

Town of Unity Budget Committee meeting 31 January, 2018

Attendance:

Committee Members: Tabi Littlefield, Pat Clark, Alicia McCormick, Daniel McCormick, Mark Babin, John McIntire, Sue Ferreira, Andy Reed, Lucia Picard

Selectmen: Tony Avila, Penny Sampson

Town Clerk: Kari Hunt

CEO: Charles Porter

Brittney Ciclbeth & Brandy Dupper-May (New Hope for Women), Lynn M. Warman (Cemetery Committee), Charlie Schaefer (Volunteer Regional Food Pantry), Emily Newell & Blaine Parsons (Fire Dept), Tom Aversa (SRLT), Mary Leaming & Jim Buckle (Economic Development Committee), Linda Cook (Broadreach? Spectrum Generations?), Michael E. Hallanbach (WCAP), Ray Estabrook (Game Loft)

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM by chair Andy Reed. Tabi Littlefield agreed to take notes.

Two representatives from New Hope for Women explained the services they provide free of charge. 17 clients/45 hours were Unity residents. **Motion:** To approve amount recommended by Selectmen, \$250, made and seconded. **Amendment:** Raise amount to \$500 was seconded. **Amendment Passed, Motion Passed**

SRLT representative listed services provided to Unity and details regarding properties. SRLT is not taking on new properties at this time. They are running in the "black". **Motion:** to give \$750 to SRLT, seconded. **Motion Passed**

Spectrum Generations representative told us about services provided and answered questions. **Motion** made and seconded to give \$400. **Passed**

Charlie represented the VRFP. He told us food provided and classes taught to help people become more self sufficient. **Motion:** made and seconded to give VRFP \$2,200. **Passed**

WCAP representative told us what they do for our town. He answered questions about other sources of income. **Motion:** made and seconded to give WCAP \$2,000 **Passed**

Discussion of why several organizations normally seeking special appropriations were ineligible this year for town funding.

Broadreach representative told us what they do for Unity, explaining services provided. **Motion** made and seconded to give \$600. **Passed**

Game Loft representative explained their programs. Question was raised about liabilities. G.L. has insurance to cover. **Motion:** made and seconded to give \$200. **Passed**

New Fire Chief Blaine Parsons spoke to the fire department budget. Fire station maintenance was discussed. **Motion:** Made and seconded to Raise \$53,850 for Operation and Maintenance. **Passed**

Fire department salaries were explained and discussed. **Motion:** made and seconded to Raise \$23,600 for fire department salaries. **Passed**

Motion: made and seconded to Raise \$40,115.50 for the firehouse loan payment. **Passed**

Fire truck replacement fund currently stands at \$50,000. A new (replacement) truck will be needed by 2025 for an estimated cost of \$450,000. Discussion was held regarding paying off the loans that we are paying interest on before raising more money for the new truck fund. **Motion:** made and seconded to take from TIF \$10,000 and Raise \$0 for new fire truck fund. **Passed**

Town Officials' Salaries. Penny explained the reasons for increases in salaries for Admin. Assistant, deputy Clerk, Deputy CEO, EMA director and others. Proposed cut in Sexton's compensation was discussed. Tony expressed opposition to several of the raises, Deputy Clerk, Selectmen, and Deputy CEO. Suggestion was made that Deputy Clerk increase could be justified by extending hours at the Town Office. **Motion:** made and seconded to Raise \$71,318, keeping Sexton's position funded at the level of 2017. **Passed**

Economic Development Committee proposal discussed at length. Sense of the Budget Committee was that items should be brought forward individually. **Motion:** made and seconded to take from TIF \$46,000. **Failed** Discussion to be continued.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

Next meeting Budget Committee scheduled for 7 February, 2018, 6:30 PM at the Unity Community Center.