

MEETING OF MAY 8, 2007

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

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

Members absent: Connie Proll, Susan Locks and Ruth Riccio.

The minutes of the April 10 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.

In Connie Proll's absence, Mr. Verderame gave the Treasurer's Report. He reported that of the \$416,271 original budget, \$382,990 (82.6%) has been expended, leaving \$80,879 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Verderame reported that a transfer to the Class Instructors account was requested in the amount of \$3,450.

A transfer to the Staff Overtime account was requested in the amount of \$1,150.

Mr. Verderame also informed the Commission that a transfer will be needed in the Building/Grounds/Maintenance account.

A letter was sent to Mr. Weichsel informing him that a replacement furnace is needed in the basement of the office area. A request was made to transfer \$3,500 from the Honeywell Zoning System, Line Item 658-050-0260, in order to replace the existing furnace. With the Commission's approval, a request will be made to have the Honeywell Zoning System reinstated in the next fiscal year.

A memo was received from the Finance Department with an overview of where our Utilities Account now stands. There appears to be sufficient funds to get us through May, but we will have to keep our eye on the account into June with the possibility of asking for an appropriation to complete the fiscal year.

We also received a copy of our Gasoline Account as it appeared on March 31. There are \$2,007 remaining in the account, which will probably see us \$1,000 short to finish the year, therefore a transfer will have to be requested.

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

Mr. Temchin asked for a report from the Nominating Committee. Mr. Rossi presented the proposed slate of officers as; Earl Temchin, Chairman; Sandra Micalizzi, Vice Chair; Connie Proll, Treasurer; Ben Cammuso, Secretary. He then asked for any nominations from the floor, being none, he asked Secretary Ben Commuso to cast one vote. Mr. Temchin asked to have the slate of officers placed in the form of a motion. Mr. Rossi made a motion to accept the slate of officers as stated, the motion was seconded by Guss Nevelos, all were in favor. Mr. Temchin thanked the committee for their time.

Our Dial-A-Ride continues to grow; we had a total of 675 one-way rides including 126 medical runs in-town, and 93 out-of -town.

Included in "Social Services"; the fuel assistance program ended on May 1 with 212 application processed. Sharyn Murphy and her volunteers did a great job with this program. In speaking to Larry Elliot of New Opportunities, Sharyn was informed that the program will begin in August for the next heating season.

Cynthia Gilbert once again coordinated the AARP Tax Aide Program, and with her volunteers, assisted a total of 229 members. Mr. Verderame thanked Cynthia and those who volunteered their time in doing such a fine job.

The last Thursday of the month saw another successful "Grandparents and Grandchildren Support Group" headed by Sue Saucier, Sharyn Murphy and Bob. On May 24, Attorney Joseph Crispino will be the guest speaker for this group. We will continue to hold this group as long as the numbers continue to hold strong.

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

Letters have been sent to the participants of the Elderly Tax Relief Program asking for their time sheets. Checks will sent from the Town Finance Department before June 30.

Mr. Verderame explained that he had started this line item some years ago in order to help people with their property tax. The Board of Finance has reduced this line item by \$1,500.00 for the coming year. These funds could allow an additional three participants in the program. If the Commission elects to ask that these funds be reinstated, we will have to write a letter to Mr. Weichsel and go before the Town Council with this request.

Included in bus maintenance, all buses are doing well. The mileage on the 2000 and the 2002 buses is rising, and we will have to consider grants for replacement buses.

Included in building maintenance; the cedar fence needs to be put back by Dan Quinlan, ceiling tiles were replaced in the Main Hall, vinyl siding was put back and the roof tarred

at the point of a leak. A new office furnace is needed and the stove hoods and filters were cleaned.

The heavy rains of April 15 and 16 saw problems with at least five families in Town. Calendar House is on the Town's list of places to go in times of crisis. As a result of the problems the Police and Fire Departments put us on alert from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Eventually, all matters were assessed and Calendar House was not called into action.

Under programming, Sharyn Murphy reported that 11 members participated in a digestive function health and wellness program held at the Center, a hearing screening by Dr. Linda Vasile accommodated 13 participants. Two bagel breakfasts were held; one pertaining to long term care issues and the second with Secretary of State Susan Bysewicz demonstrating the new voting mechanisms.

39 passengers traveled to Mohegan Sun to see the Gatlin Brothers. A trip sale was held for a July 11 and 12 Ogonquit Maine Lobster Lovers trip.

Our annual Class Expo, featuring a wide variety of artistic talent in our many classes had nearly 300 in attendance. At our monthly membership meeting, Roger Hart gave a multi-media presentation on Alaska (part II), 53 people attended. Polish Night, catered by Teresa's and entertainment provided by Frank Wielgosz had an attendance of 100.

Sharyn and volunteers for the Renters Rebate Program attended two separate trainings one in Waterbury, and one in Hartford.

A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the Director's and Program Coordinator's Reports as presented, the motion was seconded by Lynn Maschi, all were in favor.

Under "Correspondence", included in the May 2 Department Head Meeting minutes, Mr. Weichsel and John DeGioia of the Water Department spoke on the upcoming referendum on the Denitrification Facility. Leslie Cotton gave a records management update.

A letter was received from David Bishop of the Bread for Life requesting the use of our building for a spaghetti supper on Monday, June 11, the food will be prepared at their kitchen and served at the Calendar House. A motion was made by Sandra Micalizzi to allow Bread for Life to hold this function at Calendar House, seconded by Michael Rossi, all were in favor.

A letter was received from Mr. Weichsel addressing the subject of accrued vacation time. He would like to see no more than 30 to 45 vacation days accrued by employees. And expects department heads to inform employees that as of June 30, 2008, upon retirement, they will lose all vacation time in excess of 30 and 45 days.

Mr. Verderame informed the Commission that on May 14, postage will be going up including our first class postage and our bulk mailing annual fee. The cost of bulk mailing itself does not appear to be going up at this time.

A letter was received from Mary Lourie on behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness CT Office. She requested the use of our building for weekly support group meetings. A motion was made by Sandra Micilizzi stating that the Calendar House could not accommodate this group as it is outside of our hours of operation. She recommended that we send Mary a letter respectfully declining the request, suggesting that they contact the hospital, a church or assisted living facilities where their hours may better suit the need. The motion was seconded by Ben Cammuso, all were in favor.

A letter was received from the State of CT DOT, informing us of a new service that allows online suspension checks of anyone holding a public passenger endorsement license. This information will be kept in our records.

From the Town Council, a "Notice of Passage" for Purchasing Procedures Ordinance. In brief, purchases of professional services estimated to cost \$15,000.00 or more shall be subject to follow certain procedures whereby requests will go before a committee who will judge such procedures. The Calendar House parking lot construction, janitorial contract and snow plow contract will all fall into this category. Proper procedures will be taken.

Under "Old Business", we received a copy of the Finance Board Budget Cuts. Cuts were seen in staff overtime, utilities and heating, bus maintenance, printing of the bulletin, travel, dues, meetings, and the elderly tax credit program.

Mr. Verderame reported that he and Elaine Barrasso had been working on the State Grant for the promised parking lot funds. Preliminary plans have been started, and we will request a Resolution from the Town Council. We will mail available paperwork to the state, with additional data to follow when it becomes available.

The Commissioners asked if the gate on the Hobart Street entrance could be made a part of the project. Bob reported that after speaking to Tony Tranquillo regarding the matter, he said it was a possibility. The essential work, being the parking lot itself with additional lights, line painting, speed bumps and signage must be done first.

The subject of memorial plaques, honoring Art Della Vecchia and John D'Angelo, was brought to the floor. Elaine Barrasso reported the cost of each plaque will be \$528, and that they can be ordered after July 1.

Under "New Business", Sharyn Murphy gave an in-depth report on her recent trip to Chicago for the NCOA Conference. She told the Commission that she greatly

appreciated funding from the Town so that she might attend. There were over 4,000 participants and she considered it a great experience.

Included in her report, “This valuable experience enabled me to learn more about new concepts and trends emerging within the senior center industry. The need to attract younger seniors as well as maintain programs for an increasingly long-lived population of current seniors has forced senior center personnel to alter the way they think about what a senior citizen is and what a senior center should be. For the first time in our history, senior centers are being challenged to come up with innovative ways to serve the needs of a population whose members range in age from 55 to over 100. Such challenges call for new and more cutting edge types of senior center programming. I enjoyed hearing first hand from professionals in our field who have designed and implemented creative programs and services to meet the needs of their members. I also learned a great deal from my interaction with colleagues from around the nation, and came back energized, ready to take what I have learned and apply it to programming efforts at Calendar House.”

Michael Rossi, Sandra Micalizzi and Earl Temchin commended Sharyn on the interesting, informative report and thanked her for presenting it.

Mr. Verderame informed the Commission of the newly appointed Membership President, Dick Fortunato, who replaces Dick Dyer, who with his wife June, has retired to Maine. The Commissioners asked if we could send a letter of thanks on their behalf.

Under “Public Communication”, Membership Board member, Walter Kizilski asked how many newsletters are printed each month for distribution. He asked if there was any way of lowering the number of mailings each month. Mr. Verderame told Mr. Kizilski that twice a year we ask the post office to return all undeliverable newsletters, we then eliminate them from our mailing. Elaine Barrasso also reported that as part of the Town of Southington’s new web site, in the very near future, residents will be able to receive our newsletter via the Internet. We are hopeful that this will also eliminate some mailings.

A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 12 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Barrasso,
Calendar House Secretary