

ALEXANDRIA BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, August 13, 2024

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Doug Benton, Don Paiva, Fred Platts, Mike Provost, Danielle Reed, Cindy Williams
Selectmen Rep: George Tuthill

Others: Nancy and Larry Sharp

The meeting was called to order by Chair Don Paiva at 6:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Mike to approve the minutes of June 9, so voted.

Don advised the group that Aubrey Engle, Director of Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health is scheduled to be present at 6:15.

Sept. 10 - Beth Vachon, LR Mental Health is scheduled for at 6:15 and Leslie Dion from TTCC is scheduled for 6:45. George and Danielle are unable to attend on Sept 10. Danielle asked if the meeting could be reported. Danielle will provide Don with her questions for the meeting.

It was agreed that we would begin meeting the 4th Tuesday of the month starting next month to allow enough time to meet with the organizations prior to the start of the budget process.

After some discussion, it was decided the organizations we would like to meet with are: Tri County Cap, LR Visiting Nursing Assoc. (NANA) and Voices Against Violence.

Aubrey Engle Director of Pemi Baker arrived at 6:15. Aubrey started with Pemi Baker in January of this year. Numbers are up in 2024. They provide mostly home care, hospice are smaller numbers.

Aubrey explained that they receive referrals from hospitals/ doctors for nursing, pt, ot, home health aids, iv wound care to be provided in the home. Hospice varies in home including around the clock care, the majority being daily visits for a few hours from 6 mos. Up to a year.

They bill medicare and medicare advantage, some commercial insurance and Medicaid. There are those who are self-pay and they take on those with no insurance where they work with a rate chart and work out payment plans. Wound care supplies and some medications eat up costs. Town funds help fund these areas. They provide "Ask a Nurse" service in Plymouth and other towns. They provide blood pressure check and answer questions that are free to the public. Their hospice program assists the entire family, not just the patient. They also provide volunteers to assist.

Aubrey explained that they work in conjunction with LRVNA. If they are unable to take on a patient, they will refer to Pemi Baker. Hospitals will put out a request for services and one of the groups will take on the patient if they are able. Town contribute what they are able for free services to the community to provide services to those with no insurance or under insured.

Pemi Baker does an annual appeal and a spring auction to raise funds. They are very dependent upon volunteers.

Aubrey explained that people are waiting longer before requesting services. It is unclear why. They work closely with the hospitals and doctors of Speare, Dartmouth and Midstate.

Danielle asked if they have a hospice house. They do not. Aubrey believes Concord Hospital is the only one that does.

Don asked about speech therapy. Aubrey advised they do provide services. The doctor's office must reach out.

Nancy Sharp advised she worked for the Concord VNA. Aubrey advised their staff is at 40 and they provide services to 32 towns to include Littleton and Bethlehem.

Danielle asked if they receive funds from counties – Aubrey responded only towns. Most of their towns are south of the Notch. They only have the Plymouth office and they have a satellite office in Lincoln.

There was discussion about the Grafton County Seniors in Plymouth – they provide meals on wheels that several people take advantage of. Danielle shared that they also check on people and Nancy shared that the home bound people receive personal contact. Ed shared that the meals have improved because one of the chefs from the Common Man assisted in how to improve the quality of the meals. The center also provides equipment that can be borrowed.

Reviewing the budget, Danielle questioned the amount spent for heating costs at the transfer station, also salt costs for the highway dept.

George was asked about the settlement with Eversource. George advised the estimate to be \$40,000 but nothing is final.

George reported on the status of the new transfer station. They received a new quote for the building today which is less than the prior one they received. They are waiting to hear from Hiltz for the sitework. There is not date set for construction – it is difficult to obtain quotes or commitments at this time.

George reported there are finance/budget workshops coming up that the town will pay to have budget committee members attend. There is one in Littleton on Sept 19th and another in Manchester on Sept 23rd.

Motion made by Danielle, 2nd by Doug to adjourn at 6:56, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Williams