



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 24-15
COUNCIL MTG. OF: February 20, 2024
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: Update General Assistance Guidelines

INTRODUCTION:

To update the Town's General Assistance Guidelines.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Please see comments within this staff report.

BACKGROUND

The Town has long adopted guidelines to assist the Town with processing requests for General Assistance. The Town previously relied upon two documents from the New Hampshire Municipal Association to guide its process, The Art of Welfare Administration (2016) and the New Hampshire Model Welfare Guidelines for Welfare Administrators (2012). The recommended changes in Resolution #2024-009 reflect updates to NHMA's Model Local Welfare Guidance (2021) and are recommended for adoption by our General Assistance Administrators, Community Health Services of Derry.

DISCUSSION

Periodically, changes in law and nomenclature require that the guidelines be updated. In addition, the guidelines should reflect current economic conditions thus, the allowances for items such as rental housing have been adjusted.

FISCAL IMPACT

It is anticipated that these changes will have some fiscal impact on the Town, although the precise amount is indeterminable, as it is reliant upon the caseload as managed by Community Health Services. The Town continues to have adequate capacity within its Human Services budget to absorb any cost increases.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL & MOTION

Staff recommends that the Town Council approve Resolution #2024-009 to continue fair and equitable administration of the Town's General Assistance Program.

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RESOLUTION

Number 2024-009

To Amend the Town's General Assistance Guidelines

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 of the Town Charter designates the Town Council as the governing and legislative body of the Town, and

WHEREAS, RSA 165 requires the Town to relieve and maintain any person in town who is unable to support himself; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council previously adopted General Assistance Guidelines to provide direction and guidance during the administration of general assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Guidelines require updating to reflect changes in cost of living expenses and other procedures as guided by state law or court rulings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL that the Council hereby adopts the Town of Derry General Assistance Guidelines dated February 21, 2024.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted: February 20, 2024

Attest:

X _____

Charles Foote, Council Chair

Date: _____

X _____

Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: _____