



**Town of Woodstock**  
**Budget Committee & Board of Selectmen Joint Meeting**  
**December 6, 2023**

**Budget Committee Attendance:** Roberta Vigneault, Faith Desjardins, Helen Jones; Kara Sellingham; Marci Shamberger, Steve Tower, Charyl Reardon-Board Rep

**Selectmen:** Gil Rand, Scott Rice

**Staff:** Cathy Riley; Judy Welch

**Not In Attendance:** Emily Clark

**Presenters:** Jon Bouffard-Linwood Ambulance, Ren Anderson- North Country Home Health & Hospice, Ed Shanshala- ACHS, Maria McIntyre- GCSSC-LASS, Kathleen Vasconsuelas- CSSC, Alison Morgan- GCSSC, Brenda Gagne- Tri County Cap, Susan Spinney- CASA, NH, Melissa Smith- Pemi Baker Hospice & Home Health, Ernest Roy- Pemi Baker Hospice & Home Health, Diane Arsenault- Pemi Baker Hospice & Home Health, Judy Drake- Bridge House Shelter, Tina Mulleavey- Voices Against Violence, Bill Olson-Transport Central.

**Call to Order**

Roberta called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

**Presentations By Agencies**

Agencies attended this meeting to provide a brief overview of their organization, explain the type of assistance given to the residents of Woodstock, and the number of residents of Woodstock who have received or are receiving assistance.

**Tri-County Cap**

Amount requested: \$2868.

Brenda Gagne: Asking for the same as last year for programs and referrals provided. This year, more clients at 178 Woodstock residents were helped with food, energy assistance, and weatherization, which are the most significant needs.

**Lin-Wood Ambulance**

Amount requested: \$137,000.00.

Jon Buffard, Intern Chief from Lin-Wood Ambulance: The Request is 10% more than last year. Numbers were down compared to last year; 1/2 of runs were uncompensated care. Numbers are looking at uncompensated at a 50% reduction and looking to get more volunteers back to be able to drop payroll.

Questions: Charyl asked if Jon thought it would stay at 10% or if he felt it could return to 5% the following year.

Jon answered that they would like to see it remain in the single digits, but the decline in run numbers with Littleton taking over the Franconia side included 40 runs from Cannon, which helped to cause the amount of income to go down. There may be some capping of payments done by the State for what

ambulance services can receive from insurance companies may happen down the road. Relief, hopefully, in the future.

Roberta asked if the 50% reduction included calls that refuse treatment, to which Jon replied yes.

### **Ammonoosuc Community Health Services**

Amount Requested: \$500

Ed Shanshala, CEO ACHS: Booklets about a book about community health services.

They stated that 64 people from Woodstock and most use the sliding fee scale, which also helps clients afford medications. A Collaboration with Midstate because they had to close their dental practice in Littleton and another site in Bristol. Eyewear included exams, diabetes, and high aging.

A Grant was written for childhood development and will be brought in for kids from all over.

We are bringing new resources to the communities.

Questions: None

### **Bridge House**

Amount requested: \$2000.

Judy Drake, Prevention Outreach: Judy stated that 200 days of service for two women from Woodstock were provided, \$150/day. They only count people who come into the shelter and do not count all others who helped. Woodstock's number is higher due to sheltering; no reimbursement comes from the State. One person is currently in the shelter pending getting on disability, medical, probably a year stay.

There is an extensive waitlist for subsidized housing, and they also deal with the court for many tenant/landlord issues and are considered an emergency shelter for the State of NH.

Questions: none

### **Bridge Project**

Amount requested: \$7500.

No representatives were in attendance.

### **CASA**

Amount requested: \$500.

Susan Spinney, Advocate: CASA NH is looking to train more advocates.

They help children who are removed from their homes from abuse and neglect, and the child is represented in court. No advocates are trained from Woodstock; we would like volunteers from Woodstock to train. There are children needing services from Woodstock, with most children from Plymouth Court.

Questions: none

### **Grafton County Senior Services**

Amount requested: \$6000.

Kathleen Vasconsuelas, Executive Director: There are ten senior centers in Grafton County, with one in Lincoln. Provides services to Seniors with home-delivered meals, transportation, and programs.

Last year, there were 184 older adults from Woodstock, 80 percent of the 60+ population. Also, 33 residents of Woodstock were assisted by their service link office. The total cost to provide those services was about 105,000. Increase of \$500 from last year because of increase in services offered.

Maria McIntyre, Manager of the Senior Center: Meals on Wheels, home congregate meals, special meals, and activities, a couple of businesses will be cooking for the seniors at the center. New employees are hired, and they use an extensive volunteer group.

#### **Mid-State**

Amount requested: \$1000.

No representatives were in attendance.

#### **North Country Center for The Arts**

Amount requested: \$3500.

Scott Rice, President: The Center is supported by communities and individual donors. Ticket sales only cover 50 percent of the cost of running the operations, more teaching, and working with the schools with more programs and community outreach. More money is requested for \$150 per week for actors who are there for the experience.

#### **North Country Home Health - Hospice**

Amount requested: \$2750.

Ren Anderson, Senior Manager: Based in Littleton, serving 51 communities, including Woodstock.

They are asking for the same amount as in the past. 1% of services are provided to Woodstock residents alone. Provides hospice care, home health care, and long-term care with/the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services. There is no charge for Palliative Care with 264 patients.

Medical and social workers have access to bereavement counseling, advanced directive care, and durable medical equipment such as beds and are working on accepting all insurances.

#### **Pemi-Baker**

Amount requested: \$2500.

Statistics were handed out for services given.

#### **Red Cross**

Amount requested: \$750.

No representatives were in attendance.

#### **Transport Central**

Amount requested: \$750.

Bill Olson, Executive Director: Bill explained that they provide rides to individuals 60+ and disabled. The program has provided over the last nine years, they have provided 29,000 rides. The organization is starting to build back up after COVID and drivers left. They try to match with locals to cut down on costs. There are 6 using the service from Woodstock, a total of 59 trips. They have done.

Research, and over 60/disabled for the 59 rides asking for next year, comes to about \$10 per ride.

Bill was asked if the drivers use their vehicles, to which he replied yes, that they must go through state inspections and background checks and that certification is needed.

**Voices Against Violence**

Amount requested: \$1650.

Tina Mulleavey, Executive Director: Provided services to 10 victims from Woodstock last year.

**Budget Meeting Business:**

**Approve November 29, 2023, Minutes**

*Motioned by Kara and seconded by Helen, the vote was affirmative.*

**Next Meeting** - Wednesday, December 13th

**Vote not to have a meeting on December 20, 2023**

*Motioned by Steve and seconded by Kara, the vote was affirmative.*

**Adjournment**

*Motioned by Kara and seconded by Stephen, the vote was affirmative.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cathy Riley, Budget Committee Secretary

*Roberta Vigneault* Date 12/13/23  
Roberta Vigneault, Chairperson

  
Charyl Reardon, Chairperson

January 9, 2024  
Date

Scott Rice  
*R. G. Rand*  
R. Gil Rand