

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY APPROPRIATION POLICY

PURPOSE: Under Vermont law, a town may appropriate such sums of money as it deems necessary for the support of social service programs and agencies that provide services to town residents (24 V.S.A. §2691). The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for managing social service agency appropriations that may be voted upon at the Town of Rockingham's annual meeting.

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to appropriation requests from social services agencies and programs subject to the provisions of Chapter 73, Title 24 of Vermont Statutes Annotated.

This policy does not apply to municipal membership organizations such as the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Windham Regional Planning Commission, or the Solid Waste Management District.

PROCEDURE: Those social service agencies that have not had an appropriation request approved at the most recent annual town meeting, or that are requesting a larger appropriation than that approved at the most recent annual town meeting, must submit a petition for an article requesting an appropriation in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2642(a). Such petition must be signed by at least five percent of the voters of the town and filed with the town clerk not less than 40 days before the day of the annual meeting. A sample petition is enclosed.

No proposed article may contain any opinion or comment. The Rockingham Selectboard reserves the right to reject, amend, or edit any petitioned article that does not meet the requirements of 17 V.S.A. § 2642(a) and 24 V.S.A. § 2691. Petitions submitted after the deadline will not be honored.

Those social service agencies that have had an appropriation request approved at the most recent annual town meeting are not required to submit a petition if the amount requested is the same or less than the amount approved by the voters in the previous year. In such case, the agency should make its request by letter to the Selectboard no later than December 15. The letter should identify the name of the agency, the amount requested for appropriation, and a person to contact for more information. Agencies that do not meet the December 15 deadline must reapply in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2642 (a) as defined above.

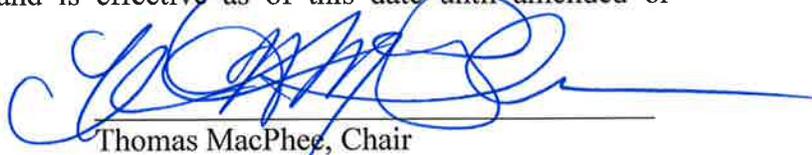
Beginning with the March 2011 Town Meeting (budget for fiscal year 2012), the Selectboard will, every five (5) years, place separate articles on the Town Meeting Warning for a financial appropriation for each of the social service agencies that received an appropriation the previous year to allow the voters to vote on each agency individually. The amount of the appropriation indicated in the warning article will be the same as that amount approved at the previous Town Meeting.

Social service agencies requesting appropriations under this policy are required to submit a description of the agency's programs for inclusion in the town report. Descriptions must be limited to half a page and should describe the program or services provided to Town of Rockingham residents. Agency representatives are encouraged to attend the annual Town meeting each year to explain the appropriation request to the voters and answer their questions.

Approved social service appropriations will be paid by the town on the following schedule:

- The agency must request in writing to the Town of Rockingham, Finance Director, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, no earlier than July 1 and no later than June 30.
- Payment is subject to the availability of funds.

The foregoing policy is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Rockingham, Vermont, this 5th day of October, 2010, and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.



Thomas MacPhee, Chair



Ann DiBernardo, Vice-Chair



Fred Bullock



Peter Golec



Matthew Trieber