



TOWN OF SOUTHTINGTON

Senior Citizens Commission

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TOWN OF SOUTHTINGTON

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By Richard H. Otter 12:15
TOWN CLERK

MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 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.

Mr. Temchin noted that we have two candidates for the Clerk Typist position before us this evening. Dawn Sargis was asked to come into the meeting. A brief interview with Ms. Sargis covered her employment experience; clerical skills; emergency training; abilities to handle pressure, multi-task and work with a small staff; as well as her perspective on senior citizens. She highlighted her experience managing a Section 8 housing facility, with programming and customer service experience. The Commissioners thanked her for coming and Executive Director Robert Verderame arranged to contact her. Tiffany Bonomi was then asked to join the meeting. Ms. Bonomi was asked about her employment and education experiences; clerical skills; emergency training; and abilities to work under pressure, with multiple interruptions; as well as her perspective on senior citizens. She indicated strong skills in clerical experience and an enthusiastic desire to learn. Ms. Bonomi was thanked for coming and Mr. Verderame arranged to contact her with the Commission's decision.

The consensus of the Commission was that although both candidates possessed qualities and skills that would be beneficial to the Senior Center, Ms. Sargis' particular experience and demeanor was felt to be more appropriate to the Clerk Typist position. Therefore Mr. Verderame will notify the candidates of the Commission's decision to offer Ms. Sargis the position, and inform Ms. Bonomi that the position had been filled.

The minutes of the November 11, 2007 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Connie Proll to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Connie Proll. She reported that of the \$437,058. current budget, \$165,981.26 (38%) has been expended, leaving \$271,076.74 remaining. Question was raised regarding part time drivers line item – are we doing okay? Bob responded that we are doing well in keeping up with the increased demand, extending ourselves to provide additional services with the funds available, anticipating payment from the matching grant. A motion was made by Sandra Micalizzi to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

Connie Proll gave a report to the full Commission on behalf of the Budget Committee which met prior to the Commission Meeting. Reviewing the worksheet, she noted that salaries governed by union contract were increased by 3%. Other major increases included: Utilities & Heating; Building/Grounds Maintenance; Bus Maintenance & Repair; and Gasoline – items driven by the fuel issue. Other line items were increased in the neighborhood of 3%, resulting in a proposed budget total of \$475,609., an overall increase of 8%, which does not include the wish list. We will be negotiating for an additional full time driver; seeking a grant for the purchase of a new bus to replace our oldest vehicle; and Ben Cammuso promised to plant trees to save costs. The committee feels that holding the increase to 8% is reasonable. Mr. Temchin thanked the committee for their work. He questioned Mr. Verderame as to the Part-Time Instructors Salary, wondering if the proposed additional \$1,000. would be sufficient. Bob responded that the instructors were given an increase last year; the requested increase would enable classes to be extended by several weeks. The classes are extremely popular and are a major reason the seniors come into the building. Mr. Temchin asked if there were any more questions. Michael Rossi made a motion to approve the budget proposal made by the committee; seconded by Susan Locks; all were in favor.

Resuming the regular order of business, Mr. Verderame was asked to give a brief synopsis of the Director's and Program Coordinator's Report. He noted that transportation and social services continued to fully function during the parking lot project. The One-way rides provided continue to be at high demand. The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services Medicare Rx Express Bus came to the Center providing seventeen seniors with comprehensive counseling on state programs in addition to Medicare Part D Choices counseling. The Energy Assistance Program is going well, with 93 application already processed. Unfortunately our pavilion was vandalized, with damage to the siding and large banquet table. The SPD was notified. The Southington Health Department held a Pandemic Influenza Emergency Preparedness Tabletop exercise involving thirty participants, including various Town officials. An agent from CRIMA Insurance, the town's carrier, came to the building to assess the facility and grounds. He remarked about the uniqueness of the Calendar House, noting that it is unlike any other senior center he has visited. The Calvanese Foundation has again contributed funds for activities and programs. We greatly appreciate the kindness of the Calvanese family, whose generosity benefits many community organizations.

We anticipate opening on Friday, December 14th on a limited basis and on and on Monday, December 17th for all normal activities, including the nutrition program.

Sharyn was asked to give an overview of November programs. She expressed thanks to Helen and Gail at the Housing Authority for their efforts with the application process for Energy Assistance at the Housing sites. She also mentioned that the Mohegan Sun Casino trip departed from the Commuter Lot in Plantsville. The "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" support group held in conjunction with Youth Services is going well. Guest speakers were present at the November 15th meeting; and an intergenerational pot luck supper is planned in December.

With regards to the pavilion damage, Mr. Temchin remarked that it is an insurance issue and that estimates should be obtained for the repairs. A motion to accept the Director's Report was made by Susan Locks; seconded by Michael Rossi; all in favor.

Under Correspondence: Regarding the Department Head Meetings Minutes, Mr. Verderame noted the Clerk Typist Vacancies and the Leaf Program.

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health noted an estimated state population of 3,510,787 as of July 1, 2006. It was remarked that Southington's 2006 population was 42,249.

We are currently working on the Section 5310 grant application for a bus. An article was published in the newspaper. We will be asking for letters of recommendation and reference to support the grant request.

Knights of Columbus have requested the rental of the building for a March 31, 2008 event. Sandra Micalizzi made a motion to approve this rental with the usual stipulations; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor; permission granted.

The H.O.P.E. Program has requested the rental of the building for a fundraiser on January 19, 2008. The proceeds are to be used to enable them to provide a monthly meal/social event at the Housing Authority sites for those residents. This program is an off shoot of Bread for Life. A \$10. per person donation will be requested. With Bob's consent, a motion was made by Connie Proll to approve this rental with the usual stipulations; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor, permission granted.

A telephone memo from CW Nutrition Program indicating that no meal service will be provided on Monday, December 24 or Monday, December 31, coincides with a memo from the Town Manager advising that the Town Council wishes to have the Town Hall closed at noon on December 24, 2007, Christmas Eve. The building will close early on that day. Nutrition program participants have been notified that meals will not be available on those days.

Under Old Business: The parking lot looks great! Two items need to be addressed: one, the islands need to be filled in with dirt; and two, the mailbox needs to be replaced. One layer of asphalt is down, and it was expected that a second coat would be applied in the spring. Earl requested that Bob verify the specs with the engineer. Ben remarked that the pavement is level with the catch basins. Membership Association Interim President Cliff Snow indicated he felt the second coat was down. Bob will verify that, but remarked that the contractor did a quality job, and he is very pleased with the work done. There are four additional lights, a motion detector, sidewalks are in, and they got it all done in the cold and rain. There was some discussion regarding the snow removal – in the past considerable damage had been done to the curbing. Bob assured the Commissioners that he had instructed Quinlan to observe a 2 -3 foot variance around the curbing; and Highway Department Head George Cole suggested orange markers for the catch basins.

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Class instructors have been requested to make up classes in the spring, extending the ten week session to fourteen weeks. Much appreciation is due to Mulberry Gardens, the YMCA, Jensen's and others for making rooms available for some of our classes.

The Christmas Party at the Aqua Turf was well attended, including several commissioners, and enjoyed by all. The Wagon Room was a hit, comments were made that it felt more festive to be in the smaller room as opposed to the elegant but larger Glass Room.

With regards to the plaques – request had been made for funding from UNICO. The members agreed to pay for Arthur DellaVecchia's plaque with the stipulations that the plaque be presented by UNICO and inscribed as being provided by UNICO. The unanimous consensus of the Commission is that this would make it a UNICO presentation, and take away from the recognition and appreciation being given by the Senior Citizen Commission. They therefore request that the funds be declined with an explanation. Bob will contact UNICO. Assuming there are sufficient funds available within our budget, a motion to complete the project and order the plaques was made by Connie Proll; seconded by Sandra Micalizzi; all were in favor.

Being informed of the request by Vincent Morelli to have his job classification changed with subsequent pay grade increase based upon what he is actually doing, Mr. Temchin remarked that we really don't have a say in that matter. Question was raised that if Mr. Morelli leaves Calendar House, would the position revert to the previous grade. Mr. Verderame had checked into this concern with the union, and had been assured it would revert back to Bus Driver Grade 3.

The next Commission Meeting will be on **Tuesday**, January 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Ben Cammuso made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandra Micalizzi; all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary