

MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Earl Temchin.

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

The minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

Treasurer Susan Locks gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that of the \$495,467. current budget, \$106,104.59 (24.9%) has been expended, \$17,413.48 encumbered, with \$371,948.93 available. It was noted that these figures are as of 9/9/08. There being no further comments, a motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the Treasurers Report; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the September Director's and Program Coordinator's Reports. He reported that Dial-A-Ride provided 1059 one way rides, including 426 in town and 121 out of town medical runs. The majority of out of town medical runs involve dialysis patients. We are certainly doing our job in meeting the transportation requests. He noted the Social Service Program statistics indicate a steady growth in requests for and assistance provided. Specific mention was made to the Renters Relief Program which has concluded for the year, with over 344 applications taken, thanks to the efforts of Sharyn Murphy and several volunteers.

The Executive Director asked Program Coordinator Sharyn Murphy to comment on the Social Service Programs. Sharyn remarked that September was National Senior Center Month, with the theme "Senior Centers Work". Judging by the number of folks utilizing our center for a variety of activities and services, including diverse inquiries and complex issues, this center certainly does "work" for them! Sharyn also highlighted the Renters Relief Program applications expressing her appreciation to the five volunteers with strong people and computer skills who assisted her with this program, now in its second year of utilizing computer software. When Sandra Micalizzi asked if more people had applied this year, she replied, "yes, with close to 100 first time applicants processed". She reported that Energy Assistance Program appointments began on October 3rd. We have received many calls looking for help, especially in light of the price of oil. We expect to be busy over the next few months. We currently have four highly trained intake volunteers along with the Program Coordinator to handle the application process. Sharyn remarked on the number of requests for ConnPACE, Medicare D and Medicare Supplemental Insurance guidance noting that the open enrollment period for Medicare D is November 15 – December 30. We have scheduled a seminar on November 17, and requested the DSS Rx Express Bus be present at Calendar House on that day. Also of note is the IRS October 15 deadline for filing for the economic stimulus program. Volunteer Dean McGahey has been extremely helpful with this program.

The Executive Director remarked on the Bus Maintenance, noting the mileage and that all buses have been running well. Under Building Maintenance, the Tile floors were cleaned and waxed; Turf Pro Lawn Care completed the work in the parking lot areas and did a great job; motion sensors were

installed in the pavilion and patio areas; and a Southington Fire Inspection was completed and passed satisfactorily.

Mr. Verderame reminded the Commissioners that the parking lot lights will be reset to remain on until 11 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (October 17, 18 and 19) to accommodate requests previously approved for the use of our parking lot for community activities. They will be reset to turn off at 9 p.m. on Monday, October 20.

“Murder on the Menu”, a four part literary series, in conjunction with the Southington Library enjoyed its first session on September 24th with 30 participants. The second session is in fact taking place this evening, with the third and fourth sessions to be held at the library. Sandra Micalizzi, who also serves on the library board, shared the library’s current newsletter.

Robert Verderame asked the Program Coordinator to present her report. Sharyn Murphy expressed appreciation to HealthNet for the donation of a Nintendo Wii game and their sponsorship of a “Wii Bowling Challenge”. Six of our seniors participated in a playoff at the Plainville Senior Center. Although defeated, a good time was had by all. Our annual class registration went extremely well with a significant increase in numbers. We have two new instructors: Janice Freeman (Strength Training) and Karen Kebinger (Advanced Quilting). Meetings were held to discuss trip offerings for 2009.

Highlights of the month included: the Nurse Clinic on September 8th, with plans to offer a brief educational program prior to the November clinic; the Chicken Dinner held on September 18th, our last “pavilion” event for the year, attended by 106 seniors who enjoyed entertainment by Bob Mel. The “Grandparents raising grandchildren” support group continues to be well received. A trip to Foxwoods included “Celtic Spring” Irish entertainment at the Garde Arts Theatre. The monthly membership meeting on September 25th was followed by “Pizza and a Movie”, attended by 27 people.

Earl Temchin thanked Bob and Sharyn for their reports and asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, a motion to accept the Director’s Report as presented was made by Michael Rossi; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all in favor.

Under Correspondence: Within the minutes of the October 1st Department Heads Meeting, it was noted that Town Manager John Weichsel reminded everyone that on Board of Finance matters not to request new money. Departments will have to find funds within their budgets. Regarding purchasing equipment, Mr. Weichsel said that we would want to keep our equipment replacement up so as not to have inefficient and broken equipment which would cause more problems. He did suggest not increasing the equipment line too drastically. Rule of reason applies.

This prompted discussion among the commissioners regarding the purchase of a new bus, for which we have received State of CT DOT approval for a \$40,000. grant, that requires that the balance of the purchase price, (approximately \$12,000.), be funded by the town. Mr. Verderame stated that this should not be problematic, as it is quite advantageous to the Town.

There was some discussion at the Department Heads Meeting regarding the MUNIS system as to how it may impact the new budget process, line items, etc. The Finance Director stated that the department is running behind due to the quantity of work, thanking everyone for their patience, and assuring them that instructional classes would be scheduled as needed.

Also noted in the Department Heads Meeting Minutes was the announcement that performance evaluations on department heads would be done shortly. On that note, Chairman Temchin remarked

that he had in fact, received an evaluation form, and proceeded to distribute copies to each Commissioner. They were instructed to return them to Mr. Temchin.

Under Old Business: The Full Time Bus Driver position has been filled. With regards to the pavilion, Mr. Verderame is waiting for a sketch and/or material sample from the Assistance Town Engineer. A possible solution involves a "thermo-wrap". Mr. Temchin asked Calendar House member Walter Kizilski if he was familiar with that term. Mr. Kizilski said he was not, but thought it might be referring to the issue of expansion and contraction due to temperature changes that cause cracking. As there are no further events planned for the pavilion this season, and information on repair options is incomplete, a motion to table further action until the next meeting was made by Lynn Maschi; seconded by Marlene Carbone; all in favor.

The clarification requested by the Commission regarding the snowplow contract was received; and the vendor was notified of the Commission's decision to award the bid to him, as indicated at the September 9, 2008 meeting. The landscaping in the parking lot has been completed satisfactorily, and fall cleanup will be done.

Under New Business: The insurance inspection of the premises was completed satisfactorily. Mr. Temchin noted this type of inspection is becoming more and more common. Mr. Verderame was asked if the building has a sprinkler system, and his reply was that we have the Ansel system in the kitchen. Sandra Micalizzi inquired what type of notification is in place should a fire break out when no one is in the building. Mr. Verderame replied that the security system is linked to the fire and police departments. Mr. Temchin asked what the result of the inspection was. Mr. Verderame responded that Mr. Harkins will write up an evaluation, making recommendations and submit it to us and to the Town Council. The insurance policy is through the Town.

Mr. Verderame expressed appreciation to the UNICO for the donation of a brand new lectern. Also to the Falcons for their donation of seven used round tables. Saucier Mechanical was awarded the HVAC service contract. Plainville Senior Center, undergoing renovations, will be sending a number of their seniors to our facility for the nutrition program beginning next week. They hosted a number of our members during the parking lot project.

Upcoming events include an annual Italian Night on October 21 and a Christmas Party on Thursday, December 4 at the Aqua Turf. The Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Several budget items to be considered in the 2009/10 budget were briefly discussed, including the replacement of tables; purchase of a generator; second floor furnishings; replacement of HVAC units and ductwork repair. Mr. Kilizski noted that if ductwork is done, see that it is insulated.

Ben Cammuso made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is **WEDNESDAY**, November 5th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary