

Budget Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 26, 2015

**Present:**

Chair- Kerrin Rounds, Dave Carr, Carol Huber, Don Milbrand, Tom Keegan, Ron Preble, Shaun Lagueux, Bob Emerson, John Sellers, and William Cote.

**Absent:** Kevin McCaffrie, Ashley Dolloff, and Ernie Richards

**Others Present:** Town Administrator Michael Capone

**Call to Order:**

Committee Chair Kerrin Rounds called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Review of Minutes:**

Kerrin Rounds asked the committee to review the minutes from October 19, 2015. Carol Huber made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob Emerson. The Committee voted 7-0-2 in favor of the motion.

**Correspondence:**

**Old Business:** Tom Keegan wished to remind the Committee that they are charged with dealing only with fiscal business not policies. The Budget Committee does not set policy and should stick with money issues.

**New Business:** Non-Profit Organization presentations:

Grafton County Senior Citizens: Roberta Berner and 8 members of the Advisory Council for the Newfound Area Senior Services were present. Ms. Berner updated some activities that are offered to area seniors such as a weekly congregated lunch, bus service, and home delivered meals. Grafton County Senior Services serves residents from 40 towns. Service Link counselors offer support as well. Ms. Rounds asked if the request is for \$8,500 for this year. Ms. Berner replied that is the amount and support was received from Bristol in this same amount last year. Mr. Sellers asked how it is determined what each town gives. Ms. Berner replied that the amount is 10%-12% of the cost of services per town. Mr. Sellers asked if there is paid staff or volunteers. Ms. Berner replied that there is both paid staff and volunteers. There are full time, part time, and substitute paid staff and 1,000 volunteers. GCSC also receives support from the county but it couldn't stay in business without the support from the towns. Mr. Sellers asked how many seniors are in town. Ms. Berner replied that according to the 2010 census there are 692 residents over the age of 60. Ms. Rounds thanked the representatives from GCSC for attending the meeting.

Homeland Cemetery: Sandy Despina informed the Committee that the request for 2016 is \$7,500. This is to help pay for mowing and spring cleanup. The cemetery is mowed 6 times per year at \$1,200 per mowing. The mowing is put out to bid but only one response was received this year. The Board of Directors consists of seven volunteers who run the non-profit. Income is down as people are being cremated and not having full burials. Mr. Sellers asked if there is volunteer work on the grounds. Ms. Despina replied that some people mow around their own little lots and volunteers have planted and removed trees on the grounds. Ms. Huber asked how many plots are available. Ms. Despina replied that

there are three more empty lots owned by the cemetery. They are currently mowing 19 acres with a total of 48-50 acres. Mr. Sellers asked if the rates periodically go up. Ms. Despina replied that the rates in the last few years have not gone up as the cemetery is trying to stay competitive with other private cemeteries. Mr. Keegan commented that several years ago the cemetery did increase the rates to keep pace with other towns. Ms. Rounds thanked Ms. Despina for presenting to the Committee.

Newfound Lakes Region Association: Boyd Smith informed the Committee that this is his tenth year with NLRA. The NLRA services include the Lake Host program which inspects boats for invasive species. Two boats containing invasive species were caught this year. The NLRA also does water quality monitoring, land use planning, educational focus, Newfound Eco Tours, land conservation, and has 100 volunteers. State funding was obtained to help fund repairs to culverts that need to be fixed that may be draining into the lake. The service area of the NLRA is the five towns around Newfound Lake. NLRA is requesting \$3,000 from Bristol this year. This would fund \$1,000 for the Water Watchdog program, \$1,000 for the Lake Host program, and \$1,000 for general operations. Ms. Huber asked if the request is the same for each town. Mr. Smith replied that different amounts are requested. A formula used to be used but the same request has been carried forward. Ms. Huber asked if it is broken down into square footage of homes on the lake. Mr. Smith replied that no it is not based on this but population was looked at. Mr. Lagueux asked for statistics on membership participation of lake front owners. Mr. Smith replied that membership is in the 20%-30% range which is typical of other lakes. The lake front owners are part of their funding request and the towns are important partners also. Mr. Sellers asked if NLRA receives state funds. Mr. Smith replied that they do receive funds from DES, which are federal dollars that the state administers. Mr. Sellers asked for revenue and expense numbers. Mr. Smith replied that the total budget is \$225,000 and is a break even operation. Ms. Rounds thanked Mr. Smith for presenting.

Voices Against Violence: Rosemary D'Arcy thanked the Committee for its past support. Bristol is one of the larger demand areas of the 18 towns in Grafton County. The \$3,000 request is to sustain services which include a 24 hour hotline and shelter. Federal grants are relied on heavily also. There is a small paid staff and lots of volunteers. Training is necessary due to confidentiality. Mr. Lagueux asked if there are numbers from last year regarding services to Bristol. Ms. D'Arcy replied that they can be supplied to the Committee. Bristol is always in the top 2 or 3 towns served. Mr. Lagueux replied that Bristol gets a lot more than what it pays for. Ms. Rounds asked if they accept texting or just calls. Meg Dugan replied that texting and emails are not accepted due to confidentiality issues. Mr. Sellers asked how many staff there is. Ms. Dugan replied that there is one full time Director, 2 part time direct service people, and 2 full time direct service people. Ms. Rounds thanked Ms. D'Arcy and Ms. Dugan for attending.

CADY: Deb Naro thanked the Committee for their past contribution of \$1,000. CADY is the region's only substance abuse organization. A statistical handout was distributed to the Committee. The \$1,000 allocation goes towards the Restorative Justice program. The initial cost of a referral is \$1,500. The cost of sending a youth through the court system is \$3,000 minimum with a cost of \$27,000 for a six month placement in the system. In Restorative Justice, youth work with counselors and mentors. Eleven communities donate to CADY to cover program costs. There is a \$250 participation fee from youth with a sliding fee scale. CADY has 40 volunteers. Mr. Sellers asked if they house kids. Ms. Naro replied that they do not. Mr. Sellers asked about the eleven communities who donate. Ms. Naro replied that there are 18 communities served but only 11 contribute. All 18 communities are asked to contribute. Ms. Rounds thanked Ms. Naro for presenting.

Pemi River Local Advisory Council: Max Stamp informed the Committee that the 2016 request is \$250. There are eight towns represented by PRLAC and all eight towns contribute to their support. The Pemi

River is a protected river; as such an RSA says that a local Advisory Council needs to be formed to maintain river quality. The objective is to keep the Pemi River as a class B river. Water quality monitoring and permit application reviews are ongoing tasks. The PRLAC is a total volunteer group. The PRLAC has a small budget, most of which goes to Lakes Region Planning Commission for their services. Mr. Lagueux asked if the PRLAC gives input on projects, what triggers that, and is their role advisory. Mr. Stamp replied that the permit application triggers it and the role is advisory. Mr. Lagueux asked if the Pemi River was originally excluded in the Shoreland Protection Act. Mr. Stamp replied that it was originally excluded but added in 2008. Mr. Sellers asked if the state does testing on the river. Mr. Stamp replied that the state does some testing. Ms. Rounds thanked Mr. Stamp for presenting.

Bridge House Shelter: Kathy Brentwood informed the Committee that the Bridge House is a 20 bed shelter with 24/7 staffing. There are counselors on staff. Every town in Grafton County is asked to contribute. Bristol is asked to contribute \$2,000 this year. Bridge House served 4 people from Bristol for 278 days. If Bristol had been billed at \$25 per day the total would have been \$7,150. There is a welfare officer who works in the shelter. The Bridge House does receive HUD funding. The services provided by the Bridge House saves the towns money in their Welfare departments. Mr. Sellers asked how long people usually stay for. Ms. Brentwood replied from one day up to a maximum of two years. Ms. Huber asked if there is federal and state funding. Ms. Brentwood replied that \$25,000 comes from Grafton County and 1/3 of the budget comes from HUD funding. The rest is fund raised. There is a thrift shop to raise money as well. Mr. Sellers asked if people are required to pay. Ms. Brentwood replied that they do if they have the resources. The fee is \$100 per month for rent and \$50 per month for food. Ms. Rounds thanked Ms. Brentwood for presenting.

CASA: Ruth Doane informed the Committee that the 2016 request is \$500. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate and represents abused and neglected children in the court system. CASA is all volunteer. The money requested from the towns is needed for training for the volunteers. Ms. Rounds thanked Ms. Doane for attending the meeting.

#### **Member Comments:**

#### **Select Board Comments:**

Mr. Lagueux informed the Committee that the school information has been sent into the state and the Select Board will be meeting to discuss setting the tax rate. Executive Counselor Kenney presented updates to the Select Board at the last meeting.

#### **Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Capone reminded the Committee that CIP will give their presentation on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Capone asked Mr. Milbrand if the CIP have distributed their report to the Budget Committee. Mr. Milbrand replied that he will get it sent to the Committee before the 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Capone informed the Committee that he has been drafting warrant article language based on recommendations from the CIP.

#### **Adjournment:**

Carol Huber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Shaun Lagueux, passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Costigan, Secretary

