

Budget Committee
October 11, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Paul Regan, Charles Therriault, Walter Waring, Janet Cavanagh, Sue Sodano, and Select Board Representative Carroll Brown

Absent:

Vice Chair Rob Glassett

Others Present:

Christina Goodwin, Interim Deputy Town Administrator

Call to Order:

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

Non-Profits Presentation/Budget Proposals

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

Judy stated the shelter works on providing resources for obtaining and maintaining permanent living situations for individuals, families, and focusing on veterans. Judy also stated that Bridge House receives \$70,000 in emergency funds and the remainder of the budget is made up by fundraising, community funds, and town budget appropriations. In 2021, Bridge House housed a Bristol individual for 38 days, and in 2022 another individual for 102 nights. The shelter is currently full, many coming from evictions or housing rents that are too high and cannot afford to continue being tenants. The Bridge House, with the help of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds, created a 6-unit housing in December of 2019 along with hospice space.

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

Restorative Justice Director stated that CADY's focus is early prevention and intervention of substance abuse and mental health. Out of the 266 local youth that CADY worked with, 18 were from Bristol. Referrals to the program come from Bristol Police, Newfound Memorial Middle School, and Newfound High School. Many youths in the program have mental health diagnoses and or have IEP's / Special Education. She also stated they are seeing a surge in referrals as cases in mental health increase.

01-4652-571 Grafton County Senior Citizen Council (GCSCC) - \$10,000 (Kathleen Follows Vansconcelos, Gail Shaw, Aletha Lewis, Lillian Lasch, & Rosa Akerly)

Kathleen Follows Vasconcelos, Executive Director, and Gail Shaw, Director of Newfound Senior Center discussed GCSCC serves every town in the Grafton County. GCSCC were able to provide services to 225 Bristol residents, about 1/3 of the town. There are 28 town residents that get delivered meals and around 20 to 30 people for Tuesday meals. Gail stated there is a bus they currently use four (4) days a week and plan to make it full time again to service more residents. They are also looking to use a bus as a pop-up food truck and more food donations, many coming from Hannaford and local stores and organizations.

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

Maggie Pritchard, CEO, stated that LRMH is based in Laconia and Plymouth and works with Concord and Spears Memorial Hospitals. Major services include a 24-hour hotline and a mobile response team for the purpose of stabilizing those in immediate crisis, as well as providing physician prescribed

Non-Profits Presentation/Budget Proposals continued

medications & services. 115 residents of Bristol accessed services in 2021. \$31,000 was written off as charity care last year. LRMH has 200 employees and assists 3,500-4000 individuals in the Lakes Region.

01-4652- 832 NH Municipal Association - \$3,323 (Katherine Heck)

Katherine Heck, Government Finance Advisor for NHMA, stated the membership organization provides education, training, and legislative advocacy for all 234 cities and towns in New Hampshire. The dues are formula based on population and equalized assessed values. The dues are calculated by the current data of population (Census). Mrs. Heck also stated that that NHMA has offered more hybrid and virtual events along with free webinars than have been in the past due to COVID and current concerns. They are still looking to expand more of their services.

01-4197-837 Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA)- \$2,000 (Rebecca Hanson)

Rebecca Hanson discussed the background of NLRA, and the main purpose is to conserve Newfound Lake. NLRA runs the lake host program along with testing water quality and performing shoreline protection projects. Mrs. Hanson discussed adding two (2) new programs along with additional staff to be running year-round. A program now offered is Conservation Care, working with homeowners around the lake along with partnering with NH Lake Region Association to offer "Lake Smart", promoting lake preservation awareness and processes.

01-4197-836 Pasquaney Garden Club - \$2,760 (Jane White, Shirley Yorks and Barbara Carpenter)

Jane White, President, stated that \$2,000 is for the garden club, and the additional amount of \$760 (\$500 last year) is for the Butterfly Garden, originally funded by the library but now budgeted under the garden club.

01-4652-581 Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health - \$7,611 (Danielle Paquette-Horn)

Danielle Paquette-Horn, Executive Director, stated Pemi Baker services 29 towns throughout Belknap and Grafton counties, offering home care and hospice services. In 2021, five (5) Bristol residents had a total of 74 visits, equaling 108 hours of skilled services. In 2022 to date, Pemi Baker has seen 14 home health patients and three (3) hospice patients, equaling 346 visits for 375 hours of skilled services. Mrs. Paquette stated they have not asked for a budget contribution in the past but are offering as a second care option to Lakes Region Visiting Nurses.

01-4652-576 Pemi River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) - \$300 (Max Stamp & Bill Bolton)

Max Stamp, Bristol Representative, stated that PRLAC has expanded, now with 15 members who are all volunteers. Guidance and direction of work comes from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Mr. Stamp stated that PRLAC receives a copy of a permit from NHDES, and then a member of the committee, made up of volunteers, contacts the owner to make an on-site appointment to evaluate and determine any concerns or to take water samples. Testing takes place from early April into sometime in September and can-do lab samples for E-Coli.

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

Bill Bolton, Executive Director, stated that Transport Central services 19 towns, giving rides to those 60 years or older, disabled, or have veteran status. Mr. Bolton also stated that many riders have medical needs or need dialysis treatments, so free of charge rides help those in need of transportation and no limits are set for destinations.

Non-Profits Presentation/Budget Proposals continued

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

Amy Goyette, Strategic Operations Coordinator, attended remotely. Mrs. Goyette stated Tri-County CAP offers 16 programs which include fuel and electric assistance, rental assistance, house weatherization, access to local resources such as shelters, and more. 209 Bristol residents utilized services, equaling a total of \$172,000. Mrs. Goyette stated they receive funding through grants, federal funding, and municipal funding.

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

Meg Kennedy Dugan, Executive Director, attended remotely. Mrs. Dugan stated that Voices Against Violence, celebrating their 40th anniversary, helps those in domestic or sexual violence situations. They assist 700-800 individuals a year, with Bristol being the second highest out of the 21 towns serviced. 54 Bristol residents received a total of 244 service hours, with numbers that have doubled since COVID. VAV works with law enforcement, mental health agencies, advocates, Spear Memorial Hospital, and DCYF, along with court assistance with restraining orders and other legalities. They have a local crisis center and a 24-hour hotline, along with a shelter for survivors and families. VAV also offers hybrid and remote communication.

Absent Agencies:

01-4652-579 CASA NH Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) - \$500

01-4652-580 Day Away – \$0 – Not currently in operation for 2022-2023 but will be starting up again sometime next year.

01-4415-350 Lakes Region Visiting Nurses - \$33,400

01-4520-890 Tapply-Thompson Community Center (TTCC) - \$103,803 *attending another meeting*

Discussion: Outside Agencies, Health Agencies and Regional Associations

The Committee discussed contacting Lakes Region Visiting Nurses (previously NANA before merging) and obtaining information before deciding on budget contributions between their organization and Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health.

Old Business:

Motion to approve the amended September 27, 2022, minutes by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. The Motion passed by majority vote 6-0-0. Discussion followed to amend grammatical errors.

Mr. Regan asked if the Committee wanted to discuss the bylaws. They did not have any changes to the bylaws currently. If a member does have a change they would like to make, a proposal needs to be put forth to Mr. Regan and passed along to the Town Attorney for legalities.

Correspondence:

Mrs. Sodano stated she is unable to attend the next meeting.

Member Comments:

Mrs. Cavanagh stated her concern for meetings being broadcasted live. The Committee continued to discuss details of live broadcasting, the budget meetings and other committees that broadcast live. The Committee also discussed in what circumstances could the Executive Order be invoked for private sessions.

Select Board Comments:

None

Staff Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Therriault. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-0.

Next Meeting

October 25th, 2022, at 6:00pm. Town Office Meeting Room A
Select Board Budget Presentation to the Budget Committee

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Wharton
Minute Taker