

**TOWN OF JAFFREY**

**Budget Committee**

**January 19, 2021**

Members present: Norm Langevin, Charlie Turcotte, Peter Maki, Frank Sterling, Sam Greene, Robert Schaumann, Kathy Batchelder (Zoom)

Members Excused: None

Staff: Town Manager Frederick, Finance Director FitzGerald, Administrative Assistant Zola

Others: Petitioners

Meeting opened: 6:00 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**PETITIONER PRESENTATIONS:**

**Home Healthcare & Hospice** – Susan Ashworth

The organization provides Visiting nurse, physical, occupational and speech therapy, social work and home health aide services. They also provide Hospice and long-term care services. The Meals on Wheels program provides Jaffrey residents with hot, nutritious meals and safety checks Monday thru Friday for homebound senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. They implemented a grab and go style to reduce contact for some residents that are mobile. They have provided over 1,000 home visits to Jaffrey residents and 6,681 meals were provided. Staff is wearing full PPE to keep everyone safe and they are proud to report that no staff have tested positive for Covid-19.

Funding is sought from State agencies and local organizations, grants and fundraisers.

A request is presented for \$17,000 to continue visiting nurse and hospice services for Jaffrey residents in 2021.

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by Turcotte, Home Healthcare & Hospice's request for funding in the amount of \$17,000 was tentatively approved (7-0)

**Monadnock Community Early Learning Center** – Judy

Due to Covid-19 the Center did close for a couple of days in March and April for cleaning/disinfecting purposes. They have only had one positive case to date. They are maintaining programming with smaller numbers. There are 27 Jaffrey children enrolled. They do not ask Peterborough for funding as they get a tax abatement.

A request for \$8,000 is presented.

On a motion by Maki, seconded by Sterling, MCELC's request for funding in the amount of \$8,000 was tentatively approved (7-0)

### **The Community Kitchen** – Phoebe Bray

Both their pantry and hot meals programs are up and running with pick up instead of group dinners. They have changed the pantry to a drive-thru and usage has decreased, which may be due to other COVID-19 funding available to residents. They have served 140 meals.

They are requesting \$7,500 this year, which is a decrease from last year.

On a motion by Schaumann, seconded by Turcotte, The Community Kitchen's request for funding in the amount of \$7,500 was tentatively approved. (7-0)

### **Monadnock Family Services** - Mary Deslisle

There were a lot of changes for 2020. They saw an increase in treating anxiety and depression. They stayed in touch with residents remotely and in some programs, this was more contact than the in-person visits. They served 85 Jaffrey residents: 2,777 appointments, 25 children, 48 adults and 12 seniors. They had 12 programs.

They are asking for level funding at \$6,821

On a motion by Turcotte, seconded by Schaumann, Monadnock Family Service's request for funding in the amount of \$6,821 was tentatively approved (7-0).

### **Southwestern Community Services** – Keith Thibeau

SWCS is looking for 1% direct assistance funding in the total of \$5,413. The proposed funding empowers families to live on their own with some assistance. Some of the services provided are WIC (women, infants, and children) Head Start program, property tax, electric and fuel assistance and emergency housing. They provided \$130, 000 in oil services/emergency housing to 131 Jaffrey households. 17 Jaffrey Children are enrolled in the Headstart Program and they are currently looking for a bigger facility.

Funding is asked from all the communities served.

On a motion by Turcotte, seconded by Greene SWCS's request for funding in the amount of \$5,413 was tentatively approved (7-0).

### **Jaffrey Civic Center** – David Belletete

David is the incoming president. The Center provides space for many local organizations to for meetings, art classes, yoga classes, as wells as school art exhibits and local artists exhibits. It was a challenging year; they now have an interim director. Their income is down 50%, but they are holding steady. Funding comes from their annual appeal and from art sales. Professional artists pay a display fee and this year they did receive some Covid-19 finding. Late fall and Christmas time was very slow, but the summer did see more foot traffic.

Their request is level funded at \$4,000.

On a motion by Greene, seconded by Turcotte, the Jaffrey Civic Center's request for funding in the amount of \$4,000 was tentatively approved (7-0).

**Community Volunteer Transportation Company** – Ellen Avery

They are asking for level funding of \$2,000. Their service numbers held strong in Jaffrey this year and they never closed. They did have 86 drivers, but are down to 58 due to COVID-19 concerns. Many drivers are retired and at great risk due to their ages. They serve 34 towns; Jaffrey is their highest user with 40 requests and 9 drivers. 10 New volunteers have come into the program.

On a motion by Schaumann, seconded by Greene, CVTC's request for funding in the amount of \$2,000 was tentatively approved (7-0).

**The River Center** – Margaret Nelson

As of March 14<sup>th</sup>, they started using a remote support system. Home visiting is the most intensive and doing it remotely is quite different, but they've found it to be more comprehensive. No travel time is needed, so there's more time to give support. Parenting groups have been happening via Zoom. Tax preparation is now a drop off or remotely done. There is a coffee & kindness video craft group on Facebook and they have a Life Skills peer group at Conant High School.

They are requesting \$1,500 from the Town of Jaffrey to support these programs which benefit Jaffrey residents.

On a motion by Greene, seconded by Sterling, The River Center's request for funding in the amount of \$1,500 was tentatively approved (7-0)

**Hundred Nights** – Mindy Cambiar

They are now open year-round. May-October they had 24 beds, 12 beds at one of the churches from January- March and then 12 more beds in November. Due to Covid-19, the church closed early. In addition, both churches closed in July. Their resource center is open and they rotate residents due to numbers. They were able to use store front space also. The CARES act did provide money to rent hotel rooms for 16 people and they have converted a bus that can hold 8 more people. They have been cleaning non-stop and they have been lucky to have not had any positive cases. Jaffrey usage was 6 people for 254 days costing \$7,630 and 8 people using the resource center costing \$5,607. Schaumann asked about dorm use at Keene State College, but those were not available.

On a motion by Greene, seconded by Schaumann, Hundred Nights request for funding in the amount of \$5,000 was tentatively approved (7-0).

### **Reality Check** – Mary Drew

Reality Check is a community-based recovery center based in Jaffrey. It supports clients across the lifespan. Support groups are for clients, their children, their families and all those affected by addiction. Employer training is available to help with employees re-entering the workforce after recovery. They have been presenting prevention programs in schools and in the community. They are working with MCH to provide an on-call recovery coach for drug related ER visits. They are also involved with suicide prevention and mental health training. They have moved to virtual support and built a deck onto their office for social distancing in person visits. They have asked for a 25 cent per person increase due to a \$30,000 decrease in outside funding. They do ask surrounding towns for funding, not all contribute. Schaumann asked to see the supporting data on decreased issues due to their programs. Mary will provide that data.

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by Batchelder, Reality Check's request for funding in the amount of \$12,278 was tentatively approved (7-0).

### **MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

On a motion by Turcotte, seconded by Schaumann, meeting minutes from January 13, 2021 were approved as amended (6-0) Batchelder abstained as she didn't attend the meeting.

### **WARRANT ARTICLES:** Reviewed by TM Frederick

Noted were:

The DPW plow request will not have an impact on taxes.

DPW and Police CBA – negotiations are being finalized.

Broadband Expansion Bond will have no tax impact as it will be covered by user fees. They are reviewing 2 proposals.

On a motion by Sterling, seconded by Schaumann, the Warrant Articles in total \$2,677,309 were tentatively approved (7-0).

### **DISCUSSION:**

Selectman Belletete will attend the EDC tomorrow and will have information for the BUDCOM meeting on Thursday.

The Public Budget Hearing will be in person at Pratt Auditorium, as of now.

Town Meeting will be finalized with the Moderator at Monday's Select Board meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

On a motion by Greene, seconded by Turcotte the meeting adjourned at 7:24pm. (7-0)

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