

## MEETING OF MAY 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner Earl Temchin.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Marjorie Chase, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Guss Nevelos, Michael Rossi and Earl Temchin.

Absent/excused: Marlene Carbone, Susan Locks

Commissioner Ben Cammuso led the **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag.

Commissioner Earl Temchin publicly expressed sincere condolences to Commissioner Michael Rossi upon the passing of his wife, Marie. Mr. Rossi's conduct and attitude during the course of Mrs. Rossi's illness, consistently marked with courage and optimism, serve as a testament to his character and integrity. Mr. Temchin assured Mr. Rossi that the entire board stands with him, both as friends and as fellow commissioners. Mr. Rossi responded expressing his appreciation for the concern and support, noting cards received, meals and food provided, and especially those able to attend the wake and service

**The minutes of the April 13, 2010 meeting** were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

At the request of Chairman Temchin, in the absence of Commissioner/Treasurer Susan Locks, **the Treasurer's Report** was given by Secretary Cynthia Gilbert reporting that of the FY 2009/2010 \$509,025. revised budget, (which includes \$44,016 in Transfers/Adjustments), \$393,515.34 (79.3%) has been expended; \$10,168.33 remains encumbered, leaving \$105,341.33. At the recent Town Council meeting, no additional cuts were made to our 2010/2011 Budget. A requisition, circulated for signature, will be submitted to the Finance Department for the cleaning of the ducts as previously discussed. A motion was made by Lynn Maschi to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

In the absence of Executive Director Robert Verderame, Secretary Cynthia Gilbert presented the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for April 2010**, noting that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 1018 one-way rides, including 529 medical runs. Requests for information and applications for the Medicare Savings Program continued.

The AARP TCE Income Tax Assistance Program – (Tax Year 2009) completed another tax year very successfully, with many thanks to each of our volunteers. The Senior Secretary/TCE Local Coordinator attended a statewide "wrap-up" meeting. Reports indicated that our site did extremely well, with the third least amount of rejected e-files. All of our rejected returns were resolved quickly, resubmitted and accepted. District, state and regional coordinators, as well as IRS representatives expressed appreciation for the efforts and results produced.

## **Senior Citizen Commission Meeting**

**April 13, 2010**

**Page two**

**Under Bus Maintenance:** All buses are running well; Routine maintenance and specific issues addressed in a timely fashion. Commissioner Maschi questioned the low mileage on the 2006 bus and high mileage on the 2002 bus during the month. The wheelchair lift on the 2006 was inoperable and replacement parts ordered took over two weeks to arrive. Repairs were done, and the lift is now fully functional. Concern was expressed regarding the feasibility of maintaining four buses in the tight economy. To this point, maintenance on the 2000 has been relatively minimal. While it is the oldest vehicle, it is also the smallest, making it useful in tight access areas, and it handles extremely well in bad weather.

**Under Building Maintenance:** Routine maintenance was done. Kitchen stove, hood and filters were cleaned; garden area was tilled; Santoro's Plumbing serviced the pavilion; no trespassing signs were installed; and HVAC units were serviced. The Orchard Valley Garden Club of Southington replaced a broken tree on the perimeter of the parking lot.

**The Program Coordinator's Report** highlighted several activities including a delightful presentation of William Shakespeare's most famous monologues, which was enthusiastically enjoyed by over 61 attendees following the membership meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, a May Day intergenerational event combined the talents of Southington High School VoAg students and faculty, Plantsville elementary students, Southington Housing Authority staff, Calendar House staff and volunteers. Floral bouquets and handmade cards were delivered to homebound senior citizens. The feedback from participants and recipients was extremely positive.

A motion to accept the Director's Report as presented was made by Michael Rossi; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor.

**Under Correspondence:** At the May 5th Department Heads Meeting, Executive Director Robert Verderame commented on a Record Journal article regarding a wellness program being considered by the town, asking for more information. Finance Director Emilia Portelinha responded the Self Insurance Committee is expecting formal proposals to consider. Town Manager John Weichsel stated that it is believed that participation in some kind of wellness program benefits employees and can help reduce health costs. The town's cost for employee health insurance six years ago was \$12 million; now it is approximately \$21 million – staggering.

**Under Old Business:** The parking lot "No Trespassing" signs have been installed.

**Under Transportation Committee:** Earl Temchin commended the transportation committee for their excellent work. Discussion as to the distribution of the survey confirmed that it will be mailed to individuals who have utilized the service within the past twelve months. A data base is being created drawing information from several sources, and should be completed later in the week. Labels will be produced and the previously approved survey will be reproduced and sent in a bulk mailing. A self addressed envelope will be included. Additional copies will be placed in the Senior Center, as noted in the May newsletter. Question was raised as to having copies available on the buses, and the consensus was not to do so. Commissioner Lynn Maschi given the task of procuring a "lock box" for surveys discovered a "treasure". Wooden ballot boxes, no longer used by the Registrar of Voters office, were being stored off-site. Mrs. Maschi was given a hand crafted box, at no charge, that far surpasses anything available in the stores. The box will prove useful in the future for additional purposes. It is anticipated that the surveys will be mailed within the next two weeks. Mr. Temchin noted that no further action is required regarding the dissemination of the survey.

**Senior Citizen Commission Meeting**

**April 13, 2010**

**Page three**

**Under New Business:** With no available information regarding the projector and screen item, it was tabled until the next meeting. Regarding the hand railing, Commissioner Ben Cammuso informed the Commission that Ron Ingriselli would be installing one in the basement stairway off the kitchen area.

Secretary Cynthia Gilbert read a letter of congratulations that was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Wally Bailey on the recent Celebrate Southington award for Volunteerism and Community Service. The Baileys have given much time and effort to various organizations in our community, including the Calendar House. Mrs. Gilbert also read a note of appreciation received from Ruth Riccio, thanking the Commission and Calendar House staff for their expressions of sympathy at the loss of her husband, Ralph.

It was noted that the UNICO Gold Medal Dinner will be held next Wednesday, May 19, at which Commissioner Ben Cammuso will receive the organization's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold Medal of Honor award. Congratulations Benny!

Sandra Micalizzi inquired as to the disposal of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications which is becoming a concern, compromising the ground water supply. Several commissioners responded with information regarding the Town of Southington Water Department having recently provided a collection opportunity for citizens of Southington and neighboring communities. Significant participation resulted. It was advertised in our monthly newsletter and posted on bulletin boards.

**Public Communication:** None at this time.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Guss Nevelos. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 8th, 2010** at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert  
Senior Center Secretary