

Budget Committee
October 10th, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chair Paul Regan, Vice Chair Sue Sodano, Walter Waring, Charlie Therriault, Daniel Kenney and Les Dion, Select Board Representative

Others Present:

Christina Goodwin, Town Administrator

Absent:

Janet Cavanagh

Call to Order:

Mr. Regan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Sodano led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business:

Nonprofits Presentation/Budget Proposals

01-4652-579 CASA NH Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) - \$750 (Sue Chadwick)

Mrs. Chadwick stated CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) help abused and neglected children navigate the court system and foster care or reunification with parents. CASA is the only organization in NH to recruit and train volunteers to advocate for children. Most of the cases are a result of domestic violence in the home or substance abuse or babies who are born substance positive. Last year, CASA advocated for 1,549 children; nine of those children were from Bristol. Mrs. Chadwick stated cases have been so severe and numbers increased to where CASA had to turn down cases. CASA does put on fundraising events and auctions to help obtain funding.

01-4652-571 Grafton County Senior Citizen Council (GCSCC) - \$10,000 (Kathleen Vansconcelos, Allison Morgan, Gail Shaw, Fran Olsen, Aletha Lewis & Nancy)

Mrs. Vansconcelos introduced herself as the Executive Director with Alison Morgan, Director of Marketing and Development, Gail Shaw, Coordinator, Fran Olsen, Outreach Worker, and Nancy and Aletha who are volunteers. Grafton County Senior Citizen Council has 10 locations throughout Grafton County, offering programs and services, supporting the health, dignity, and independence of the older adults and adults with disabilities. There are 13 volunteers in the Bristol office. They offer assistance with meals and offer services for Meals on Wheels and transportation to medical appointments and shopping. They have provided services to 300 Bristol residents, 37% of those residents are over the age of 60. 89 of those residents were assisted by the service link office and costs of services totaled \$179,930. The request for 2024 is the first time in 10 years that has been increased due to an increase in the number of meals and activities. Gail Shaw passed around a copy of the monthly newsletter to the committee for review. The Bristol office offers delivered meals, handicapped bus transportation and

congregate meals to residents. GCSCC also partners with Lakes Region VNA for seasonal flu shot clinics, Hannafords for food and meals, along with partnership with other local agencies.

01-4652-575 Lakes Region Mental Health (LRMH) - \$7,000 (Maggie Pritchard)

LRMH has two offices; located in Plymouth and Laconia. Mrs. Pritchard discussed details of the mobile services team, funded by the state and established last year, for those requiring home visits and in immediate crisis. The organization had ordered a van for this mobile unit to use and had not been delivered yet, so the crisis teams used their own vehicles to go out into the community. 87 residents of the town utilized services from Lakes Region Mental Health, \$16,000 worth of services were charity. Mrs. Pritchard also discussed establishing warm-up shelters for the winter.

01-4415-350 Lakes Region Visiting Nurses Association - \$33,400 (Macgregor Morgan)

Mr. Morgan introduced himself to the committee as the new CEO of LRVNA (formerly known as NANA) and has been with the company for two months. They operate seven days a week and service over 30 towns, providing services such as speech, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. This year, they have serviced 2,657 clients, 187 of those were Bristol residents with 175 residents using Medicare. Mr. Morgan is working hard to promote services and retain clients regardless of ability to pay or insurance. Mr. Waring discussed past difficulties and communication barriers with the organization in the past and inquired on bringing back podiatry clinics and other services along with transparent communication. Mr. Morgan said they are revamping programs and clinics.

01-4197-837 Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA)- \$2,500 (Paul Pellissier and Jim Fitts)

Mr. Pellissier introduced himself as the Conservation Program Manager for NLRA and Jim Fitts introduced himself as the Board Treasurer. . Last year's contributions went directly to supporting core programs such as water quality monitoring and invasive species prevention. The organization implemented new storm programs and were very successful this year with all the rainfall. The programs were able to identify sources of stormwater pollution on properties and develop ways to address the pollution before it can affect the surface water. They have seen a big expansion in the invasive aquatic plants and environments program, now with 29 volunteers. The Wellington State Park boat launch is now staffed six days a week starting at 6:00am and extended coverage Friday through Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. NLRA surveyed over 2,000 boats, down from the 4,000 boats from the prior year.

01-4197-836 Pasquaney Garden Club - \$2,760 (Barbara Carpenter)

Mrs. Carpenter introduced herself to the committee as the President of the Pasquaney Garden Club, a non-profit 5013c. Mrs. Carpenter stated the request is the same as last year and is solely used for purchases of plants and supplies to maintain the Butterfly Garden. \$1,300 for barrels. \$400 for purchase of plants, \$300 for plants that are displayed on routes 104 and 3A, and \$760 for knotweed removal two times a year. They also fundraise money from plant sales to donate to the Newfound Every Child Is Ours, TTCC Scholarship Program, Bristol Fire Department, and The Boys and Girls Club. .

01-4652-576 Pemi River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) - \$350 (Max Stamp & Bill Bolton)

Woodstock and Lincoln are two towns that now make up a 10 river town committee, committed to improving and maintaining water quality in the Pemi. The group goes out and tests the water three times a year for E Coli, phosphorus nitrogen, and chloride and completes lab testing four times a year. This year, the Committee was out eight times at 10 test sites between April to September between Profile Falls and Woodstock. The Committee is also working with NH Fish and Game who now own the Mooney Clark Post, a boat launching waterfront into the Pemi.

01-4652-569 Transport Central - \$2,000 (Bill Bolton)

Mr. Bolton, Executive Director, stated that Transport Central, located in Plymouth, offers transportation for those over 60 years of age. Disabled, veterans, or anyone on Medicaid, servicing 19 towns in Grafton County. From 2022 to 2023, 280 trips were made for Bristol Residents. From 2013 to current, 1.4 million miles were totaled from volunteers.

01-4652-573 Voices Against Violence (VAV) - \$3,330 (Meg Kennedy Dugan)

Mrs. Dugan stated that Voices Against Violence celebrated their 40th anniversary, she herself has been with the organization for 11 years. They serve 21 towns in Eastern Grafton County, working with adult, teen, and children survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, human trafficking, along with providing a confidential shelter and a 24 hr. hotline. They also work with DCYF on child abuse and neglect cases alongside the Children's Advocacy Center and Bristol Police Department. They assist over 700 people each year, Bristol being their second highest town for services. .

Absent Agencies:

01-4652-578 Pemi-Bridge House Shelter - \$2,000

01-4652-577 Communities for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth (CADY) - \$2,000

01-4652-580 Day Away – \$1,500

01-4652-581 Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health - \$8,051

01- 4652-570 Tri-County CAP - Energy Program & Homeless Program - \$6,488

Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve amended minutes by August 15th minutes by Mr. Waring, second by Mr. Kenney, 4-1-0. Motion passed.

Correspondence

Mr. Regan has received correspondence from Mr. Therriault is enrolled in a graduate program and classes are Tuesdays at 7pm. He will attend the beginning of the meetings and leave to attend his classes until the course is completed.

Ms. Goodwin stated she had received thank you letters from some of the organizations for the previous year's funding.

Member/Select Board Comments

None

Staff Comments

None

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 24th at 6pm in Town Office Meeting Room A to receive the Select Board's proposed budget.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:13pm by Mrs. Sodano, second by Mr. Waring. Motion passed, 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Wharton