

BRC Sub-committee on Welfare and Human Services
Minutes
October 6, 2016

Present: Fran Hall
Ton Zwaan

Absent Judy Rowan

Attending: Sheri Riffle, Department of Human Services

Hall passed out an agenda and welcomed Ms. Riffle. Ms. Riffle updated the sub-committee on the work of the department, covering the following:

- procedure individual resident applicants go through to be eligible for support
- procedure for agency applicants wishing to be awarded grants (Warrant Article)
- information on increased need for direct support, especially rent and food
- difference between welfare (support for indigent required by law) and charity (monies given to social service agencies).

A discussion ensued regarding the agencies supported through a warrant article. Members of the sub-committee zeroed in on trying to identify which agencies give aid to residents of Exeter. Ms. Riffle identified several agencies that work directly with the Department of Human Services of the town to supplement the support the town gives. An example is St. Vincent DePaul, which is able to help with car repairs, for example, something the town does not support. There are other agencies in the list, though doing good deeds, do not serve our residents directly.

Ms. Riffle agreed to contact other neighboring towns to learn how other towns handle their welfare and Human Services budgets. She also shared the fact that she has been responsible for seeing that Human Services payments are made. (quarterly payments of warrant article monies). She noted that many agencies do not even submit an invoice (as requested), but that town auditors insist that the money be sent out nonetheless.

The meeting ended with a discussion of whether it would be possible to put the Human Services support in the budget as a line item, rather than continuing to present it on the ballot as a warrant article. Given that the salary for a Welfare Director is no longer paid, the town might consider this option. Sub-committee members agreed to "float" the idea with members of the larger Budget Recommendations Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francine S. Hall