

MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Earl Temchin.

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

Members absent: Lynn Maschi

The minutes of the May 13, 2008 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the minutes as circulated; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Treasurer Susan Locks gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that of the \$487,093. current budget, \$425,983.08 (87.5%) has been expended, leaving \$61,109.92 remaining for the balance of the fiscal year. Transfer requests in the amount of \$15. from Office and Equipment Repair to Elderly Tax Credit; and \$1650. from several line items to Building, Grounds & Maintenance were requested. The Board of Finance meeting date change was noted. Also discussed was the letter to Mr. Weischel communicating the good news that we have been awarded a \$40,000. grant for the purchase of a new vehicle; and requesting procedure for re-instating the \$10,000. required town funding into our FY 2008/09 budget. The terms of the grant stipulate that not more than 80% of the purchase price, up to \$40,000., be paid through the grant. Since the last vehicle cost \$48,000., the town's obligation will be approximately \$10,000. The consensus of the Commission is that any funds remaining in our current budget be carried over into the next budget and designated to meet that obligation. Earl Temchin inquired if there was a lag in the utilities line item to which Robert Verderame replied affirmatively. This is a line item that should be left alone. Guss Nevelos made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor.

In presenting the Director's and Program Coordinator's Report, the Executive Director noted that 832 one-way rides were provided in May, including 66 out of town medical runs and 247 in town medical runs.

Under Social Services, we continue to field and address numerous inquiries, offering assistance and counseling on many levels. Several inquiries from out of state children of elderly parents are received every month regarding services, specifically transportation availability. One area of concern for our senior citizens has been the cost of energy, especially heating oil, with lower temperatures during the month combined with the F&S debacle. Dean McGahey has been available to assist seniors in completing economic stimulus applications. The Renter's Rebate Program began on May 15th, with applications being completed by appointment at the Calendar House, and as scheduled at the Housing Authority sites.

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Our annual health fair held on May 21 was very successful with over 300 persons attending, gathering information from over 24 vendors, participating in various screenings and enjoying refreshments served up by the chefs and kitchen staff from The Orchards, Southington Care and Mulberry Gardens. Much appreciation to Sharon Robinson and Erika Copes of Central Connecticut Senior Health Services, Inc. and Cynthia Gilbert of Calendar House.

In collaboration with Southington Library Executive Director Susan Smayda, we will again be offering "Literature for a Lifetime", sponsored by Connecticut Humanities Council. This year's fall program will be "Murder on the Menu, Part 2"; with plans to offer a series on the biographies of baseball's greats in spring 2009.

Under Bus Maintenance, the mileage on the 2002 and 2000 buses reflect they are being equally utilized. More efficient easy-loc tie downs will be ordered for the 2006 bus.

Under Building Maintenance, the Stanley doors which have been somewhat problematic since day one were evaluated. Dean McGahey contacted a former associate willing to make adjustments for a reduced amount, but since we do not currently have any funding for non-essential repairs it will be deferred to a later time. We have some funds set aside to have the roof top HVAC units repaired by PerfecTemp. The kitchen faucet purchased by UNICO will be installed shortly. The lectern with PA system is over thirty years old and should be replaced rather than repaired. For future consideration the metal outside doors in the woodshop should be replaced.

An extensive discussion regarding the pavilion columns ensued. Earl Temchin noted that several of the commissioners had looked at them at the conclusion of last month's meeting. Bob Verderame informed the commission that there is \$3,200. in the line item for the repair. He is waiting for the written estimate that the Engineering Department has requested from a contractor. The columns should be replaced with metal columns, and then boxed in for aesthetic and safety purposes. It can be done in two phases. Earl Temchin asked if a ball park figure was available. Robert Verderame replied, "approximately \$1,000. per column for six columns". Sandra Micalizzi asked an emergency appropriation was needed so that work could be done enabling the use of the pavilion, as the commission had closed the pavilion pending a structural inspection. Robert Verderame assured the commissioners that Town Engineer Tony Tranquillo had in fact inspected the columns and determined that there was not a safety concern provided we didn't get a major snow storm or any substantial amount of weight was added to the roof. Ben Cammuso confirmed the Town Engineer's report. Earl Temchin asked if we had a letter to that effect. Robert stated that we could and would get one. Cliff Snow raised the concern over the cracked cement footings. Robert Verderame stated that the footings would be addressed. The commission wondered what steps could be taken to facilitate the repair. Robert Verderame replied that funds remaining in other line items could be transferred into that line item.

Michael Rossi made a motion to approve any transfer requests needed to facilitate the repair of the columns and that in the interim, subject to receipt of a letter from the Town Engineer regarding the safety of the facility, the pavilion could be reopened and used for Calendar House functions; seconded by Sandra Micalizzi; all in favor.

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Highlights of the Program Coordinator's Report included: Polish Night catered by Teresa's of New Britain with entertainment by DJ Jerry Limmer; Stress Management/Humor seminars offered to Town employees; the annual High School Dinner Dance sponsored by FBLA and FCCLA; a Bagel Breakfast program on Osteoporosis, facilitated by Janice Freeman; a Memorial Day Program with veteran/historian Walter Hushak and entertainer Bob Mel; and the monthly membership meeting featuring the DePaolo Band, Chorus and String Ensemble. Also, HealthNet donated a Wii game system to our center, in conjunction with a multi-senior center bowling competition challenge.

Earl Temchin thanked Bob Verderame for his report. A motion to accept the Director's Report as presented was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Michael Rossi; all in favor.

Under Correspondence: The correspondence regarding Youth Honor Day and Charter Sec 723 were for informational purposes only, requiring no action on the part of the commission. Earl Temchin read a letter of appreciation from the Orchard Valley Garden Club. Ben Cammuso asked about the signs and backfilling that needed to be completed. Robert Verderame informed the commission that \$10,000. is being held back pending completion of the entire parking lot project, including the signage and backfilling. A letter from one of our members, Mrs. Danby, referred to her disappointment in not getting into a computer class due to the timing of the registration. This issue has been addressed by the Executive Director with the SeniorNet coordinator, and a response was sent to Mrs. Danby.

The vandalism incident referenced in a letter to the Town Manager, along with the police report occurred in dark area, created by the timing of the parking lot lights. Mr. Putala's equipment was left on property as he was doing work at Calendar House. Earl Temchin noted it is an insurance matter at this point. Michael Rossi remarked he observed the equipment behind the dumpster, in what appeared to be a secure place. Robert Verderame stated that the equipment previously parked in the area where the work was being done, was moved to that location after the incident. The memo regarding broken compact fluorescent light bulbs is for your information and will be posted on our bulletin board and included in our newsletter.

Under Old Business: Overall we fared well on the budget process. The part time driver line was significantly cut to \$8,000. which may become problematic. Part time drivers fill in during vacations, sick leave and utilize our third bus at times of peak demand. Earl Temchin remarked that as always we would keep an eye on it and see how it goes. Mr. Temchin also mentioned that several of the commissioners had commented favorably on the parking lot; they are pleased with the results. Robert Verderame informed the commission that there was an over budget amount of \$302. that will need to be transferred from our accounts to engineering. Sandra Micalizzi made a motion to transfer \$302. to cover that expense; seconded by Susan Locks; all in favor.

Concerning the plaques – the last task of hanging on the wall is complicated by the weight of the plaques and the concrete walls. The gentleman Earl Temchin consulted did not have the appropriate drill bit. At the request of the secretary, Gil Gilbert has volunteered to do it. Michael Rossi asked if a dedication date had been set; it has not.

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Under New Business: The pavilion columns have been previously discussed. A motion was made by Michael Rossi that a continued appropriation into FY2008/09 be requested for the \$3200. in that line item; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all in favor.

The new Full Time Bus Driver position will be posted according to union guidelines.

Ben Cammuso inquired as to the snow removal bid. Robert Verderame responded that Mark Sciota is going out to bid town wide for HVAC units, and he may decide to do the same with snow removal. Sandra Micalizzi questioned the insurance and maintenance factors in having four buses operational. She wondered if consideration was given to trading in a vehicle – Robert Verderame responded that we would probably continue to use the bus, as backup until it was no longer serviceable. As an alternative, Janet Mellon has expressed an interest in acquiring the bus for community services. Ben Cammuso raised the concern regarding the tree limbs that should be trimmed from around the light posts. Robert Verderame explained it would have to wait until the new budget.

Under Public Communication: Walter Kizilski asked how the seeding would be watered. Robert Verderame replied that we are currently watering the trees using hoses. He remarked that Planning and Zoning has stated they wanted additional trees planted. Ben Cammuso raised the concern that initially more trees might look good, but eventually the tree roots would spread and damage the parking lot surface. The commissioners agreed that was a valid concern which should be considered in any future plantings.

Michael Rossi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary