

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Earl Temchin.

Members present: Earl Temchin, Ben Cammuso, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Guss Nevelos, Connie Proll, Ruth Riccio and Michael Rossi.

The minutes of the October 10th meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Guss Nevelos, all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Connie Proll. She reported that of the \$437,058. current budget, \$142,058.74 (32.5%) has been expended, leaving \$294,999.26 remaining. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

With Executive Director Robert Verderame delayed due to his attendance at the Board of Finance Meeting, the Director's Report was deferred until his expected arrival. Connie Proll inquired as to the purpose of his being at the Finance Board meeting; Earl Temchin responded that it was in regards to the parking lot project.

Under Correspondence: Bread for Life has requested the use of the building on 12/21/07 for a dinner. Connie made a motion to approve this rental; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor; permission granted. The letter from AJ Waste reassuring of their continued service requires no action. The letter from Diana Briggs of RSVP is informational only. Question was raised if our seniors use this service. In fact, we do refer people on occasion – this service is individualized with volunteers using their own vehicles. It is coordinated and dispatched through RSVP. The memo from the Health Department regarding their Pandemic Exercise requires no action. The DOT Pre-Trip Checklist is currently being utilized; we are in compliance with their requirements.

Old Business: At Mr. Weichsel's request an update on the Matching Grant was sent to him; having obtained the grant approval in the amount of \$50,035. First quarter statistics were submitted as required; receipt of first quarterly funds are anticipated shortly. Also, regarding transportation, the staff has been successfully working to improve scheduling procedures, addressing dispatch, advance notice and safety issues, in order to accommodate the increased demand.

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Michael Rossi noted that an outstanding job has been done on publicity, specifically newspaper articles informing the public about the parking lot and building closure. Cynthia Gilbert stated that it must be noted that the staff has had considerable assistance from Dick Fortunato in getting press releases to the papers. Benny Cammuso mentioned the Knights of Columbus concern regarding their scheduled breakfast, stating that it had been worked out. Executive Director Robert Verderame had serious concerns regarding safety in crossing the street, since the DePaolo parking lot must be used. Benny questioned whether a penalty should be imposed on the contractor if work is not done by specific time. Earl Temchin remarked that this was the first time the Commission did not handle the contract or bid award. Most major municipalities have contracts in place for this type of project. Ruth Riccio encouraged all the commissioners to attend and support the Knights of Columbus breakfast.

With regards to the Clerk Typist I position, Earl Temchin stated that again, unlike previous situations, this opening has been handled differently. Over 500 applications were submitted; testing was arranged by the Town Manager's office. This commission will have an opportunity to interview a select number of applicants, possibly at a special meeting. Question was raised as to the public notice required to schedule a special meeting. It was thought that two weeks notice is required, but Earl will verify that.

Lynn Maschi asked what the procedure is should a commissioner have a schedule conflict prohibiting them from attending a specific meeting. Earl replied that a quorum of five is needed to legally conduct business. If a commissioner misses too many meetings, for example three in a row, under guidelines enacted by the town, they might be subject to possible removal.

Discussion on the Della Vecchia/D'Angelo plaques focused on the funding. The price difference of a few dollars between two plaques vs. one plaque is inconsequential. However, there currently is not enough in the Commission line item to cover the cost. Lynn asked if donations could be accepted. Earl inquired where the donations would come from, and remarked that requesting donations might necessitate removing the project from the commission to another sponsor. Several options were presented, and discussed.

Upon his arrival, Executive Director Bob Verderame reported that the finance board approved putting the monies up front for the construction project. The town will be reimbursed by the State once the funds come through. After the debacle on I-84, the wheels run slower than slow. All projects are submitted to the Attorney General for review, and it can take up to eight weeks.

Returning to the discussion on the plaques, the Commission decided on two plaques vs. one and approved the wording submitted by the secretary. A motion was made by Connie Proll; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all in favor. Once the dates are confirmed by the Town Clerk's office, the order will be placed. It is anticipated it will take five weeks from the date of order.

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In giving the October Director's Report, Robert Verderame again highlighted the number of rides provided by Dial-a-Ride. At 1032 rides, including 212 in-town medicals and 176 out-of-town medicals, this is an all time high record! From July on, even in inclement weather the requests have been increasing. On a recent day we transported 50 – 60 medicals in addition shopping trips and an alternate meal program, in lieu of our nutrition program. As noted, Social Services have kept pace, particularly with 45 Energy Assistance Applications taken. We have scheduled the Medicare Rx Express Bus as a supplement to the individual counseling we provide. Medicare Part D open enrollment period extends from November 15 through December 31. The Municipal Agents Training Session, that Bob attended, included updates and information on various programs. Both Sharyn Murphy and Bob will attend an all day Choices Counselor Training session on Thursday, November 8th.

Under Bus Maintenance, the 2000 Bus is totally ours now. Grant applications usually come out in January, and we will be asking for a replacement for the 2000 Bus, possibly in the fall of 2008.

Under Building Maintenance, piping for the new furnace was installed and it is now in working order. The deadbolt on the office door broke and was replaced. Santora Plumbing closed up the pavilion for the season and repaired a broken fixture in the men's room. A small leak in the roof on the north side was patched by Len and Figi. Jerry Alderi replaced three emergency lights that were not working.

On October 26, newly appointed Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. visited the Calendar House, to introduce himself. We discussed intergenerational programs currently in place. He expressed a desire to attend a future Commission Meeting, possibly in January.

Bob briefly reviewed the Program Coordinator's Report highlighting the CL&P Breakfast and Social Service Forum held in Cromwell attended by Sharyn Murphy and five Calendar House volunteers who assist with the Energy Assistance Program. A successful Italian Night on October 23 included entertainment by Nick Tiscione, catered by Teresa's and was enjoyed by 146 participants. The October Membership Meeting offered an opportunity to "meet 'n greet" local candidates and was attended by 40 people. Forty-six people enjoyed a Halloween Party with entertainment by Jerry Limmer.

Bob invited all the commissioners to attend our annual Christmas Party at the Aqua Turf on Thursday, December 6 at 12 noon. Tickets are \$22. A motion to accept the Director's Report was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Michael Rossi; all in favor.

Continuing under Old Business: a Budget Workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the scheduled Commission Meeting. As requested, the secretary provided the figures for additional staff, specifically the full time bus driver and part time clerk typist wages per union contract.

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Under New Business: The building rental contract has been revised. If the commission approves, it will be effective January 1st. Earl suggested a disclaimer in the 2nd paragraph adding the phrase “reserves the right”. Lynn Maschi asked how often the building is rented. Bob replied approximately ten times a year. Earl stated that every request comes before the commission. Lynn asked if damage was an issue. Bob replied that with the exception of a small problem with confetti and balloons it has not been an issue. A motion to approve the revised contract with the addition of the phrase “reserves the right” was made by Sandra Micalizzi; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

A listing of Town Holidays was issued by the Town Manager. Dates for 2008 Commission Meetings were presented for approval. These dates must be submitted to the Town Clerk by the first week of December. A motion was made by Connie Proll to accept the dates as presented; seconded by Ruth Riccio; all were in favor.

Sandra inquired if the Calendar House buses transport to the library. Bob assured her that upon request, absolutely. Connie commented that escalating gas prices will wreak havoc with the budget. Bob remarked that we have a set price locked in. A new contract will be negotiated in January for 2008/09 fiscal budget, and then we’ll see what we’ll be up against.

Under Public Communication: Membership Association Interim President Cliff Snow thanked Bob and the Calendar House staff for all their efforts in rescheduling/relocating events and activities during this time. He expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for recognizing the staff for their efforts. He thanked the Commissioners who attended the October Membership Meeting, especially Lynn and Ben. He wished the Commissioners and their families a Happy Thanksgiving. Ben thanked Cliff for coming back on board as Association President.

The next Commission Meeting will be on **Tuesday**, December 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
It will be preceded by a Budget Committee Workshop at 5:30 p.m.

Michael Rossi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandra Micalizzi; all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary