

Finance/Administration Committee

April 17, 2018

Kugler Community Hall, 299 S 23rd Street, Philomath

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Low at 6:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Committee: David Low, Candy Koetz, and Charla Koeppe

Staff: Finance Director Joan Swanson and City Recorder Ruth Post

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Low noted a correction under approval of the prior minutes that should read August 16, 2017, not 2018.

MOTION: Councilor Koeppe moved/Councilor Koetz second to approve minutes as amended: Motion approved 3-0.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

3.1 Social Service Funding Requests – Ms. Swanson provided a brief explanation of the source of the funds available to be allocated to local social service agencies. She explained that the City Council has a long standing policy to allocate a percentage of state revenue sharing funds to provide assistance to local non-profits. The current policy calls for 35% of state revenue sharing from liquor taxes to be allocated this way. She stated that the amount of state revenue sharing is up this year, resulting in \$19,400 being available for allocation to the social service agencies. She explained that the Finance/Administration Committee hears the presentations and makes a recommendation to the City Council. She also summarized the second funding allocation from the Water and Sewer Funds. She explained that the two agencies that have received funding in the past, FISH Emergency Services and We Care, both provide financial assistance to Philomath water customers who face shutoff of services for non-payment. She stated that this arrangement allows the City to remain neutral and the two agencies do the vetting work to determine who should receive assistance.

Strengthening Rural Families – Paul Smith, Director – Mr. Smith explained the value of monies received as local source for matching grants. He stated that many granting sources look for local monetary support as a sign of community commitment and any funds received from the City show that support. He described the four areas of emphasis they are focused on right now: early childhood education, workshops for Kings Valley Charter School, parenting education classes, and youth involvement programs. He also described the rural health services they are working with. He described their partnership with Benton County Health Department and Medical Teams International. He stated another \$1,000 contribution would be appreciated and understood that all of the programs making presentations to the Committee are valuable to the community and worthy of funding. Mr. Smith extended an invitation to the May 8 local health and safety fair that will be held in the community.

Philomath Youth Activities Club, Sarah Woosley – Ms. Woosley stated appreciation for funds received in the past and concurred with Mr. Smith that the local support does help leverage other grant applications. She summarized the sports programs provided by PYAC from kindergarten up to 8th grade, afterschool programs available at the clubhouse and the state certified childcare available during the summer. She added they also provide Safety Town and partner with Strengthening Rural Families on several youth programs. She described their scholarship program meant to ensure that no child is turned away from participating. Last year 120 children received scholarships. There was brief discussion about the scholarships and the debts that PYAC writes off from uncollectible participation fees.

For the record, Councilor Low made declaration that the director of PYAC is his son-in-law. Ms. Woosley stated they are requesting the same assistance as last year: \$6,500. She also stated appreciation for all of the programs making presentations.

ABC House, Jennifer Gilmore-Robinson, Executive Director – Ms. Gilmore-Robinson explained they are the child abuse prevention service for Linn and Benton Counties. She described the escalating levels of child abuse cases, noting 1,400 reports of child abuse in Benton County with 966 confirmed cases last year. She stated the Benton County rate has now exceeded Linn County rate. She explained they address this by ensuring that child victims receive all the possible services. She stated they are

specifically requesting funding to support the child abuse assessment program. She described the assessment process and stated that over 90% of families report that the assessment program facilitated healing. She described the around-the-clock services provided to law enforcement and state family services. She reported that 16 children from Philomath received child abuse assessment, consultation and support services last year. She described the education and training provided last year to over 300 youth and adults in Philomath.

Ms. Gilmore-Robinson provided more explanation of how the process of their services is initiated. Councilor Low questioned if they see any trends in where child abuse is coming from. Ms. Gilmore-Robinson described factors like substance abuse and housing instability as impacting neglect cases. She described the need for resources to be in place to support families.

We Care, Bob Loewen, President – Mr. Loewen described the types of assistance We Care provides, particularly with utility bills to local residents. He explained they currently allocate \$1,400 in need per week for essentials like water bills, rent, rental deposits and car repairs. He described the new endowment fund established through Philomath Community Foundation that will provide them with a more stable funding stream. He described changes in their intake process this year. Ms. Swanson explained the process that results in water service being shut off after two months of non-payment and the way the Utility Billing Department recommends people contact We Care or FISH Emergency Services for assistance. There was discussion about the sustainability of paying bills. Mr. Loewen described the sources of funding for We Care from the local faith community, fundraising, grants and local giving. He noted that requests for assistance were down last year and possibly the increased availability of jobs is the result of that, but they still allocated the same amount of funds.

Councilor Low noted that Philomath Community Services (PCS) wasn't in attendance, although he'd thought that the treasurer was going to be here. For the record, he declared that he is the City Council liaison to PCS. Ms. Post asked if he could make an unbiased decision related to his associations with PCS and PYAC. He stated he could. Ms. Post noted that these are indirect conflicts with no actual gain and he could participate in the decision-making process.

There was brief discussion about nobody being in attendance from either the Senior Meals Program or FISH Emergency Services. Ms. Swanson stated appreciation for the agencies that do send representation every year to appear before the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

4.1 Social Service Funding Allocations – There was discussion about allocations from the Water and Sewer Funds and the representation made every year by We Care.

MOTION: Councilor Koeppel moved, Councilor Koetz second the Committee recommend to the City Council the following donations: FISH Emergency Services \$3,000, and We Care \$5,000, for a total of \$8,000 from the Water and Sewer Funds. Motion approved 3-0.

There was discussion about the social service agency allocations and the important functions they all serve in the community. There was discussion about allocation of the the additional resources available this year. There was discussion about the benefits of getting kids off to a good start through PYAC and the ripple effect of child abuse that ABC House impacts.

MOTION: Councilor Koeppel moved, Councilor Koetz second, the Committee recommend to the City Council the following donations: Philomath Youth Activities Club \$7,600; Philomath Community Services \$5,600; ABC House \$3,500; Senior Meals \$1,500; and Strengthening Rural Families \$1,200 for a total of \$19,400 in social service donations. Motion approved 3-0.

There being no further business, Chair Low adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Ruth Post, MMC, City Recorder.