**Human Services Budget Recommendations Committee**

**Thursday, September 12, 2019**

**Town Offices, Nowak Room**

**Final Minutes**

Members present: Amy McLaughlin, Sherri Nixon, Kirsten Arends, Christine Souter

Human Services/Welfare Administrator present: Pam McElroy

**Meeting called to order at 12:10 pm by Amy McLaughlin.**

Discussion as to whether to accept a late application from Seacoast Mental Health Center. A letter was received by the Town Manager on June 30, 2019 regarding intent to submit FY20 Application**. Motion was made to accept the application by Amy McLaughlin. Seconded by Sherri Nixon. Vote was unanimous to accept the Seacoast Mental Health Center FY20 Application.**

It was noted that the applications were sent to the organizations with last year’s dates. The applications were sent before Pam McElroy began employment with the Town of Exeter as the Human Services Administrator. She made note and will update next year’s applications.

Christine Souter raised the point that some towns have government CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds, which are specified for certain funds. Exeter’s Human Service and Welfare funds are all received through tax dollars.

Each of the organization applications were individually discussed as follows:

Annie’s Angels Memorial Fund, Inc.: The request from Annie’s Angels was $5,000.00. **The Committee unanimously voted to recommend $4,500.00 for FY20.**

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NH: The request from Big Brothers/Big Sisters was $7,500.00. $7,000.00 was granted in FY19. Sherri Nixon mentioned the unique service the organization provides and that their service has expanded to the Cooperative Middle School. Amy McLaughlin suggested $7,000.00; Sherri Nixon suggested $7,500.00; Christine Souter suggested $7,000.00; Kirsten Arends suggested $7,200.00. It was decided to hold the vote and return for discussion.

CASA of NH: The request from CASA of NH was $1,000.00. $500.00 was granted in FY19. Discussion was that CASA receives funding from all over the state. **The Committee unanimously voted to recommend $1,000.00 for FY20.**

Cross Roads House: The request from Cross Roads was $3,500.00. Discussion was that it is very important to keep Cross Roads running, although there is not extra space to serve more people. **The Committee unanimously voted to recommend $3,500.00 for FY20.**

Exeter Area Charitable Foundation: Christine Souter excused herself from discussion and voting. The request from Exeter Area Charitable Foundation was $2,500.00. $1,500.00 was granted in FY19. It was noted that this organization is “Exeter-centric”, as the percentage of Exeter residents served is much higher than other organizations. Amy McLaughlin suggested $2,500.00; Sherri Nixon suggested $2,000.00; Kirsten Arends suggested $2,200.00. It was decided to hold the vote and return to discussion.

Friends Program RSVP: The request from Friends Program RSVP was $2,000.00, and **the Committee voted unanimously to recommend $2,000.00 for FY20.**

Great Bay Kids Company: The request from Great Bay Kids Company was $2495.00. $2,000.00 was granted in FY19. Discussion included that the amount requested equaled to $100.00 per child per year, state scholarships for childcare are available, and that financial records for Great Bay Kids Company were not included in the application. Christine Souter suggested $2,495.00; Amy McLaughlin suggested $2,000.00; Kirsten Arends suggested $2,000.00; Sherri Nixon suggested $2,495.00. It was decided to hold the vote and return to discussion.

Greater Seacoast Community Health: The request from Greater Seacoast Community Health was $5,000.00. Their application was informative. They work closely with Exeter Recreation Department and St. Vincent de Paul**. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $5,000.00 for FY20.**

HAVEN: The request from HAVEN was $7,500.00. $8,500.00 was granted in FY19. Discussion referenced the decline from what was granted in FY19 to the request for FY20. It was suggested that HAVEN made a mistake or did not reference their numbers closely. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $7,500.00 for FY20.**

New Generation: The request from New Generation was $2,500.00. $2,500.00 was granted in FY19. It was noted that mistakes were made on the application - specifically that it was not signed and that Pam would contact New Generation to sign the application as soon as possible. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $2,000.00 for FY20.**

One Sky Community Services: The request from One Sky was $6,500.00. In FY19 $1,625.00 was granted. It was noted that in FY17, $14,100.00 was requested, and questioned as to why their numbers are not consistent. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $1,625.00 for FY20.**

Richie McFarland Children’s Center: The request from Richie McFarland was $11,400.00. $10,000.00 was granted in FY19. **The Committee unanimously voted to recommend $10,000.00 for FY20.**

Rockingham Community Action (SNHS): The request from Rockingham Community Action was $10,000.00. $10,000.00 was granted in FY19. Pam McElroy noted that Rockingham Community Action works well with Exeter Welfare. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $10,000.00 for FY20.**

Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels: There was much confusion regarding the application submitted. It looks as though the Transportation application was submitted, rather than the Senior Assistance/Meal application that should be submitted. $9,500.00 was granted in FY19. Pam McElroy will contact Rockingham Meals on Wheels for clarification. This application will be put on hold until the next meeting of the Human Services Budget Recommendations Committee.

Seacoast Eat Local: Sherri Nixon excused herself from discussion and vote. The request from Seacoast Eat Local was for $1,000.00. $1,000.00 was granted in FY19. **The Committee, minus Sherri Nixon, voted unanimously to recommend $1,000.00 for FY20.**

Seacoast Family Promise: The request from Seacoast Family Promise was for $1,500.00. Discussion was that this organization does a lot of good with a little money. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $1,500.00 for FY20.**

Seacoast Visiting Nurse Association: The request from Seacoast VNA was for $3,500.00. $3,000.00 was granted in FY19. Discussion involved the numbers provided need clarification. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $3,000.00 for FY20.**

Seacoast Mental Health: Seacoast Mental Health’s application was received late, but was approved to consider at the beginning of this meeting. **The Committee unanimously voted to recommend $8,500.00 for FY20.**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Exeter: The request from St. Vincent de Paul was for $10,000.00. $7,000.00 was granted in FY19. Discussion was that St. Vincent de Paul shows a somewhat substantial surplus; where does the surplus go? Most money received by St. Vincent de Paul is from donations. **The Committee unanimously voted to recommend $7,000.00 for FY20.**

Waypoint (previously Child & Family Services): The request from Waypoint was for $12,000.00. $10,000.00 was granted in FY19. Discussion was regarding Exeter as the second highest donating Town, yet did not receive as many services. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $10,000.00 for FY20.**

Womenade of Greater Squamscott: The request from Womenade was for $4,000.00. $3,500.00 was granted in FY19. Pam McElroy spoke about need for rent and utility assistance - that Womenade has been a wonderful asset in assisting people from losing their housing, thus keeping families and individuals from homelessness. It was also noted that Womenade has assisted more people each year. **The Committee voted unanimously to recommend $4,000.00 for FY20.**

The Committee revisited the following organization’s applications:

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NH: After much discussion regarding the unique service and expansion of service to Cooperative Middle School**, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend $7,200.00 for FY20.**

Exeter Area Charitable Foundation: Christine Souter excused herself from discussion and vote. It was noted that a new town has been added to the Exeter Area Charitable Foundation service area. Discussion continued regarding the percent of service provided to the Town of Exeter. **The Committee, minus, Christine Souter, unanimously voted to recommend $2,200.00 for FY20.**

Great Bay Kids Company will continue to be held for financial information until the next meeting. Christine Souter will contact Great Bay Kids Company.

Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels will continue to be held for clarification purposes until the next meeting. Pam McElroy will contact Rockingham Meals on Wheels.

As of the end of this meeting, FY20 total approved by the Human Services Budget Recommendation Committee equals $94,020.00. This is $3,000.00 less than FY19, but does not yet include Great Bay Kids Company or Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels.

**Motion** to Adjourn was made by Amy McLaughlin at 1:45 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam McElroy

Human Services Administrator