



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2023

Present: Morris Boudreau, Amy O'Hara, Mark Hubbell, and Carl Bartlett.

Excused- Scott Haskins

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, YAP Director Dawn Shimberg and Jesse Renaud-Smith.

Chairman O'Hara called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm.

Bartlett/Boudreau motioned to accept the minutes of the 12/29/2022 meeting. All in favor, motion passes.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Committee that he has updated the budgets and has passed out the updated copies to each member. You will notice that each line item is numbered 1-242. Also, the budget spent has been updated with current numbers up to 12-31-2022. Also highlighted in yellow, is what the Committee has changed over the last several meetings so you should be up to date at this point in time.

The committee heard from Dawn Shimberg the Director of the Youth Assistance Program (YAP) and Vice Chairman of the YAP Board of Directors, Jesse Renaud-Smith. Ms. Shimberg stated that she has started a new grant funded "Leadership Program" in partnership with the Hall Public Library. This is held at the library. Shimberg also told the Committee that she was awarded a DCYF grant for the 2022, 3rd and 4th quarter of about \$40,000.00 which has been deducted from the amount invoiced to the Town of Northfield in the same percentage as invoiced. She will put in for another grant in 2023.

The Towns are billed on the basis of populations of children enrolled in the school district. Northfield is invoiced on \$63,516.00 or 0.56754% and Tilton \$45,552.00 or 0.43246%. Yap's proposal is \$109,068.00 for 2023. Discussion on the budget revolved around health insurance costs \$28,500.00 which is a reduction from 2022.

There was much discussion on the Merrimack County Diversion Program and what they can offer the Town. Selectman Hubbell asked again for Recidivism numbers for the program. Mr. Renaud-Smith who is a Police Prosecutor gave an informative update to the Committee on what the YAP program has been doing looking at the diversion side of the program. Renaud-Smith asked the Committee to look at the County program as it is difficult to get transportation to the County Complex in Boscawen. The Committee will take everything that was said today under advisement.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Committee of some timeframes that need to be adhered to as far as the public hearing on the 2023 proposed budget. The Committee will review everything at the January 26th meeting.

The Committee reviewed the Animal Control and Confinement contract, and outside agency's VNA, and Community Action Program. Welfare was next and Robichaud stated that the past few years there has been a lot of money from ARPA and COVID grants to help in this area, housing, and shelter funds. That money has all but dried up, so I envision that the Town will be spending more money in the next budget on this department. If you review the past five years you will see before Covid the town was spending the budget.

Mr. Bartlett expressed some concern with the \$10,950.00 Animal Confinement/Control Contract and questioned why the police don't pick up the dogs and install a dog kennel at the PD to house them that would cost about \$500.00 and would save the contract cost. Robichaud explained that it is cost efficient in doing what we are currently doing, there would be no oversight of the dogs while at the PD and our current contract has not increased in over 8-10 years. Bartlett questioned that Birch Hill is charging the Town to pick up the dog and is also probably charging the owner of the dog as well. Robichaud stated that we are only concerned with the Town's cost, but as far as board, food and care is concerned, he is charging for those costs, but the owner is paying for that.

Economic Development was reviewed with some questions asked, Robichaud did not have all of the answers, but told the Committee that he would get them some information on NEDC.

Other Business

The next meeting will be held on January 26th at 6pm.

Public Input

Boudreau/Bartlett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30, all in favor, motion passed.

Minutes recorded by Town Administrator Ken Robichaud

Minutes approved January 26, 2023