

Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Present were Chairman Donna Sargent, Jane ter Kuile, Joe Goss, Matt Trahan, Marie McConarty and Ellen White, who recorded the minutes. Jim Fitzpatrick, Tom Kondrat, Lynne Parker and Harry Merrow, Selectmen's Representative, were absent. David Babson arrived at 7:30 PM.

Chairman Donna Sargent called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Saylee Merrow presented the budget for the Ossipee Children's Fund in the amount of \$17,500. Goss asked which towns they collect funds from and how much. Merrow responded that they request \$17,500 from Ossipee, \$750 from Effingham, \$650 from Freedom and \$4,500 from Madison. Goss also asked how many Ossipee students are served through the program. Merrow stated that 196 of 259 are Ossipee students. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Patricia McMurray of White Mountain Community Health Center presented their budget in the amount of \$4,033. She stated they provided \$324,000 last year in free care. They provide services using a sliding fee scale. Trahan asked how the Affordable Care Act will affect the proportion. McMurray stated they expect higher volume due to availability of coverage. She further stated they have navigators staffed to help people sign up for the ACA and discuss options. ter Kuile made a motion to take this budget under advisement. Trahan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Jack Drinkwater presented the budget for Medication Bridge. He expressed his gratitude for past support and the increase to \$2,000 recommended by the Board of Selectmen. He stated the program is run by all volunteers. The money raised will be used for supplies and applications. In 2012, they assisted 300 patients in receiving \$1.7 million in medication. Goss asked if an increase is foreseeable. Drinkwater stated that they expended the amount requested for 2013 after it was increased but he is expecting it to level off. The amount requested should be sufficient. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. Trahan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Jen Berkowitz from the School's Out program presented their budget in the amount of \$10,000. She expressed her gratitude for the past support from the Town. Currently, the School's Out program has 61% enrollment with 197 participants including adults. The program offers homework club, enrichment club and a late bus service. They use a sliding fee scale at \$40/club on a 9-week rotation with reductions given for those on the reduced or free lunch programs. The program costs \$15/day to facilitate and they have a shortfall of \$20-25k left to raise this year. McConarty asked if there will be a shortfall even with the \$10,000 allocation. Berkowitz stated it will be between \$20-25k again. Goss questioned the level-fund budget with no noticeable increase. Berkowitz stated they had to reduce the staff and clubs, a result of 5% decrease in federal funds this year. Sargent asked what the health insurance coverage is. Berkowitz stated 100% coverage through the school district. ter Kuile made a motion to take this budget under advisement. Goss seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Gail Montgomery presented a level-funded budget for the Ossipee Revitalization Group in the amount of \$9,500. She stated there is no increase this year and does not project an increase. They are continually working toward revitalization of the Town, implementing new programs and working toward a gazebo for the Main Street Park. She also stated they are now responsible for paying utilities for the Main Street building, a new expense this year. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Central NH VNA & Hospice presented a level funded budget in the amount of \$14,000. 875 of 1,100 visits were made to Ossipee. They rely solely on fundraising, support and donations. \$7,500 in uncompensated care has been given and there was a 2% sequestration this year. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Jay Hayes presented the budget for CASA in the amount of \$500. She stated this to be the first year CASA is seeking funds from the Town. She stated that the Board of Selectmen did not recommend the budget due to the amount of salaries paid to professionals. She expressed to the Budget Committee that she had since investigated this and states that they have to have professionals on staff to comply with the law given the service they perform as guardian's ad litem. She stated that they have serviced 109 through the Ossipee Court. Although there is volunteer service, they still have to receive 40-hours training prior to be court-appointed. McConarty asked how the \$500 would be used. Hayes stated it would be applied to general expenses. Trahan asked if funds would be requested from all towns in the State. Hayes stated they are requesting from towns where there is a CASA representative. ter Kuile made a motion to take this budget under advisement. Goss seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Doris Sirois presented the budget for the Freedom Food Pantry. She stated that the Pantry was awarded funding at Town Meeting this year and was happy the Board of Selectmen recommended an increase to \$8,000 up from their \$5,000 request. She stated all funding received goes toward food. The space and utilities are all provided by the church where the pantry is located. 46.1% of clients served in Freedom are from Ossipee. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Eve Clotts from Northern Human Services presented their level-funded budget in the amount of \$4,425. They've provided support to 119 residents. They receive support through a sliding fee scale to help insurance poor individuals or those with high deductibles. She stated she is optimistic about the ACA and they also have navigators to assist through the ACA enrollment. Goss asked why there is a 60-90 day wait to receive service. He further stated even those court ordered are being turned away. Clotts stated they are mandated by the State to assist those who are certifiably mentally ill as priority. There is a 2-3 month waiting list with only two psychiatrists on staff. Babson stated Northern Human Services provides mental health services for the House of Corrections. Babson made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. Goss opposed. Majority vote carried.

David Kemper presented the budget for Life Bridge in the amount of \$5,000. He stated they have made many budget and staff cuts but are seeing more volume. There are currently 105 volunteers, 24 active kids with another 11 on the waiting list. Babson asked why there was no funding sought from other towns with the exception of Effingham. Kemper stated they had applied in Wolfeboro once and were turned down. The majority of kids come from Ossipee. They are also requesting funds from Tamworth.

Goss asked how many kids are being mentored. Kemper stated there are 327 total including Littleton and Barre, VT. Babson made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Joseph Carilly presented the budget for L.I.F.E Ministries. He stated they had petitioned for the past 4 years and was happy when the Board of Selectmen increased their request from \$2,500 to \$5,000. They serve 869 residents of which 337 are children. They also receive funding from Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro. Of the \$175,000 budget, \$150,000 goes toward food and the balance toward building expenses. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Pam Sweeney from the Kingswood Youth Center presented their level-funded budget in the amount of \$3,000. They provide an afterschool program with arts & crafts, hot meal, employment and college application assistance. Currently, they have 33 students participating with 13 coming from Ossipee. They anticipate attendance of 100. Babson asked what the current attendance is. Sweeney stated they have 12-15 kids on average. Goss asked how many attend on a weekly basis. Sweeney stated 12-15 per day. Sargent asked why there is not more attendance. Sweeney stated they are now bussed to the new location which is off-grid from the previous location. Most attendance comes from grades 8 & 9. Babson asked when they eat if the program runs from after school until 6 PM. Sweeney stated the students are fed when they walk through the door. ter Kuile made a motion to take this budget under advisement. Trahan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Suzette Indelicato presented the level-funded budget from Starting Point in the amount of \$2,466. She stated they request \$500 as a base from each town then add for the percentage of clients served. Starting Point provides 24-hour support and emergency shelter. Babson asked why they were forecasting a 40% increase. Indelicato stated they are increasing their efforts to assist those in need. One in four women is a victim of domestic violence and one in eight men is a victim of sexual assault. 96% of victims are female. Starting Point is committed to work with the Police Departments for referrals. Babson asked why other towns were not listed in the paperwork. Indelicato answered that it was missed and she would forward that information. Babson also asked what for an explanation of the in-kind services listed on the financial statement. Indelicato stated that the auditor figures what the average pay would be for the advocates even though they are strictly volunteers then lists that figure as an in-kind service on the financial statements. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. Trahan seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Phil Wasmuth presented the level-funded budget from Caregivers of Southern Carroll County in the amount of \$1,000. He stated their service is 100% volunteer. The amount requested goes toward partial mileage and gas reimbursement for trips exceeding 50 miles. He provided year-to-date figures for Ossipee which include 115 total trips totaling 10,122 miles with reimbursement costs of \$4,554.90. They receive funding through church support, donations and town funding. Babson asked how this service may overlap with the Blue Loon. Wasmuth stated this is a door-to-door, personalized service providing time specific assistance. Jack Rose from Carroll County stated their services complement each other. Sargent stated she heard Caregivers is no longer offering transportation. Wasmuth stated this to be false; they are recruiting more drivers to keep up with the need. They can be contacted through doctor's offices and their office phone. Currently, they are making 4-5 trips to Ossipee daily. Babson stated they operate the program with no director salaries and provide more good to the County than most organizations. Goss questioned how the services overlap with the Blue Loon. Wasmuth answered that they provide service door to door and go wherever necessary. The service is more personalized. Babson asked which facility charges for parking. Wasmuth answered that Mass General

normally charges \$24 but only charged \$9 for parking. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. Babson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Katie Chwasciak presented the budget for Appalachian Mountain Teen Project in the amount of \$1,200. She stated that they provide one-on-one mentoring all-year which equates from 80-150 hours. Goss questioned the attendance. Chwasciak stated they have 6 active in the teen project and 34 attend Bridges Day. Babson asked what other towns they receive funding from. Chwasciak answered that Wolfeboro, Wakefield, Tuftonboro and Alton provided funding. Their main funding comes from donations. Babson further questioned \$150,000 budget and \$100,500 in salaries. Further discussion ensued and the figures did not compute. Trahan asked how they were able to recoup the \$36,000 loss. Chwasciak answered that there was a previously established emergency fund for \$75,000 that they were able to tap into. Trahan made a motion to take this budget under advisement. McConarty seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Lisa Hinckley from Tri County CAP presented their budget in the amount of \$12,000. She stated that year-to-date they've had 1209 applications for fuel assistance and 565 for electrical. They are projecting higher volume. Goss asked how the federal funds were holding out. Hinckley stated they are predicting funding the same as last year, maybe slightly less. Goss asked if they were receiving cooperation from the electric companies. Hinckley answered that they have been providing a percentage off program that works well but she encourages applicants to pay as much as they can so they don't have a large bill in the spring. As for outside carriers of electrical service, there are no breaks. Babson asked how much wood assistance is requested. Hinckley stated they have very few vendors available for wood. Babson stated that the County Farm will continue to provide. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Jack Rose presented the budget for Carroll County Transit in the amount of \$3,000. Rose stated that they service four regions with Ossipee being one region. The door-to-door service increased from one to four days per week. Goss questioned if there were two separate entities; door-to-door and transit and if the money is funding both. Rose stated the funds would only be used toward the door-to-door service. Babson noted \$9,400 in fair box revenue and 12,000 trips. He asked how much it costs for the service. Rose responded that they charge \$2-3 per leg and \$5 for rural. Most ride for free as they will not turn anyone away. Trahan asked about program wide federal funding. Rose stated they seek appropriations from banks and donations. They request the largest amounts from their largest towns, Wolfeboro and Conway. Goss stated the financial paperwork is unclear and it appears the money would go toward the operation of the whole transportation system which is state and federally funded. ter Kuile made a motion to take this budget under advisement. McConarty seconded. Goss opposed. Majority vote carried.

Kellie Skehan presented the level funded budget for the Historical Society in the amount of \$4,000. Skehan stated they are maintaining three buildings and holding 6-8 shows per year. They received \$1,000 in donations to upgrade their computers for archiving. Babson asked which buildings they owned. Skehan responded Grant Hill, the Courthouse and Early Settler's Meeting Hall in Granite. Goss made a motion to take this budget under advisement. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Donna Sargent presented the budget for Ossipee Concerned Citizens in the amount of \$18,000. Sandra "Sam" Martin questioned how discretionary funds in the amount of \$15,000 donated annually by a benefactor are allocated. Sargent responded that the money is used to pay for heat, lights, food, taxes, mortgage, mileage, etc. for those in need. Martin asked if it shows up as a line item in their budget. Sargent responded that it is reported on the auditor's report. ter Kuile made a motion to take this budget under advisement. McConarty seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Sargent further presented the budget for the OCC Daycare in the amount of \$6,000. She stated they are operating at capacity with 14 children per hour per day. ter Kuile made a motion to take this budget under advisement. McConarty seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Sargent made a motion to adjourn. ter Kuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 9:25 PM