

MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Sandra Micalizzi.
The meeting was preceded by a Budget Committee Meeting.

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

Members absent: Susan Locks and Earl Temchin.

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

The minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Executive Director Robert Verderame. Of the FY 2009/2010 \$508,075. revised budget, (which included \$43,066 in Transfers/Adjustments), \$221,590.15 (50.0%) has been expended; \$32,329.94 remains encumbered, leaving \$254,154.91 available. Senior Center Secretary Cynthia Gilbert briefly explained the additional journal detail that reflects the Matching Grant Funds. Lynn Maschi asked if the 50% expended was in line, and Robert noted that part of the expended amount includes encumbered funds which have been set aside for Trash Removal, Lawn Maintenance and Snow Removal. A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for November 2009**. Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 774 one-way rides, with 350 medical runs. Requests for assistance and applications for the various Social Services continue to increase. Of particular challenge is the concurrent December 31st deadline for both ConnPACE re-determination and Medicare Part D open enrollment. We have been inundated with questions, requests for assistance, appointments and walk-in's. Because the State determined the premiums were higher than they wanted to pay, ConnPACE participants must switch to a "benchmark" plan, in order to have the premium paid. Determination must be made as to which plans will cover specific prescriptions for each individual. Additionally, seniors may be eligible for QMB or LIS programs. We have developed a procedure requesting that a simple information form be completed, that is run through a software program, with a follow up appointment scheduled. Special recognition and appreciation to Program Coordinator Sharyn Murphy, Volunteer Len Pedone, Volunteer Maryann Fillon and Clerk Typist Dawn Sargis for the outstanding work they are doing. Senior Center Secretary Cynthia Gilbert updated the Commissioners regarding preparation for the upcoming AARP-TCE Income Tax Assistance Program, which is proceeding as planned.

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Under Bus Maintenance: The 2002 Bus was serviced. Engine oil was added to the 2006 bus, which has been out of service for a couple of days due to an ongoing problem with the lift. Although Vinny Morelli has done minor repairs on the lift, a key part can no longer be fixed and must be replaced. It has been ordered. Michael Rossi questioned the mileage on the buses. Mr. Verderame responded that the 2009 and 2006 buses are the biggest, able to accommodate two wheelchairs and used regularly. However, overall all four buses are being used based on specific needs on any given day.

Under Building Maintenance: Saucier Mechanical serviced all the HVAC units. Emergency Exit light bulbs were replaced. Electrician Jerry Aldieri with the assistance of Evergreen Nursery's Eric Kurr and equipment, attempted to replace a bulb in one of the parking lot fixtures, but discovered a defective ballast, which has been ordered

The Program Coordinator's Report included a variety of events including: a bagel breakfast featuring trip presentations on upcoming trips; H1N1 flu shot clinics; Energy Assistance applications taken at Calendar House and at Southington Housing sites; CHOICES counseling sessions; the HealthNet Senior Star Search Karaoke Regional Contest held at the Bristol Senior Center; and the monthly membership meeting at which Mark White presented information on accessing the Calendar House newsletter online.

Of interest was the fact that two of our members, Jack David and Jane Caddick, did very well at the Star Search competition and will be featured on You Tube December 3rd through December 15th. Viewers have the opportunity to vote for their favorite performers, with the winners going on to the finals.

A motion to accept the Director's Report as presented was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Under Correspondence: Mr. Verderame highlighted issues from the minutes of Department Heads Meetings held on November 4, 2009 and December 2, 2009. He noted the town's auto policies with guidelines that would have the potential effect of town employees losing the ability to be insured by the Town's insurance agency. An update was provided by Health Director Chuck Motes regarding the H1N1 flu situation, and scheduled immunization clinics. Mr. Verderame also noted the changes in the Town Council following the election, and referred to council committees that have been appointed or reconfigured. Mr. Weichsel remarked on the upcoming budget process, noting that last year's 2.5% goal went well, and suggested it be repeated. He also cautioned that the Aid to Towns will have a significant hit on our budgets.

Under Old Business: Mr. Verderame informed the commissioners that there is a change in trash hauling vendor, following a bid process by the Town Attorney. The new vendor is CWPM, LLC of Plainville. Commissioner Carbone inquired if the requested sensitivity training had been scheduled. Bob responded that the Town Attorney's information indicated a group session in Tolland. Conducting a session locally would involve significant expense. The Commissioners were in agreement that it needs to get done, requesting that further research be done and reported at the next commission meeting.

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Under New Business: The Budget Committee met briefly prior to this commission meeting, preparing a preliminary budget proposal which will be finalized next month, to be submitted to the Town Manager on or before January 15, 2010. Line items that continue to be of concern include: Building Maintenance; Vehicle Maintenance; Gasoline; and Part time Bus Drivers. Under Capital Improvements, the Duct Cleaning will be requested. Also under consideration will be the HVAC units and the roof. The Transportation Committee reported that preliminary research is being done and that no meetings have been scheduled. When a time and date is determined, it will be posted as required.

Under Public Communication: Calendar House member Cliff Snow thanked the Budget Committee for their efforts; thanked all the Commissioners for the time and work they contribute, wishing them Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas. Commissioner Ben Cammuso congratulated the Calendar House staff, expressing appreciation for all the work and efforts that have resulted in another successful year.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Guss Nevelos. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Thursday, January 7th, 2010** at 6:30 p.m. This is a change in date, which will be submitted to the Town Clerk. In addition, the time has been changed to 6:30 p.m. for all regular Commission meetings in the calendar year 2010, and has been appropriately posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary