

MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Commission Vice Chairman, Sandra Micalizzi. Chairman Earl Temchin arrived as the meeting was called to order.

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

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

The minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Marjorie Chase to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Susan Locks. She reported that of the \$520,785. revised budget, \$444,912.34 (85.3%) has been expended; \$9,813.81 has been encumbered, leaving \$78,667.85 remaining. A transfer and subsequent continued appropriation was submitted to Town Manager, and will be addressed at the Board of Finance Meeting on June 10, which the Executive Director will attend. This will cover the Town's obligation toward the purchase of a wheelchair accessible bus, satisfying the requirements of the "\$40,000. State of CT DOT Grant for Purchase of New Bus". The remaining balance in the gasoline item was questioned; it was noted that the billing structure is generally one quarter behind, which will significantly reduce the current balance. On the resignation of Glenn Klocko from the Board of Finance, Mr. Verderame remarked that Mr. Klocko has served our community well in this capacity, and been particularly supportive of our senior citizens. He will be missed. A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

In presenting the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for May 2009**, Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program had another active month, providing 949 one-way rides, with over 466 medical runs. Social Services included the start of the Renter's Relief program. Many phone inquiries regarding various programs are fielded daily, as well as attention given to walk-ins and scheduled appointments.

Municipal Agent Training took place on May 18 at the Windsor Locks Senior Center for North Central Area Municipal Agents. Several speakers addressed topics that included identity theft, fraud, scams, Medicare fraud and networking. Of specific concern are Connecticut's budgetary problems which will probably result in funding cuts to programs including the Matching Grant for Dial-A-Ride. Networking sessions covered "scooters" in the facilities and on buses, lending of Durable Medical Goods, and referrals for professional services. Responding to questions from the Commission, Mr. Verderame stated that "scooters" have not been an issue, individuals may not sit on the scooter on the bus, but must be seated in a regular bus seat. Also we do not give out referrals for professional services; and we lend out durable goods on a short-term limited basis. Mr. Temchin remarked that we don't want to discourage available service, but we might want to consider a simple waiver or release form to borrowers. Wheelchairs, walkers, etc. to be used long-term should be measured by a professional and serviced annually. An individual or family member borrowing one for a day or weekend for a graduation, etc. should not pose a problem.

Our annual Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibit went very well. Thank to the enthusiastic participation and comprehensive publicity, well over 170 people attending. The paintings, quilts, drawings, stained glass, woodcarving and decorative art pieces exhibited were fantastic. A second annual collection of poems written by the poetry class was available. Many thanks to our students and instructors. Also to Pat Mottola and Cynthia Gilbert for organizing the event.

The Calendar House Annual Health Fair in collaboration with CT Center for Healthy Aging, The Orchards at Southington, Mulberry Gardens of Southington, Southington Care Center, The Hospital of Central Connecticut and Spring Lake Village was held on May 20th. Various screenings were offered, over thirty vendors were on hand and light refreshments were served. The DSS Rx-Express Bus was on site during the event. More than 250 persons were present. Thanks to the sponsors, the vendors and all who helped out with set-up, registration and clean up. Special thanks to organizers Sharon Robinson, Erika Copes and Cynthia Gilbert.

Both the events, held in May, celebrated National "Older Americans Month".

Under **Bus Maintenance**, all the buses are operating well. Delivery of the new bus is anticipated in September/October 2009.

Regarding **Building Maintenance**, the Executive Director reported that the stove hoods and filters were cleaned by Jeff Skrzypiec; the Orchard Valley Garden Club members planted additional perennials; Frances Fiondella cleaned and raked the bocce courts, and cleaned the gutters. Windows were cleaned by an individual fulfilling community service. Mulch was applied to planting areas by Ben Cammuso, assisted by an individual fulfilling community service. Schmidt Lawn Care swept sand from parking lots and mowed the lawn per contract.

The **Program Coordinator's report** included: Energy Assistance Program Intake Volunteers recognized at New Opportunities Luncheon (4 volunteers attended with Program Coordinator); Polish Night on May 5th (120 attended); Trip Sale on May 8th for Laughing Lobster (trip cancelled by travel agency); Renters Relief Training Computer Program on May 6th (attended by the Program Coordinator and two volunteers); Orchard Valley Garden Club Plant Sale on May 9th; "Grandparents" support group met on May 21st with speaker Carole Milano (22 attended); Membership Meeting on May 28th, DePaolo Middle School Band and Concert Choir performed (55 attended); Rent Relief applications were taken by appointment on May 18th, 21st and 29th.

Our new intergenerational outreach program, "Generations Reaching Out" (GRO) was initiated May 1st. The program's goal is to reach out to our homebound members by bringing together active senior center members and students in various activities. Marion Stannard of the SHS Vo-AG arranged for two of her classes to create floral bouquets, which were distributed to homebound residents living at Southington Housing Authority locations. Students and senior volunteers also presented the residents with hand-made "Happy May Day" cards made by Plantsville School 1st and 4th grade students. Recipients and volunteers alike enjoyed the experience, as reflected by the surprised and happy faces all around. A reception is planned for all the participants and recipients on June 11th at 43 Academy Street.

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

Under Correspondence: The Department Head Meeting was rescheduled to June 10th as Youth Honor Day was held June 3rd. A thank you note from Stacy Mathieu of the Orchard Valley Garden Club was received regarding the plant sale held at Calendar House. A letter has been sent to Jerry Dlugos regarding work on the pavilion, reminding him that it must be completed by June 30, 2009. Cynthia Martel of Say It! With Signs has generously offered to letter our new bus at no cost, in appreciation for all the good Calendar House has done and continues to do for seniors in our community, especially her mother, a long-time member.

Also under Correspondence: Our current Food Service Permit was received from the Health Department. The Economic Development Department thanked us for use of the bus for the recent "tour" of Southington by town officials, council members and potential developers/investors, commending driver Vincent Morelli for his service. A news release from Governor Rell's office informed us of the passage of the "Silver Alert" program, which is similar to the "Amber Alert" program, but addresses missing adults with dementia and other cognitive impairments.

Under Old Business: The Bid Opening for Custodial service was held on May 21st in the Town Manager's office. Three bids were submitted. One was eliminated for non-compliance to specifications. The low bid was submitted by Custom Cleaning, our current custodial service, reflecting a 7.5% decrease from previous years. The other bid, from an out-of-town company, was slightly higher. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the low bid; seconded by Marlene Carbone; all were in favor.

Under New Business: The impact that the new Budget will have on our services was discussed at length. Of particular concern is the Dial-A-Ride service that so many of our seniors are dependant upon. With the probable loss of the State Matching Grant funding, we will not be able to meet the existing demands with the current budget. This will directly affect out of town medical transportation. The Commission and the Executive Director will have to prioritize. Shortfalls are anticipated in the back-up driver and gasoline line items. We will continue to search out and apply for grants, as well as available options for alternative transportation. RSVP has received monies from the United Way, and plan to add volunteer drivers. Sandra Micalizzi mentioned that Title 19 patients are eligible for free transportation service. Lynn Maschi suggested contacting agencies such as the American Cancer Society, etc. Additionally, there are concerns regarding the Maintenance and Utilities line items, which we will watch closely.

Under Public Communication: Calendar House Member Walter Kizilski questioned whether or not the casings/materials for the pavilion had been ordered. He expressed some concern with regards to the work being completed by deadline. Mr. Temchin assured him that Mr. Verderame would be following up with the contractor, the Engineering Department, the Town Attorney and the Town Manager if necessary. Calendar House Member Cliff Snow expressed appreciation for the Polish Night event, noting that it was well attended, as were both the Fine Arts & Crafts Exhibit and the Health Fair. These events are thoroughly enjoyed and eagerly anticipated by the senior citizens.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** A motion to adjourn the public meeting and move into Executive Session was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary