

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
March 5, 2014
Meeting Room A**

<u>Present:</u>	Norman Needleman	Members of the Press
	Stacia Libby	Audience Members
	Bruce Glowac	James Francis
	Kelly Sterner	

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:51 pm

The Citizen's Guide is available online which explains the Town of Essex budget process.

Public Comment: None

BUDGET REVIEWS:

Social Services – B45

Mary Ellen Barnes presented. Some of the services offered through the Social Services Department are: A SNAP Outreach representative now comes to Essex to take applications for food assistance. There is Operation Fuel Assistance. There is a Payless Shoe Program through the Salvation Army where children get a gift card for shoes. There were approximately 25 families that took advantage of this program last year at no cost to the Town. Old Saybrook Rotary Club does the Warm the Children Fund, 59 children received jackets through this program. There is also the Annual Holiday Gift Drive for children. Mary Ellen coordinates with the social worker at the Elementary School and the school nurse. The qualifier for many of the programs is primarily those that participate in the school lunch program.

In November the Town appointed a Veteran's Service Contact person, Mr. Doug Haynes.

Tri Town Youth Services – B45

Gail Onofrio presented. Tri-Town Youth focuses on the whole community or large groups. They do universal prevention. They focus on all the youths and families in the community.

Estuary Transit District – B40

Joseph Comerford presented. Estuary Transit (9 Town Transit) do about 29,000 hours of driving and their operating budget is 1.5 million. Mr. Comerford reported that Essex residents booked over 3,750 trips. There are 2 (two) routes that run through Essex. The route to Middletown has been growing, the bus helps transport residents to work and students to school. All vehicles can accommodate wheelchairs.

Estuary Council of Senior Citizens – B45

Paul Doyle presented. Their biggest program is congregate meals, and the program that is the largest is with the meals on wheels program. Mr. Doyle stated that the meals on wheels program is also a nice way to check in on seniors daily.

Shoreline Soup Kitchen - B45

Claire Bellerjeau presented. The history of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen was 25 years ago the first meal was served in Essex, a meal was made and they wanted to see who would come. There are 11 towns in the service area. They are serving 3 hot meals a week. Essex residents are also able to use the food pantry. The Town of Essex had 318 participants last year which is a 33 % increase over previous year. They thanked the town for their support.

Public Comment

James Francis reported that the budget process has gone very well

Bruce Glowac thanked Kelly Sterner for her hard work on putting together the budget

Ms. Sterner reported that the Town was still waiting for the final Health Benefits and CIRMA insurance numbers.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to recommend to the Board of Finance a Board of Selectmen's Budget for 2014 – 2015 in the amount of \$7,189,062 at an increase of 3.18% contingent on obtaining the final insurance numbers. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Lucarelli