

MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman, Earl Temchin.

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

Members absent: Peter Santago and Ruth Riccio.

The minutes of the February 6 meeting were presented to the Commission, a motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ben Cammuso, all were in favor.

Connie Proll gave the Treasurer's Report. She reported that of the \$416,271.00 original budget, \$256,466.00 (65.5%) has been expended, leaving \$159,805.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Verderame reported that students have asked for additional classes this season, therefore, the Part-Time Instructors account is running low. A motion was made by Connie Proll to transfer \$1,300.00 into that account in hopes that these additional funds will be sufficient for the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. Verderame also stated that the Staff Overtime account will need to be watched.

A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Guss Nevelos, all were in favor.

In giving the Director's Report, Mr Verderame reported that our Dial-A-Ride continues to escalate. This month we had 121 in-town medical trips and 71 out-of-town medical trips. We are averaging nearly 600 one way rides per month. This is an exceptional job with having one full-time and three part-time drivers.

The Medicare Part D counseling continues. There are clients who have had their Part D deductible taken directly from Social Security, they are also on the ConnPACE program, which means that their premium is paid twice. We are now trying to help these individuals get a refund for the overpayment. Sharyn and Bob attended a meeting at the Plainville Senior Center on February 9 where Eric Rodko spoke on this subject.

Sue Saucier of Youth Services, Sharyn and Bob will hold an organizational meeting at the Calendar House for a new group "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren".

The Income Tax Program began on February 13 under the direction of Cynthia Gilbert. Even with nine volunteer councilors in place, we have appointments filled right through April 15.

The Renters Rebate Program, under the direction of Sharyn Murphy and Bob Verderame, will begin on May 15.

Sharyn Murphy attended this year's NCOA conference which was held in Chicago from March 6 through March 9. A report will follow.

Included in bus maintenance, all buses are doing well.

March 13, 2007

Page 2

Included in building maintenance, the ceiling was painted in the large room on the second floor. The one last thing to take care of will be the two-zone heating system for that level of the building. We were also advised that we must keep an eye on the 1984 basement furnace.

The Southington Community Theater presented "Love Letters" on February 9, 10, 16 and 17 at the Calendar House. The programs were well attended.

Under programming, a five week poetry class started on February 5 with Pat Mottola as the instructor. The Valentines Day party had to be canceled on February 14 due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled for the following Tuesday with 125 in attendance.

A trip presentation, for a grand Alaska cruise was presented by Tours of Distinction on February 23, with 40 attendees. A 55 Alive Safe Driving Course took place on February 9 and 16. Michael Rossi asked about attendance of the safe driving course. Bob replied that this course, held most months at the Calendar House, continues to be very popular, with class size limited to 25, participants pay \$10.00 to AARP for the class and see a discount to selective parts of their auto insurance in the following two to three years.

Sandra Micalizzi shared that the new Library Director, Susan Smayda, is on board. She is currently scheduling many informative lectures through the Library. Due to the Library's limited space, Sandra asked Bob if he might be open to conversation with Sue regarding space being made available at the Calendar House for some of these lectures. Mr. Verderame reported that he had met Sue, and that he will do whatever he can to help.

Each month, including February, Genealogy, Digital Photo and Financial Clubs meet at the Calendar House.

A motion was made by Susan Locks to accept the Director's and Program Coordinator's Report. The motion was seconded by Guss Nivelos, all were in favor.

Under "Correspondence", a letter of regret had been sent to the Southington Arts Council regarding displaying local artist's work at the Calendar House.

Included in the February 7 Department Head Meeting minutes, Mr. Weichsel is requesting a formal letter from all department heads informing him of their vacation schedule. Also, Mr. Verderame interjected that the topic of denitrification facilities was discussed. This is a big budget item for our Town, whether we build the facilities or pay credits as mandated by the Federal and State governments.

Included in the March 7 Department Head meeting, Finance Director, Emilia Portelinha announced a procedure change in regard to payment of invoices. Also, Mr. Weichsel provided information on UConn's Center for Continuing Studies certificate program.

The Orchard Valley Garden Club requested permission to have their annual plant sale at our Center on May 12. A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to grant permission, seconded by Michael Rossi, after a brief discussion regarding rental fee, a vote was taken and all were in favor. A contract will be mailed.

March 13, 2007

Page 3

Under "Old Business", the subject of memorial plaques, honoring Art Della Vecchia and John D'Angelo, was brought to the floor. Committee member, Guss Nevelos, reported that he and Peter Santiago had found a plaque that could include a picture and years of service for each man. It has been decided that the plaques honoring these two former Commissioners be placed in the Main Hall, rather than the Pavilion as previously discussed. Final pricing will be expected at the April Commission meeting, after which time they will be ordered.

Regarding the grant money for the parking lot, Mr. Verderame has not received the funds from the State of Connecticut, he has contacted Zeke Zalaski, our State Representative, regarding this matter with no information thus far. Mr. Verderame has asked Deputy Town Manager, Mark Sciota for help in regard to what the delay might be. When asked if we had the plans in hand for the job, Bob reported that Tony Tranquillo has been working on them, the surveyors had been here, and we should be set on that.

Included in the 2007-08 Budget, Mr. Verderame reported that he had received a copy of the budget, after the Manager's cuts, and reported that Mr. Weichsel looked very favorably upon us.

The topic of the cost of snow removal for this year was discussed; it was decided that we shall go out to bid for snow removal next year.

Under "New Business", Mr. Verderame brought up lawn care work for this season. Spruce Hill Nursery, the contractor who did the work last year, submitted a quote for the same figures as last year. When asked, Mr. Verderame informed the Commission that he was very pleased with their service. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept Spruce Hill Nursery's quote, the motion was seconded by Ben Cammuso, all were in favor.

Mr. Verderame informed the Commission of a State Matching Grant Program for Transportation of Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities. The Town is eligible for a \$50,035.00 grant. As we already have funds included in the Town budget for Dial-A-Ride, there would be no need for the Town to provide additional funds to qualify for this grant. The Town Council, at their March 12 meeting, included a resolution which will be included in the grant package.

We will continue to work on the grant, knowing that it must be submitted no later than March 30.

Under "Public Communication", Cliff Snow told the Commission that the Valentine Party was well attended and that the St. Patrick's day events will also be well attended.

He also told the Commission that he had received a letter from Frank Ciliberti, in which he thanked the Commission for the lovely plant sent to him, as well as all of the thoughts and prayers sent his way.

Earl Temchin asked to have included in the minutes a thank you to Commissioner Peter Santiago for the 15 years of service which he gave to the Senior Citizen Commission. He

March 13, 2007

Page 4

rarely missed a meeting during that time, he served on the Budget Committee and always spoke as an advocate for the Town's senior citizens. We thank him for his service.

Sandy Micalizzi informed the Commission that Branford Hall students schedule massage appointments at a cost of \$25.00. The current cost of a massage could range over \$75.00. She had spoken to Cynthia Gilbert regarding the possibility of them participating in this spring's health fair.

A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Barrasso,
Calendar House Secretary