

Winchester, NH Budget Committee Meeting Minutes for Tuesday November 17, 2020

Members Present: Chester Lapointe- Chair, Tiffany Melanson, Theresa Sepe, Ben Kilanski (Selectman Representative) Lindseigh Picard (School Board Representative)

Board of Selectman Members: Jack Marsh, Herb "Chan" Stephens, Gloria Leustek

Also: Karey Miner, Amy Bond

Members of the Public: Representatives of health agencies, Natalie Quevedo

This was a joint meeting of the Winchester Budget Committee and the Winchester Board of Selectman.

Chester called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Ben made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on November 5th through email correspondence. Theresa seconds the motion. Theresa would like the minutes to reflect all of the emails involved between the Budget Committee, Karey Miner and the secretary. Lindseigh supports this motion.

Motion passes 5-0.

Ben made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on October 2nd Theresa seconds the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

Chester gave the floor to Ben to open a selectman meeting and explained the process for the rest of the meeting.

Theresa made a motion that the Selectboard can ask the health agency representatives questions. Ben seconds the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

Chester read a list of the health agencies that were asking for money in the upcoming budget. He noted that Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Red Cross and the Monadnock Center for Violence and Prevention were not present.

Theresa made a motion to approve the requested amount for Big Brothers Big Sisters of \$400. Lindseigh seconds the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Susan Ashworth of Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services explained her agency's impact in the Winchester area. They provide visiting nurses, meals on wheels, etc. They continue to provide service despite the pandemic.

This year they have seen an 11% increase in their services and more requests from seniors. They employ eight people who live in Winchester.

Theresa asked and received clarification from Susan about two separate lines, one for home care and another for meals on wheels.

Theresa made a motion to approve the requested amount of \$31,000. Lindseigh seconds the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mary Delisle from Monadnock Family Services described some of the services they provide to Winchester residents that include mental and physical health, therapy, case management, nutrition programs, education and finding jobs. They actively seek grants and fundraise. They have made 4564 appointments in the past year. They seek level funding of \$5464.

Tiffany made a motion to fund Monadnock Family Services for \$5464. Lindseigh seconds the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Phoebe Bray from the Community Kitchen introduced herself. She is the executive director. Over the past year, the Community Kitchen has provided \$32,000 in meals to Winchester residents. They are requesting \$16,000 in funding.

Theresa asked how to they ensure that there is no doubling of services occurring with other agencies. Phoebe explained how they account for their services. Theresa asked why Winchester pays 6% of the total cost while other towns pay 2%. Phoebe explained that it is a goal to get other communities to make the donation that Winchester is making. 132 people in Winchester were served by the Community Kitchen in the past year. Theresa asked how many of the 132 people account for families. Phoebe did not have that information. Lindseigh asked for clarification if Winchester ends up paying for what is provided to other towns. Phoebe said no.

Lindseigh made a motion to approve funding of the Community Kitchen in the amount of \$16,000. Tiffany seconds the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Theresa voting no.

Keith Thibault from Southwestern Community Services explained their role in Winchester. Since 1965 they have provided housing, fuel assistance and Headstart services in Cheshire County. They ask each town to contribute 1% of the total services they provide to a town with a cap of \$1million. Last year they provided \$1.1 million to Winchester so they are requesting \$10,000. They have had a long, positive relationship with the town of Winchester.

Lindseigh made a motion to fund the request of \$10,000. Tiffany seconds the motion. Lindseigh noted that last year the selectman did not award Southwestern Community Services the full amount of \$10,000, so the request is up by \$1000 this year.

Motion passed 5-0.

Phil Hueber of the Child Advocacy Center thanked the Budget Committee and the people of Winchester for their support in the past. This year they are asking for \$2500 which is the same as last year. Caseloads were down during the early months of the pandemic but have increased as areas started to open up. Theresa asked how many children in Winchester were a part of their caseloads this past year. Mr. Hueber said last year they had between 15-20 in Winchester. So far this year it has been 14.

Lindseigh makes a motion to fund the request of \$2500 for the Child Advocacy Center and \$1000 for CASA. Tiffany seconds the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The representative from the Red Cross was not present. It was explained that they are not meeting with town representatives during the pandemic. Amy passed out information that was sent by the Red Cross that contained how they serve Cheshire County and Winchester. The board discussed why they have not funded the request in past years. Theresa made a motion to lower the requested amount to \$400. Ben seconds the motion. Lindseigh asked about blood drives in the area. The motion passed 3-2 with Lindseigh and Tiffany voting no.

Mindy Cambiar was present to speak about the 100 Nights Shelter in Keene. Mindy spoke of the recent challenges the shelter has had finding a permanent home in Keene. Currently they provide 24 beds on Lamson Street. COVID has been difficult on the homeless. There is no place for them to go during the day. 100 Nights has been trying to purchase a larger facility to meet the needs of the community. In 2020, 100 Nights has accounted for five people from Winchester staying in the shelter for a total of 131 nights. Theresa asked about the cost per night and whether COVID funds are playing a role. COVID funds do help but do not contribute to the core cost to run the facility. 100 Nights is asking for \$3500. Lindseigh makes a motion to level fund the amount for 100 Nights. Chester seconds the motion. Ben announced that he would abstain from the vote. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Ben and Theresa abstaining.

Ellen Avery from the Community Volunteer Transportation Company explained how their organization is based in Peterborough, but they serve 32 towns in the region. They have been in operation since 2008 and seek volunteer drivers. They do not charge passengers for requested rides. They provide rides to doctor's appointments, food stores and pharmacies among other requests. CVTC has been in operation in Winchester since 2016. They currently have two volunteer drivers in town. Over the past year, six individuals in town have been driven just over 2000 miles. They are requesting \$500 from the town of Winchester. Theresa makes a motion to increase the amount to \$750. Lindseigh seconds the motion. The motion passes 5-0.

Monadnock Community Violence and Prevention was not present to explain their request for \$3591. Theresa made a motion to approve an amount of \$1000. Tiffany seconded the motion. Lindseigh asked for more information on why the Budget Committee should decrease the amount. Police Chief Mike Tolett spoke in favor of the agency and how it helps the police department on a weekly basis with domestic violence situations. MCVP provides a hotline that is available 24 hours a day. Winchester has many domestic violence calls. Theresa asked if Lindseigh would make a friendly amendment to the motion and increase the funding to \$1750. Lindseigh made a request for the friendly amendment and the motion passed 5-0.

Amy brought a rate of pay form to the Budget Committee to pay the secretary. Ben made a motion that the rate of pay for the secretary be \$12 an hour and that the secretary be made aware of all email communication within the group. Theresa seconds the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Theresa made a motion to fund the changes made to the lines for the Red Cross and to CVTC. Lindseigh seconds the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

Chester reminded the committee of the next meeting on Saturday, November 21st at 9AM at Town Hall.

Lindseigh made a motion to approve the bottom line for Health Agencies in the amount of \$79,346. Theresa seconds the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

Theresa made a motion to adjourn. Lindseigh seconds the motion. Motion passes 5-0. The meeting ended at 7:57PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lindseigh', located in the lower right quadrant of the page.