

MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 by Chairman Earl Temchin.

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

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

The minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting were presented to the Commission. Guss Nivelos made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Susan Locks; all were in favor.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Commissioner/Treasurer Susan Locks who reported that of the FY 2010/2011 \$475,644. budget, \$174,684.09 (43.3%) has been expended; \$31,326.44 remains encumbered, leaving an available budget of \$269,633.47. Copies of the payroll sheets for the month of November were distributed to the Transportation Committee and the Commission Chairman. Executive Director Robert Verderame noted that the utilities line item is in good shape. A motion was made by Guss Nivelos to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the **November 2010 Director's and Program Coordinator's Reports**, noting that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 1215 one-way rides, including 656 medical runs. Open enrollment for Medicare D and ConnPace began November 15th and will end December 31st. Combined with applications for Energy Assistance and other social service requests the office staff and volunteers have been kept busy. Outreach services were provided to the Southington Housing Authority sites, including 500 pleasant Street, 408 Main Street, 43 Academy Street and 6 Carter Lane. Preparations continue to be made for the AARP/TCE Income Tax Assistance Program for 2010/11. Counselors have received textbooks and training sessions are being scheduled. The Southington VNA conducted an Influenza Clinic on November 17th with 33 senior citizens taking advantage of the clinic, a direct result of the various pharmacies and stores aggressively marketing flu shot clinics at their facilities.

Under Bus Maintenance: Preventative maintenance was done on the 2006 and 2002 buses. In addition, the brake system on the 2002 bus was completely replaced, (incl. pads, calipers, fluids, etc.) All buses are running well.

Under Building Maintenance: Parking lot lights were changed. The parking lot lights and the building lights timers were reset for fall.

Continuing under the Director's Report: Monday, November 8th brought the season's first wintry weather resulting in very slippery roads. Scheduled shopping trips were cancelled, with Tuesday and/or Thursday offered as alternatives. On Tuesday, November 9th contractors digging on Beecher Street caused a significant natural gas leak resulting in the evacuation of Beecher Street and West Center Street residents. Southington's Emergency Notification system alerted Executive Director Robert Verderame that a number of Southington residents would be evacuated to the Calendar House. The Calendar House staff and three members of the CERT team provided shelter, meals and supplies for twenty-five individuals from 9 am until 6:30 pm. Many thanks to the Southington UNICO, Napoli Imports and Family Pizza for their support and also to the CERT team and Calendar House staff members.

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Program Coordinator's Report, given verbally, in lieu of a written submission, highlighted: a day trip to the Kate Theatre in Old Saybrook that included a presentation by Elisabeth von Trapp, and lunch; a well attended membership meeting followed by the movie "Letters to Juliet" on our new large screen; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group meeting; and a Bagel Breakfast with Patty O'Brien of the Alzheimer's Association, CT Center for Healthy Aging's Brain Gym, and Memory Screening. Both of our CCSU social work interns will complete their field placement on December 10th.

Sandra Micalizzi offered that she had spoken with Sharyn Murphy regarding less expensive trips, similar to those other senior centers offer. Realizing trips are planned well in advance, she remarked how much there is to see within our state. Bob Verderame remarked that Sharyn had discussed several possibilities, including using school buses which are considerably less expensive and available during the summer. Marjorie Chase noted she had recently visited the Hillstead Museum for the first time. Cynthia Gilbert mentioned the Florence Griswold Museum, and Guss Nevelos suggested Lenny and Joe's on the shoreline. Bob Verderame said that groups up to fourteen can be transported and in fact, one group has been taken to the Manor Inn for lunch on several occasions. Michael Rossi questioned a comment that "we used to do this". Earl Temchin explained that when we had only one bus, at times we contracted out. Since acquiring multiple buses, there has not been a need to do that.

A motion to accept the Director's and Program Coordinator's Reports was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor.

Under Correspondence: Of note in the December 1, 2010 Department Heads Meeting minutes were Mr. Weichsel's comments regarding the upcoming budget. He has requested that department budgets to no more than a 2% increase maximum. Budgets will be due to him by January 14, 2011. The Health Director sent an Emergency Notification Call-Down List. Mark Sciota thanked the various departments involved in the recent evacuation event, noting that the time spent training is time well spent.

Under Old Business: The generator is up and going; however, the initial test indicated that the office area and the phone system were not included. This must and will be rectified as the office area becomes the communication center during any emergency. During the recent event, Captain Cassarella used the Director's office. An addition test will be conducted on December 17th after 2:30 p.m. The tile floors were not cleaned as scheduled due to the contractor's cancellation. It will be re-scheduled in January. Bob Verderame will obtain estimates for office area carpet cleaning. By way of reminder, an Executive Session has been scheduled at 5:30 pm, prior to the January 11, 2011 6:30 pm Commission Meeting.

Under Transportation Committee: There was no report at this time.

Under New Business: A budget workshop was held prior to the Commission Meeting. Earl Temchin asked Bob Verderame to present the budget proposal to the Commissioners. Bob explained that most of the items remain the same as the previous year with no increase. "Regular Wages" increase per union contract. "Utilities" are increased by \$5,000. This reflects a slight increase due to the recently installed generator and a potential obligation to CL&P. Following an energy audit, Gary Lane, DBS Energy Inc., informed the Executive Director that SBEC has a program to upgrade all the remaining inefficient lighting at the Calendar House and replace the two old rooftop units at a cost of \$55,889.76 less 50%, 27,944.88 (CL&P incentive). The \$27,944.88 remaining would be zero-percent financing for 36 months and billed in monthly increments of \$776.24. This would be a significant savings. Three items were added to the budget.

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Continuing under New Business: A DOT SEC5310 grant is available for the purchase of a new bus. We would replace the 2000 twelve-passenger handicap bus which is smaller and easier to maneuver in tight places with a similar size bus. The Town's obligation would be approximately \$9,000. Again, this reflects significant savings with the bulk of the purchase price paid for by the grant, approximately \$40,000.

We were advised that a fence is required to surround the generator as safety precaution and noise abatement. The initial estimate came in at \$4,600. and will not be covered by generator grant funds. Our office computers are considerably outdated and overdue for replacement which we feel can be accomplished with \$2,000. This budget proposal exceeds the two percent increase requested by the Town Manager, so we will be looking at ways to reduce it, while encouraging the expenditures for replacing the HVAC units and the 2000 bus since grant funds would save considerable expense.

A motion was made by Michael Rossi to adopt the budget proposal as circulated; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

Ben Cammuso inquired as to the status of the catch basins in the main parking lot. Bob Verderame requested that the Town Engineer look at them. Mr. Tranquillo checked them; assuring Mr. Verderame the catch basins were good for another year.

Public Communication: The chair recognized Calendar House member Cliff Snow, who thanked the Commissioners and the Calendar House staff for all that they do on behalf of the members. On behalf of the Membership Association and Board of Directors he wished every one "Happy Holidays" and on a personal note he wished everyone a "Merry Christmas!"

Ben Cammuso echoed his best wishes to all, hoping for a better next year for everyone. The sentiments were affirmed by those present.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Guss Nevelos. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, January 11, 2011** at 6:30 p.m., preceded by an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary