

MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Earl Temchin.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Marlene Carbone, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Michael Rossi and Earl Temchin.

Members absent: Guss Nivelos

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

The minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Lynn Maschi to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Commissioner/Treasurer Susan Locks reporting that of the FY 2009/2010 \$508,075. revised budget, (which included \$43,066 in Transfers/Adjustments), \$260,495.17 (56.6%) has been expended; \$27,405.90 remains encumbered, leaving \$220,323.93. A comment was made that at the half year point 56% makes sense. Chairman Temchin asked the Director for comments. Mr. Verderame replied that we are in "good shape". A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for December 2009**. Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 770 one-way rides, with 360 medical runs. Social Service Programs were very active with the Medicare/ConnPACE open enrollment deadlines. During the last week in December we received many requests for assistance from Medicaid participants, referred to us by their overwhelmed case managers. We have been able to provide somewhat comprehensive assistance by exploring multiple options, including possible eligibility for QMB or LIS programs. Again, special recognition and appreciation to Program Coordinator Sharyn Murphy, Volunteers Len Pedone and Mary Potter, Maryann Fillon and Clerk Typist Dawn Sargis for the outstanding work they are doing. Senior Center Secretary/TCE Local Coordinator Cynthia Gilbert informed the Commissioners that instructional classes have been scheduled for AARP-TCE Income Tax Assistance Program counselors. These classes will provide updates on tax law changes and preparation for the certification process. An additional H1N1 Immunization Clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, January 9th. Southington Health Director Charles Motes has organized this particular clinic with no age restriction – open to all Southington and Plainville residents. The hours will be 9 am – 12 noon. Mr. Motes may schedule one additional clinic, to offset an expected third wave of the influenza. Commissioner Micalizzi noted that some physicians are advising their senior citizen patients not to get the immunization, believing that they may have a reaction to it, and that they have some residual immunity that would protect them. Commissioner Maschi noted that she had been scheduled to work a clinic in Cheshire earlier in the day, that was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Under Bus Maintenance: Signage on the 2009 Bus was completed and includes the Calendar House telephone number. Comments were made regarding the high mileage on the 2000 and 2002 buses. Mr. Verderame referred the issue to the transportation committee.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

January 7, 2010

Page two

Under Building Maintenance: Repairs were made to the flat roof around the drains. Rain water and/or melting snow create an overload clogging the drains and causing leakage. Simplex completed a routine Fire Alarm system testing which we passed, but it was noted that our antiquated system will need updating. Mr. Verderame has requested an estimate.

Under Christmas Donations: Hartford Insurance employees donated "Cuz We Care" comfort pillows, AT&T Employee Community Fund made a donation to the Computer Lab; Calendar House members Peter and Janice Freeman donated a used functioning refrigerator; and UNICO members donated various food items stocking our emergency pantry. Mr. Verderame noted that the center was opened on December 29th for emergency refuge during a power failure. The Health Director has approved the purchase of additional "shelter" food items to be reimbursed with federal funds at his disposal.

The Program Coordinator's Report focused on the social services provided, but also included several events: our annual Holiday Party in the Aqua Turf's Kay's Pier South, enjoyed by 318 persons; a "pot luck" holiday dinner for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" support group; and several performances by the Southington Community Theatre.

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

Under Correspondence: A monetary donation was received from the Town Clerk's office staff and was placed into the membership emergency fund. Several rental requests were received. Zion Lutheran has requested the use of the Main Hall on Sunday, January 24, 2010 from 5 – 7:30 p.m. for their biannual congregational meeting. Although this doesn't directly benefit our senior citizens, it is an organization within the community. When asked for his recommendation, Mr. Verderame responded that the date was open and it would be fine with him since the costs would be covered. A discussion regarding potential snow removal/plowing produced a consensus that in the event of inclement weather, a pre-arranged snow date would be implemented. A motion to allow the rental with the stipulation that in case of snow, the event would be postponed to the alternate date to avoid the additional expense and logistics of snow removal was made by Michael Rossi; seconded by Marlene Carbone; all were in favor.

Verbal rental requests were considered including: Engine Company One's annual breakfast on Sunday, March 7, approved by a motion made by Lynn Maschi; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor. Also, a request from the Orchard Valley Garden Club to hold their annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on Saturday, May 8 was approved by a motion made by Susan Locks; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor. Thank you notes were received from seniors residing at 500 Pleasant Street for transportation provided to them, and from Rachel Wache on behalf of the American Legion for the consideration given them relative to an event held in our building.

Continuing Under Correspondence: A letter was received from the Record Journal expressing an interest in hosting a senior fair event in conjunction with Frede Enterprises. Mr. Temchin remarked this was an unusual request. Mr. Verderame replied that it might be considered as a substitute for our annual health fair, annually sponsored by the Central Connecticut Senior Health Services. Their involvement with a major health event, "Healthy Family Funfest", to be held at the Aqua Turf on Sunday, March 7, 2010 precludes participation in a parallel event at Calendar House this year. A number of concerns and questions were raised concerning the Record Journal's involvement, the organizations and vendors that would be invited to participate, and the marketing direction. Mr. Temchin requested that Nancy Frede be invited to appear before the commission to clarify these issues. Mr. Verderame will contact her.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

January 7, 2010

Page three

Under Old Business: Mr. Verderame informed that Commission that the signage for the parking lot has been completed as requested. Commissioner Maschi asked if there was an update on the training session that the commission had requested to be scheduled. Mr. Verderame replied that numerous inquiries have not resulted in locating an appropriate class that would be accessible and affordable. The suggestion was made to locate a qualified individual who would come to the Calendar House. Mr. Verderame replied it might be costly, and suggested opening such a session to all town employees. Mr. Temchin concluded that based on the previous action taken by the commission, the only option is to have all Calendar House staff attend, and the consensus of the commission is to approve the expense.

Under New Business: Our 2010/1011 Budget Proposal is in the final stages and will be submitted to the Town Manager. Mr. Verderame advised the Commission that salaries reflect a 1.5% increase as per the Town Manager's recommendation; and our total proposal is just under 2.5%. Mr. Weichsel has extended the deadline to January 22, 2010, and requests a "hard copy". The numbers and comments are to be entered into the MUNIS system. We will also submit a list of Capital Improvements to be considered by the new Town Council Building Committee. Sandra Micalizzi expressed concern regarding the gasoline line item. Lynn Maschi asked Mr. Verderame what his "take on the matter" was and he replied "we can make it work." Mr. Temchin noted that the 2.5% increase is very conservative. A motion was made by Sandra Micalizzi to accept the proposed budget as presented for submission to the Town Manager; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Under Public Communication: Calendar House member Cliff Snow asked if the Commission were aware of the Membership Association's recent election. The new officers include: Peter Freeman, President; and Mark White, Vice-President. The entire slate of officers and directors will be installed on the February 4, 2010 at the 1:00 p.m. membership meeting.

Ben Cammuso made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the transportation program. Guss Nevelos seconded; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:25 p.m.

Executive Session: The Senior Center Commission entered into executive session at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2010 with the following Commissioners present: Earl Temchin, Ben Cammuso, Marlene Carbone, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Sandra Micalizzi, Lynn Maschi and Michael Rossi. Absent: Guss Nevelos.

A motion requesting specific documentation pertaining to the transportation program be provided to the Commission was made by Michael Rossi; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Michael Rossi made a motion to adjourn from executive session; seconded by Marlene Carbone; all were in favor. Executive Session adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The public meeting was then adjourned at 8:05 pm by a motion made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, February 9th, 2010** at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary