

TOWN OF CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Social Services Appropriation Policy Workshop
September 25, 2023
Minutes

Attendees:

Selectboard

Mike Klopchin, Chair
George Ambrose, Clerk
Robert Congdon
Cash Ruane

Heidi Congdon, Treasurer
Katie Nop, Secretary
William Chmielewski
Public that later joined:
Theresa Molaski
Carol and Jim Austin
Bob Bixby
Jan McCoy
Bob Underhill

Call to Order

Chairman Klopchin called the workshop to order at 5:18PM.

Agenda additions/deletions

N/A

Social Services Appropriation Policy discussion

Katie explained that at the Town Informational Meeting last March there was discussion about having a Social Services Appropriation Policy. There was also some Selectboard support for creating one. Katie presented 2 policy options for the Board to review. Option 1 would be a policy that would require organizations that have not requested money before, or organizations asking for a larger amount of money than previously approved to submit a petition (this is VLCT's template). Option 2 is that every year, every organization must submit a petition.

Selectman Congdon felt that to keep it simple and fair it would be better that every organization submit a petition every year (option 2).

There was discussion amongst the Board about having a paragraph on "Exceptions"-specifically for emergency services. If there was an exception for emergency services, they would not have to submit a petition.

Heidi as the Treasurer, who works on the budget and includes it in her budget paperwork, would like petitions submitted to her by December 31. The policy references 17 V.S.A. § 2642 and 24 V.S.A. 2691. Selectman Congdon reviewed the statutes as they relate to the warning and petition process. After reading them, it led to more questions about whether the Board had the authority to alter the policy to their requirements or if it must follow state statutes.

Approved October 9, 2023

Before anything could be decided the Board would like clarification from the Secretary of State's Office on the following questions:

- If the town requires petitions regarding Social Services Appropriations-what title does it fall under?
- If they'd like to exempt public safety (not require them to get petitions)-is that legal?
- Can there be a December 31st deadline for petitions instead of the 47-day window as described in the 17 V.S.A. § 2642?
- What grounds does the selectboard have for denying petitions? Or could they provide language that gives the Board authority to deny petitions at the local level?

Bob Underhill suggested asking if there could be certain thresholds. If an organization requests only \$100, would they have to submit a petition.

Katie will ask the Secretary of State's office for clarification and get back to the Board.

Public Comments

N/A

Adjournment

Selectman Congdon motioned to adjourn at 5:56PM and Selectman Ambrose seconded, all approved.

SIGNED:  Mike Klopchin, Chair

SIGNED:  George Ambrose, Clerk