

## MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2006

In the absence of Chairman Earl Temchin, Vice Chairman Sandra Micalizzi called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She expressed appreciation to the commissioners who participated in the Budget Workshop that preceded this meeting.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Susan Locks, Sandra Micalizzi, Guss Nevelos, Constance Proll, Ruth Riccio, Michael Rossi, and Peter Santago.

Members absent: Earl Temchin

The minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting were accepted as presented, on a motion by Commissioner Michael Rossi; seconded by Commissioner Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

Commissioner and Treasurer Constance Proll presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that of the original budget of \$463,869.00, \$224,094.86 (48.3%) has been expended, with a balance of \$239,774.14 remaining. Executive Director Robert Verderame noted that the overtime account has used 58% with six months remaining, but considers that we will be okay, barring any unforeseen circumstances. Also, the HVAC Heat Exchanger that had to be replaced at a cost of \$3,800 was taken out of the Building/Grounds Maintenance. If the weather holds, we should be okay. Commissioner Ruth Riccio made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Commissioner Ben Cammuso; all were in favor

Mrs. Micalizzi asked Mr. Verderame to recap the results of the Budget Committee's Meeting. Mr. Verderame noted that salaries are set by Union Contract. The Instructors Salary Line Item will be in a deficit this year, which will require a transfer or appropriation in March. This is due to the overdue raise given them in July. Looking forward, this line item is proposed to increase to \$22,000. The Part Time Bus Driver Line Item should be increased to cover the additional bus, plus possibly utilizing a part time driver to answer transportation phone calls. The addition of a full time clerk typist, at an annual cost of \$37,256., would be beneficial in alleviating the stress on the entire staff with the increase of transportation requests, combined with increased social services and programming. Staff overtime shows a slight increase. The Health Department has not determined when next year's flu shot clinics will be held, and this may again involve staff overtime. Municipal Agent increases by \$500.; Longevity is increased due to the potential additional amount due a union member replacing the Senior Center Secretary at retirement.

We will need to go out to bid for the Custodial contract, and raised that item to \$31,000. Much has been reported as to rate hikes by the utilities – the budget committee proposed raising that item substantially to \$49,750., and will keep informed as to any approved rate increases.

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Continuing with the Budget Workshop, Mr. Verderame noted that no increase was recommended for the Building/Grounds Maintenance line item. Gasoline was increased to \$13,000. No increase to Office/Household Supplies. A slight increase to the Program/Activity Supplies. The Senior Citizen Commission Supplies does not increase.

The Committee recommends an increase to the Travel, Dues, Meeting, Etc Line Item to \$5,000.; and an increase to the Computer Lab equipment to \$3,110. They also proposed \$10,000. for the Elderly Tax Credit Program. The Pavilion line item should be restored with an amount of \$4,000. to maintain and improve this facility.

Commissioner Nevelos made a motion to accept the Budget Committee's recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Cammuso, all were in favor.

The Director's and Program Coordinator's Reports were read by Mr. Verderame. He reported that there are 6,472 registered members, a number that people frequently ask about. Social Service Programs for the month included: Blood Pressure; Foot Clinic; Fuel Assistance; Medicare Part D Counseling; and Flu Shot Clinics. It was noted that Eric Rodko was able to schedule a volunteer Choices Counselor for two days here at Calendar House, along with a trainee. This resulted in more individuals being seen. Over 150 attended the session Eric Rodko presented at Calendar House. Calendar House Bus Driver, Vinny Morelli video taped it, and it has been playing on Public Access Channel 14. Several people have commented on seeing it, and how helpful it was. Medicare D Open Enrollment will probably continue to be scheduled each year in November/December. This results in two major social services programs running concurrently (Med Part D plus Energy Assistance). A three day training session for volunteer Choices Counselors will be available some time this summer. Sandra Micalizzi interjected that she is a trained Choices Counselor, and would be happy to help when needed.

It was noted that the Southington Community Services Department held their Christmas party here; and Bread for Life will host a dinner on December 22. Their current facility will only accommodate 25-30 people and they anticipate 125 attendees.

Under "Bus Maintenance" it was noted that the broken window latches, made of white metal, break easily upon inspection, and have been replaced. Under "Building Maintenance", Len Martin and Frances Fiondella patched the roof; the HVAC Heat Exchanger was replaced; the Hallway Thermostat was replaced; CL& P trimmed tree limbs; Gutters were cleaned; and broken bottles were cleaned up. Motion sensors will be placed in garage area to discourage the suspected use of our parking lot for after hours underage drinking.

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Mention was made of the Reception honoring Mr. Weichsel; the resignation of Library Director Jay Johnston; and the arrival of recently hired Town Assessor, Brian Lastra. Also, the instructional meeting conducted by the Health Department in preparation for the Flu Shot Clinics; the upcoming Southington Community Theatre production of "Love Letters", a dessert theatre to be held at Calendar House; and the United Way of Southington Benefit held at Pilgrim Furniture.

Under the Program Coordinator's Report: Trip Sales for NYC/Broadway show, and Foxwoods Casino; a trip to Indian Head, NH; Monthly Membership Meeting with speakers from the Central Connecticut Health Alliance, Inc.; and the Harold Miller & Associate Gospel Duet's lunch time entertainment were noted.

A motion was made to accept the Director's Report as presented, by Commissioner Peter Santago; seconded by Commissioner Michael Rossi; all in favor.

Proceeding to "Correspondence": Referencing the Department Heads 12/6/06 meeting, Calendar House Staff Members have now obtained name badges, which will be especially helpful to the Executive Director and Program Coordinator when doing social services homebound visits.

Also, noted the tragic losses of several Southington teenagers who have committed suicide. A list of 2007 Holidays was received from Mr. Weichsel; the scheduled Senior Citizen Commission Meetings was sent to the Town Clerk; the December 2006 issue of the SeniorNet's newsletter "The Mouse Squeaks"; and a memo from Eric Rodko informing us of the new ConnPACE Income Limits (Single \$23,100; Couple \$31,100. Assets do not count).

The Commissioners expressed their happy sentiments at Secretary Elaine Barrasso's return. She thanked them for the dish garden sent to her, remarking that a thank you had also been sent. It was acknowledged that although it had been misplaced, it was a lovely note.

There was little discussion pertaining to "Old Business": Mr. Verderame will be contacting State Rep. Zalaski in January regarding the grant for a new parking lot; Mr. Tranquillo is currently working on blueprints. The Calvanese donation has been turned over to Membership Association, and placed it in a line item for bus repairs; the Christmas Party went well, as did the Flu Shot Clinics although somewhat late in the year. Mr. Verderame wished everyone a great holiday and a great year!

Under "New Business" the recommendations of the Budget Committee were previously presented.

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Commissioner Proll raised the suggestion that to save time and money, monthly newsletters be e-mailed to the senior citizens. Commissioner Micalizzi asked if this was something to be brought to the membership for their opinion. Executive Director Verderame agreed to discuss the suggestion with members Dick Fortunato and Peter Freeman who are actively involved in the Computer Lab.

Under Public Communication: Membership Association President Dick Dyer remarked that the Christmas Party was very good, thanking Cynthia and Bob, and suggested we might need to move to a smaller room next year. The Membership Budget was passed. It is a tight budget, with the contrast between an income of \$1,000. vs. \$6,000. (due to the lack of a Craft Fair Fundraiser). He distributed a schedule of events, with one change to note: the Polish Night Event will be held on April 24th, not in March. On behalf of the Membership, Dick wished everyone present a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year.

Commissioner Santago made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Rossi; all were in favor.

Mrs. Micalizzi adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia J. Gilbert  
Senior Center Clerk Typist