

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
December 12, 2017  
Minutes**

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

**Member Absent:** Brian Black, Member (excused).

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

**Others Present:** Dean Rondeau, Chief, Mark Livie, Captain, Sherri Moore, Administrative Assistant, Wolfeboro Police Department

*Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Great Hall.*

**AGENCIES**

**Central NH VNA & Hospice; \$20,000**

David Eckerly stated the agency supports Hospice and provides services that are not reimbursed by third party payors. He stated the agency conducts grievance support, pediatric care management and maternal care programs.

John MacDonald asked which town delineates the southern and northern services in Carroll County.

David Eckerly replied Tamworth.

John MacDonald asked if the program is joined with the northern organization.

David Eckerly stated the organizations are separate and are not affiliated with one another.

John MacDonald asked if the agency works with Children Unlimited.

David Eckerly stated the agencies pay each other through grants for services needed.

**Kingswood Youth Center; \$5,000**

Zach Porter noted the Center provides an after-school program to students in the Governor Wentworth Regional School District; noting the agency provides services to 24% of Wolfeboro students (54 students). He stated the agency has expanded its programs to weekends, school holidays and summer vacation (100 additional hours this past year with a commitment of 150 hours next year). He noted students have volunteered at the Food Pantry Garden and Halloween events. He stated a representative from the White Horse Addiction Center speaks to the students on a weekly basis.

John MacDonald asked if the Whitehorse Addiction Center charges the KYC.

Zach Porter replied no.

John MacDonald asked if other communities contribute.

Zach Porter replied yes; \$5,000 from Ossipee, \$3,000 from Tuftonboro and \$1,500 from New Durham.

**Meals on Wheels; \$7,500**

Cheryl Dempsey, Treasurer, requested level funding; noting 5,700 meals were delivered to Wolfeboro residents.

John MacDonald asked if there are standards to qualify for the program.

Cheryl Dempsey replied yes, noting the recipient is unable to go to the grocery store or make their own meals. She stated there is a financial requirement based on subsidy.

Bob Tougher stated an asset sheet was not submitted and therefore questioned whether there is a surplus of funds.

Cheryl Dempsey stated there was a remaining balance/funds of \$1,700 in 2016.

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

Teri Ann Cox, Executive Director, requested level funding; noting 73 children are from Wolfeboro and benefit from tuition assistance. She noted that any unused funds would be returned to the Town.

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

Lisa Hinckley requested level funding and noted the agency served 118 Wolfeboro households this past year (up 13 from previous year). She stated the agency has received 1,700 applications for fuel assistance.

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

Ken Cromwell, President, Board of Directors, requested level funding. He stated 419 people (258 families) of their clients are Wolfeboro residents (44%).

**Northern Human Services; \$7,449**

Eve Klotz, Behavioral Health Director, stated the request is level funded; noting the program provided treatment to 126 Wolfeboro clients that were either uninsured or underinsured.

**Caregivers of Southern Carroll County; \$4,000**

Phil Wasmuth, Treasurer, requested level funding and distributed and reviewed data for 2016 and 2017. 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).

**End 68 Hours of Hunger; \$3,000**

Sally Humer, Director, stated she originally submitted a funding request in the amount of \$4,000 however, is now requesting \$3,000 due to the decline in the number of children from Wolfeboro being served. She stated the program served 31 children in 2016 however, is currently serving 20 children (Carpenter School, Crescent Lake School and Wolfeboro Area Children's Center). She noted the program is developing a trial summer feeding program and is working with the Wolfeboro Police Department by providing a bag of food for each cruiser.

John Burt questioned the number of children served in other communities.

Sally Humer replied 65 children in Ossipee, 5 children in Tuftonboro and 13 children in Middleton.

Bob Moholland asked if funding has been requested from Brookfield.

Sally Humer replied no; noting only one child from Brookfield is served.

**It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Bob Tougher to decrease funding to End 68 Hours of Hunger from \$4,000 to \$3,000. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.**

**Other Business**

**Police Department**

Bob Tougher stated he reviewed the MOU's, salaries and rank matrix; noting the salary for three positions (2 Corporal positions and 1 Staff Sergeant position) have not been determined. He stated that after meeting and discussing his issues with the Chief and Captain, his questions have been satisfied.

Dave Owen stated the positions are covered by the Union and salary needs to be negotiated.

Dean Rondeau stated the 4.7% increase represents an entire year; noting there is no COLA for the first 13 weeks of the year.

John Burt asked if the same methodology to calculate the increase was used from the previous year.

Dean Rondeau replied yes; noting the 4% COLA is not included in the first 13 weeks of the year.

John Burt stated the percentage comes to 4.71% yet other supervisors are receiving 2.5%.

Dean Rondeau stated the 4% pay raise starts on 4/1/17.

John Burt asked if other supervisors are being given 4%.

Dave Owen replied no, other supervisors are receiving a 2.5% adjustment.

John Burt stated he cannot accept a 4% raise rather, a 2.5% increase across the board should be given.

Dave Owen stated the Police Commission has negotiated a 4% increase

**It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Steve Johnson to decrease the bottom line of the Police Department budget by \$4,070.**

***Discussion of the motion:***

Steve Johnson questioned the basis for the \$4,070.

John Burt stated such reflects a 2.5% raise.

John MacDonald stated the Police Commission are elected officials and sets salaries. He stated that if the Police Commission feels the Captain and Chief deserve the increase then he will respect their authority and decision. He stated that if people are unhappy with the decision then they should vote against having a Police Commission.

Harold Parker stated he agrees with Mr. MacDonald.

John MacDonald asked if the salary includes the opt out.

Dean Rondeau replied yes, noting such was approved by the BOS.

John MacDonald questioned the Captain's current salary and future salary.

Mark Livie relied \$80,000 and \$97,000.

Ron Goodgame stated that as opposed to other Department Heads, Chief Rondeau and Captain Livie are taking on a brand new project (restructuring the Department) so that the Department would be consistent with contemporaneous changes in technology and changes in Concord. He stated that in order to keep them with the Department, the Commission had to negotiate a reasonable fee for their salaries. He stated that when the bottom line is attacked, it takes away from the raises given to them. He stated the Police Commission, by

statute, makes the determination in pay and by changing the bottom line, it is an attack on the MOU that the Commission negotiated; noting such is a dangerous precedent.

Bob Moholland stated Mr. Goodgame's statement sounds like a threat and noted the Budget Committee has the right to cut the bottom line.

Ron Goodgame agreed that the Budget Committee has the right to cut the bottom line however, such is predicated on taking away the salary increase.

Bob Moholland stated Mr. Goodgame's comments were presented as a threat and pitted the Police Department against the taxpayers of Wolfeboro.

Ron Goodgame stated the statute gives the responsibility of setting salaries to the Police Commission.

John Burt stated the Police Department was under budget by \$23,000 in 2016; noting the five year average is \$1,562,000.

John MacDonald requested the Police Commission to make increases more in line with other departments; noting the higher increase hurts the morale of other Town employees. He stated he understands that such was necessary in order to keep them on board however, their increases should be more consistent with other departments.

Ron Goodgame stated he hoped to have had a liaison from the BOS to inform the Committee of the Commission's direction of the budgetary process; noting that if they had such prior to the execution of the MOU, the outcome may have been different.

Robert Loughman verified the increase is an attempt to create steps between the ranks.

**It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Steve Johnson to decrease the bottom line of the Police Department budget by \$4,070. Bob Moholland, Steve Johnson, John Burt voted in favor. John MacDonald, Harold Parker, Robert Loughman, Bob Tougher, Bob O'Brien opposed. The motion failed.**

John MacDonald asked if a new contract with the prosecutor will be considered next year.

Dean Rondeau replied yes, such is an option. He stated he has withdrawn the request to increase the hours of the prosecutor however, the request to increase the hours of the Administrative Assistant from part time to full time remains (30 hours to 35 hours).

John MacDonald questioned health insurance.

Dean Rondeau stated the current administrative assistant is on her husband's insurance through the Police Department.

John Burt stated the Town is getting MDT's and as described, such provides assistance with administrative work therefore, in reality, administrative work may decrease in the office.

Dean Rondeau stated that to a certain extent, tickets will go directly to the State and the Courts. He stated parking and dog summons are not processed by the MDT's.

John Burt asked if there has been an increase in parking and dog summons.

Dean Rondeau replied yes.

John Burt asked if there is data to support such.

Mark Livie replied no. He stated the MDT's will not take everything away; noting there will still be paperwork.

John Burt questioned whether there will be more paperwork. He noted that the current administrative assistant doesn't require health insurance however, a new employee may. He stated there is no indication or data that shows the load for the administrative assistant is increasing.

Dean Rondeau reviewed the administrative assistant's added responsibility; noting there have been a lot of changes since the change in administration. He stated he wants to create efficiencies and has received complaints that the officers are spending too much time in the office; noting it's about mitigating the Town's liability in case of a crisis.

Bob Tougher stated he is in favor of increasing the hours based on his discussion with the Chief and Captain.

Steve Johnson stated he disagrees with the increase in hours and making the position full time.

**Steve Johnson moved to remove the full time administration assistant position (to remain at 30 hours). There being no second, the motion failed.**

John MacDonald questioned the year to date for overtime.

Pete Chamberlain replied \$82,257.22.

John MacDonald asked why the Detail account continues to grow.

Pete Chamberlain stated such has to do with how employees share retirement and noted he is in the process of resolving the issue.

**It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Robert Loughman to decrease Overtime 01-42100-140 to \$95,000. John Burt, Bob Tougher, Bob O'Brien, Robert Loughman, Bob Moholland, Steve Johnson, John MacDonald voted in favor. Harold Parker opposed. The motion passed.**

Referencing safety equipment, specifically dry cleaning, John MacDonald stated such should be included in the officer's union contract as a benefit.

Dean Rondeau stated he needs to ensure the men are safe and noted the contract is not up for another year. He stated that if the Committee keeps the funding that he would remove it next year following negotiations when the issue is addressed by the union. He stated the rest of the Town departments have dry cleaning.

John MacDonald stated that if the officers are not going to wear a hat then the department should not be buying them.

**It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Robert Loughman to decrease Safety Equipment 01-42100-680 by \$250. John MacDonald, Robert Loughman, Steve Johnson, Bob Moholland voted in favor. John Burt, Bob Tougher, Bob O'Brien, Harold Parker opposed. The motion failed.**

**It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by John Burt to adjourn the December 12, 2017 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.**

Budget Committee meeting scheduled for December 13, 2017, 6:30PM at the Great Hall.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lee Ann Hendrickson*

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