

OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2019

Minutes recorded by and summarized by Laura Nash, Budget Committee Recording Secretary, amendments are noted by ***bold/italic*** type.

Call to Order: Joe Goss called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance – was recited

Attendance by Roll Call: – Joe Goss, Jonathan Smith, Donna Gridley, Lynne Parker, Louise Sutherland, and Rachel Ciarmella

Absent: Carter Clay, Roland Millette, Martha Eldridge (Selectmen's Rep.) and Town Administrator

2020 Budget Proposals

- Northern Human Services, The Mental Health Center - The 2020 proposed budget is \$4,425.00. Eve Klotz, Director Behavioral Health, LICSW presented on behalf of NHS. They are asking for level funding to partially offset the cost of providing outpatient mental health services on sliding fee scale to uninsured town residents.

Committee discussion: Gridley requested clarification on the number of clients, to hours to the number of visits ratio. Ms. Klotz explained they saw 174 people and the number of hours spent on the 174 people was 822.2 hours. Some were multiple visits some may have been one visit. Smith inquired about excepting walk-in visits. Ms. Klotz explained they do but it's usually through their 24/7 Emergency Services.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Northern Human Services, The Mental Health Center Proposed 2020 Budget of \$4,425.00 under advisement. Smith seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- Starting Point - The 2020 proposed budget is \$6,251.00. Debra Weinstein presented on behalf of Starting Point, who provide services for victims of domestic, sexual violence, and stalking in Carroll County. They are on-call to Ossipee and Conway Courts. Last year they serviced 63 individuals with 464 services for an average of 7 services per individual. Their service offers a 24-hour crisis line. A victim can access a Starting Point Advocate 24X7X365 and receive crisis intervention services, emergency shelter, hospital accompaniment, newly instituted re-housing and shelter for those homeless, and if needed, transportation services at no charge. Their budget is 60% federally funded leaving 40% to come from donations, grants and town contributions.

Committee discussion: Parker asked if they are connected to Advocacy Center in Wolfeboro, and Hope House. Ms. Weinstein confirmed they are connected to both places. Gridley inquired about other towns that contribute. Ms. Weinstein referred to a list provided in the packet of information. Smith noted that expenses are up due salaries and questioned if it's due to additional staff. Ms. Weinstein acknowledged aside from the Advocacy Manager, they recently hired a part-time Shelter Advocate to work with the adults and a second part-time Shelter Advocate to work with the children. They hired Advocate to spear head their First Housing program and another to assist with housing for the homeless. The Police Department and Court's contact them directly when they have someone in need of services. Goss inquired about the increase for this year. Ms. Weinstein replied the cost of services has increased with funding from other sources has decreased and they are servicing more individuals.

A **Motion** by Smith to take the Starting Point - The 2020 proposed budget is \$6,251.00 under advisement. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- Tri-County Community Action – Fuel Program - The 2020 proposed budget is \$12,000.00 was presented by Ms. Kingsley. They are asking level funding for this year. In Ossipec, they provide for 306 households which is 570 individuals. Of the 306 households there was 93 households that were 60 years of age or older, 132 households had someone who was handicapped or receiving social security for being disabled, 34 households had children under the age of 5 years old. This season they have received 1,100 applications and last year they received 1,758 applications.

Committee discussion: Parker inquired how someone would be denied. Ms. Kingsley replied if no paperwork was submitted or over income. Smith questioned the start time. Ms. Kingsley replied the program runs from December 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020. Assistance is determined through a matrix based on the total income of a household. Proof of income is determined by the last 4 – weeks of income, paystubs, tax returns, social security number and for those individuals with no job if they collect cans, shovel, odd jobs, etc... all counts as income and is counted.

A **Motion** by Sutherland to take the Tri-County Community Action Program - The 2020 proposed budget is \$12,000.00 under advisement. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- White Horse Addiction Center - The 2020 proposed budget is \$5,000.00 was presented by Mitch Yeaton. They are asking level funding for this year. They provide services through 8 licensed counselors to assist clients with support of medical, food, clothing, education, housing and transportation. This year they piloted two programs. The first program is a 24/7/365 emergency response peer recovery support service throughout Carroll County. The second change is the addition of mental health services and treatment of children age 6 and up because the average age of first use in NH is 11 years of age. They serviced 235 individuals for 3053 units of service, of which 66 were Ossipec residents which equaled 926 units of service. Approximately 70% of their clients have Medicaid insurance and Medicare pays \$112 per service unit, so when they bring someone in it usually cost \$290.00, thus leaving an uncovered difference of \$178.00. But they will treat anyone whether they have insurance or not.

Committee discussion: Staff consist of 26 employees. In the last five months they have had 4 people brought in who had overdosed. The staff brought them back by dispensing Narcan. They provide training and distribute of Narcan, so if Police or Fire Departments run out White Horse Addiction Center can supply them if needed. In 2020, they will be adding Mental Health services and coaches. They bought the Carriage House in North Conway for emergency services for clients. They will have emergency service on the top floors, clinic with clinicians will be on the first floor. They continue to search for housing but currently utilize group housing in other towns and cities. Security is through the Police Department because they have a zero-tolerance policy. Cash is never given to a client. Training to administer Narcan is through either CCAR, or Department of Health and Human Services. All training requires an EMT present and the Narcan is supplied by the state.

A **Motion** by Sutherland to take the White Horse Addiction Center - The 2020 proposed budget is \$5,000.00 under advisement. Ciarmella seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice - The 2020 proposed budget is \$14,000.00 was presented by David Emberley. They are asking for level funding for this year. They provide home based – nursing and rehab, pediatric care – direct healthcare, education, child and family support services. They have provided service to 3,937 Ossipec residents resulting in a 52% increase over the year before. They have a new location at 645 South Main Street in Wolfeboro.

Committee discussion: Parker thanked them for the services they provide to Ossipec residents. Smith addressed the increase of homecare nursing and palliative care to death. Emberley confirm there was a 25% increase over the prior year with an increase of 50% in visits.

A **Motion** by Sutherland to take the Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice - The 2020 proposed budget is \$14,000.00 under advisement. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- Kingswood Youth Center - The 2020 proposed budget is \$5,000.00 was represented by Zachary Porter, Interim Executive Director. They are asking for level funding for this year. They offer out of school programs to youths within the 7-towns of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District for grades 7-12. All services are free. Last school year, 25% of the participants were from Ossipee with 69 individuals. This school year there is currently 43% coming from Ossipee. All services are to provide a safe, positive environment in which to grow, learn, and develop life skills. In the After-School Program, once a month they work with White Horse Addition Center where the kids are educated on the hazard of drug addiction. They work on leadership skills by working with other younger groups. The Beyond the After-School Program offers Wednesday evenings, school vacations, and some weekends. The next program is the Summer Program is one day a week for a full day. The last program is called Club 1-2-1 it's a one to one mentor program, its adult mentors mentoring middle school, mentees in the middle school.

Committee discussion: Staff qualifications are master's in administration, masters in secondary education, registered school nurse and Pam Sweeney, who has been with the organization for many years. Electronics are barred during the activities but not during socializing time. Kids are referred by school staff, guidance, parents or they come in on their own. Each quarter they are invited into the health class to promote their services.

A **Motion** by Parker to take the Kingswood Youth Center - The 2020 proposed budget is \$5,000.00 under advisement. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- Tri – County Cap – C.C. Transit – The 2020 proposed budget is \$3,000.00 – No one here to represent this organization.

Committee discussion was not present last year but was denied on the floor.

- Tri-County Cap – Tyler Blaine House - The 2020 proposed budget is \$2,194.00 - No one present to represent this organization.

Committee discussion on how they usually ask for very little and only for what they served.

- White Mountain Community Health Center – The 2020 proposed budget is \$4,002.00 - No one present to represent this organization.

General Discussion:

Schools Out Program: On how this program keeps increasing year after year and by substantial amounts. Last year they increased by \$25,000.00. She's asking for level funding of \$45,000.00 for this year. But implying she could be asking for \$30,000.00 more next year. But since they're not a 501(c)3 and they did this like and kind with the school committee for \$165,000.00, how much grant money is being missed because they're not a 501(c)3. Salaries and benefits pay increased to almost \$70,000.00 last year but educating her on the different places to look for grant money. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen having a joint meeting with her in August 2020 to discuss the funding.

Voter Education: Parker suggested a handout to give to the voters on voting day with the facts on the budget to help educate voters on how voting for the outside agencies and warrant articles is going to impact the tax rate. Discussion ensued over the attendance at Town Meeting, keep giving money to some of these agencies and nothing seems to be getting any better. Ideas such as the newspaper, website and hosting a Saturday meeting were suggested on how to educate the voters on the budget.

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting:

None presented.

Next Meeting:

November 13, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

- Long-Term Debt
- Insurance
- Library
- Fire Warden
- Ambulance
- Water & Sewer Department

Fire Precinct – Pre-Review

- Center Ossipee Emergency Management Fire Precinct –
- Ossipee Corner
- Fire Precinct - West

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting:

- Fire Precinct to submit by **November 13, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**
- Fire Precinct & Warrant Articles to be presented on **November 20, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**

Adjournment:

A **Motion** by Smith to adjourn the meeting. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

Date

Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee

Jonathan Smith, Vice-Chair
(In the absence of the Chairman)