

BRC Sub-committee on Welfare and Human Services
Minutes
October 11, 2016

Present: Fran Hall
Judy Rowan

Absent: Ton Zwaan

Attending: Sheri Riffle
Department of Human Services

Hall met with Rowan and gave her an overview of the meeting on October 6. Rowan was especially interested in the Welfare needs in town. Ms. Riffle joined the two at their request and the group delved deeper into the specifics of how the town supports the needy. Again, Ms. Riffle explained how she works with outside agencies directly, especially the ones on our warrant article that serve town residents directly, but sometimes in ways we cannot.

Material discussed at the October 6 meeting was covered again in more detail.

Ms. Riffle was asked if she could administer a Human Service budget if the town were to move to create a line item vs. having a warrant article. She said she could. Then she was asked if she could work with a citizens committee to help oversee the allocation of those funds. Again, she said she could.

At the end of the meeting, Hall and Rowan agreed that Welfare was a big priority. The budget has remained pretty stable for years while the cost of direct relief, especially rent and food, has gone up. It was also clear that not all of the agencies on the warrant article serve Exeter residents directly.

A meeting when all members of the sub-committee are present will be scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francine S. Hall