

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the eighth day of March 2018 A.D. a budget workshop was held in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02832 beginning at 6:30 P.M to discuss the proposed FY 18/19 budget.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Thomas Buck, Barbara Capalbo, David Husband, Sylvia Thompson. Town Manager William McGarry; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin. Also present: Finance Director Brian Rosso.

Grants & Contributions Budget:

**Wood River Health Services**

Michael Lichtenstein, President of Wood River Health Services was present. He was requesting to receive level funding of \$10,000. Mr. Lichtenstein indicated that they have a staff of 65 and they see just fewer than 7,000 patients. They now have three clinicians who specialize in behavioral health and in May they have a dental health nurse practitioner joining the staff. Councilor Thompson wished Mr. Lichtenstein well and thanked him for all of his years of service, as he would be resigning as CEO of Wood River Health Services this year. Councilor Capalbo indicated that one of the things that she appreciated was the dental program which is now being made stronger and she believes this is extremely important to people for their general health. She wished the Council could increase their funding to \$12,000 in the next year or two because they do so much for the community. This budget was level funded.

**Ashaway Free Library**

Fran Cohen, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Ashaway Free Library was present. Ashaway Free Library requested to be level funded. Councilor Capalbo commented that \$1,000 had been given to the library from the Town Council as a donation for their proposed expansion. Council President Landolfi asked Ms. Cohen how close the library was to reaching their goal and she indicated very close. This budget was level funded.

### **Langworthy Public Library**

Margaret Victoria, Library Director for the Langworthy Public Library was present. Ms. Victoria told the Council that the library is starting a genealogy series of workshops in the month of April, as well as working on expanding their parking lot. They also have had the septic system redone. This budget was level funded.

### **Hope Valley Ambulance Corps**

Richard Kenney of Hope Valley Ambulance was present. Councilor Thompson asked about their Board of Directors, specifically if they were EMTs. Mr. Kenney indicated that this was not a requirement but most of them were and they do go out on runs. Councilor Thompson asked if they were paid and Mr. Kenney said the volunteers are not paid. Once someone is paid they have to be continually paid for doing that same activity. He explained that a person can volunteer for one function and be paid for another. Councilor Thompson stated that she was very impressed with their response times. Councilor Capalbo asked if the ambulance used a billing company and Mr. Kenney indicated that the Dawson Group was used. All run reports are prepared on the computer and then submitted to a program which can be reviewed by the billing company, the State of Rhode Island and the Department of Health. This budget was level funded.

### **Westerly Ambulance Corps**

Ken Richards, Administrator of the Westerly Ambulance Corps was present. Mr. Richards explained that Westerly Ambulance Corps was asked by the Town to come before the Council to present their request based on their mutual aid services provided to the residents of Hopkinton in Ashaway. He stated that Westerly Ambulance has no intention of doing more than providing mutual aid. Mr. Richards discussed the low reimbursement amounts that they were receiving from Medicare and Medicaid. He also indicated that the reason they were asked to come forward was because last year they responded to Hopkinton 69 times, which was unusual. Westerly Ambulance Corps was approached by Ashaway Ambulance Corps for assistance. Mr. Richards indicated that he did speak with Jodi Perrin of the Ashaway Ambulance Corps and he gave her the name of several vendors in order for them to be able to obtain medication at a lower cost. He went

on to state that in 2018 they have responded to ten calls in Hopkinton. Westerly Ambulance Corps does not pay their volunteers at all. They are looking to see if there is a way to recoup some of the cost for their mutual aid. In regards to the write-off of subscribers, Mr. Richards indicated that in the last six months Westerly Ambulance Corps has written off \$3,207 in subscriber adjustments for Ashaway members. Council President Landolfi indicated that they had discussed reimbursement to Westerly Ambulance Corps in the amount of \$250 per run, up to \$25,000 in mutual aid. Councilor Capalbo commented that Westerly Ambulance Corps is run like a business and she was very impressed with their assistance to Hopkinton in light of how busy they are. Councilor Husband questioned why the Town of Westerly is only giving them \$25,000 a year when the Town of Hopkinton has given to the Ambulance Corps, over many years, basically \$100,000 to cover our town of 8,200 more or less, and Westerly is three times the size. Mr. Richards indicated that he believes that is due to their larger billable base of private insured individuals. Councilor Thompson believed that Hopkinton had been paying Westerly Ambulance Corps per run but Town Manager McGarry indicated that was incorrect. A proposed contract had been prepared between the Town of Hopkinton and Westerly Ambulance Corps which needed to be reviewed by the Council. It was agreed that Westerly Ambulance Corps would be paid \$250 per run up to \$25,000.

### **Ashaway Ambulance Corps**

Curt Dumas of Ashaway Ambulance Corps was present. He distributed a booklet to the Council which Council President Landolfi indicated had nothing to do with funding. Council President Landolfi indicated that there were three things that had to be submitted for tonight's meeting: the request form (which they had), the audit and the 990 tax return. As of this date they did not have all the needed information in order to determine a funding level. There is another meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 and that information needed to be received prior to then. Councilor Thompson asked why the number of total clients was 520 and those served 456, which are the exact same numbers as the previous year. Mr. Dumas indicated that he may have put the wrong numbers on the report. This

matter will be continued to the March 13, 2018 workshop agenda if the required information is received.

**Community Education 2000 Foundation**

Christopher Phillips of the Community Education 2000 Foundation was present. Mr. Phillips indicated that they were in their 19<sup>th</sup> year. They hoped that in two to three years they will have reached their goal and would not be requesting contributions thereafter. Councilor Capalbo stated that she is not in favor of this contribution and thought that people should donate personally; however, she indicated that the organization was wonderful. Councilor Thompson agreed. Council President Landolfi indicated that he did support this organization and the contribution that has been given to them in the past. Councilor Husband agreed, as well as Councilor Buck. This contribution was level funded at \$500.00.

Brian Rosso, Finance Director, asked how the Council wished him to budget Westerly Ambulance Corps. It was indicated that he use a total of \$25,000 which was the maximum amount they would receive. Town Manager William McGarry questioned whether this should be done for Hope Valley Ambulance Corps as well. The Council agreed for \$50,000 is what Ashaway Ambulance Corps would have received. Mr. Rosso should put in another line item with a title of “mutual aid” in order to keep this separate.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors RI. No one was present from this organization.

The workshop was closed at 8:15 pm.

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin  
Town Clerk

Marita D. Breault  
Deputy Town Clerk