plan for such to replace 10% of the water meters each year. He asked the Committee if they would prefer to see the request as a capital outlay request or in the annual budget; noting the estimated annual cost is \$45,000.

Bob Loughman requested the funding for such be incorporated into the budget.

Steve Johnson agreed.

Bob Tougher agreed and stated that if the item is placed as a capital outlay request and there is a default budget the funding would be removed.

John MacDonald disagreed stating there should be a separate account to draw from.

III. Other Business

None.

IV. Public Comment

None.

REVISIT ITEMS

- Water Fund, Water Distribution; supervisory salaries
- Water Fund, Water Treatment Plant; supervisory salaries
- Wastewater Treatment Plant; WWTP contract

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Tom Bell to adjourn the December 15, 2022 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Hendrickson

Lee Ann Hendrickson

From: Tarah Bergeron

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022

To: Amy Capone-Muccio

Subject: RE: Budget Committee meeting

Hello Amy,

My apologies for the delay in getting this information sent over. Our finance and grant people have been out for various health issues within the family.

I understand there were some additional questions following the budget meeting in regard to increased funding from the Town of Wolfeboro. Here are some specific data points that may be helpful:

Last FY, 93 children from 48 cases were refused statewide. So far this FY (starting July 1) CASA has refused 107 children from 53 cases. CASA is currently serving 7 children from the town of Wolfeboro. The cases we are seeing now are the most severe cases we've seen, and CASAs are staying on them longer and longer to ensure the children are truly being spoken for and given the best chance. Because of this, CASAs are taking less cases at a time to focus on the needs of the children they currently have. We need additional CASAs to support this influx in cases.

Tarah Bergeron