

Minutes of the Town of East Montpelier Funding Request Study Committee meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Held at the Town Office, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

In attendance: Committee members – Lindy Johnson, Sandal Cate, Jeana Malachowski, Sue Racanelli, Paul Erlbaum and Ann Stanton. Also: Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator and 2 guests – Kevin Mazuzon, Executive Director of the American Red Cross in Vermont and Debbie Goodwin, Director of Central VT Habitat for Humanity

- 1) Lindy Johnson agreed to serve as the Committee Chair. Sandal Cate volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.
- 2) We heard a fairly detailed presentation by Kevin Mazuzon about the work of the Red Cross in central Vermont. The ARC had increased its request for funding from \$250 to \$1,000. Our decision about the request will be listed later in these minutes.
- 3) Debbie Goodwin from the Central VT Habitat for Humanity also presented an overview of their work, with particular focus on the home built in East Montpelier and soon to be occupied. This is the first year they have submitted a request for funding from our town. Our decision about the request will be listed later in these minutes.
- 4) After the guests left, we discussed all the requests that had been submitted. These notes will only reflect decisions to change a given request and possible rationale for those decisions.
 - a) American Red Cross – maintain at previous level (\$250) as they have many funding sources and their percentage of overhead is quite high.
 - b) We voted to fund CV Habitat for Humanity at their requested level of \$250.
 - c) We discussed two groups who were late with their requests but they had extenuating circumstances so we have level funded the CV Memorial Civic Center and Prevent Child Abuse VT requests.
 - d) We decreased the request from the VT Center for Independent Living from \$500 to \$250 as we did not see obvious growth in their services to townspeople and we do not know how they do their “Meals on Wheels” in the area. The information provided did not indicate a need representing an over 100% increase (from \$245 for FY2018) so the committee determined that essentially level funding was appropriate.
 - e) We had a first time request from the VT Family Network for \$500, but they did not attend the meeting to introduce themselves and their work. As they seem to have a large operating budget, are based in Williston, have many paid staff and their only allocation from area towns seemed to be listed at \$1000, we decreased their request to \$100.

- 5) Jeana Malachowski noted that the T. W. Wood Art Gallery had some inaccuracies in their budget numbers. We thought someone should alert them of this matter. We did not change their requested amount, however.
- 6) The committee would like to institute a change for the FY2020 process – new organizations and those requesting increases will be mandated to make a presentation to the committee at its annual meeting. The presentations should be brief, preferably less than 10 minutes.
- 7) Ann Stanton volunteered to work with Bruce Johnson to provide suggestions to groups for better application work. Overall we had a large percentage of applications arrive on time and most with level funding requests. Our total allocation remains under the \$25,000 limit set by the Selectboard. A spreadsheet shows the history of the allocations over the past 5 years and may be referred to for further details.

Respectfully submitted, Sandal Cate for the East Montpelier Funding Request Study Committee.