

**SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING  
OCTOBER 18, 2010**

*Jan Chiquine-Cost.*  
TOWN CLERK

Meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Vice Chairman James Gere.

PRESENT: Loris Balkun, Theresa Fucini, James Gere, Claire Hickey, Jane Johnson, Cathy Kelley, Madeline Lowry, Mertie Terry, Helen Zalewski. EX-OFFICIO members present: Claire Hickey, Cathi Jackson, Joyce Norman, Wesley Bell, Theresa Strong, Selectman Liaison Patrick Ahlquist.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jane Johnson moved, second Claire Hickey, so moved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Theresa Fucini moved to accept Sept. 13 meeting minutes as written, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved.

SC DIRECTOR'S REPORT: As requested Theresa will enclose on a monthly basis a detailed budgetary report on transportation and senior services "line items" as you received with this month's packet. \* Rental Rebate - program ended Sept. 15, 158 applications process. \* Approval was received for \$77,000 grant for transportation services. \* Energy Assistance - Oil applications continue to Nov. 1; electric and gas after Nov. until April. Approximately 200 applications will be processed.

Senior Classes and Programs - Transportation totals - 830; Program participants - 1426; Volunteer hours - 183. Theresa is working on travel and trips for 2011 season. Also working with Human Resources Insurance Agent on coverage for drivers on inter/intra-state trips. Will continue to charter long trips. A "Holiday Ham" dinner will be served Dec. 8; senior Christmas baskets will be delivered Dec. 22, Human Services Dept. senior baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas will also be done; all basically by application due to changes in Housing Authorities.

Transportation program is running smoothly; procurement process due in January for new bus. The new bus will be labeled "Senior and Disabled Transportation." On Wed. Theresa will attend committee to support persons with disabilities meeting to explain Cromwell's capabilities for disabled program resources on an individual basis.

Budget is tight with no flexibility in account; by Spring will be using donation account. Thanks to the "Friends" group for keeping donation account up high. Theresa will begin preparing 2011-12 budget. The SCC will need to review to show support for proposed budget to be submitted in January 2011 for next fiscal year. Madeline Lowry inquired if donation account figures would be included; Theresa stated donation account is not part of the budget process; these funds are used for program/transportation and general purposes. Loris Balkun moved to accept report, seconded Claire Hickey, so moved.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi Jackson reported 16 calls in Sept. received on Medicare Part D, affordable senior housing, home companion, home chores, meals, food stamps, meals on wheels, if Cromwell had a senior center, senior transportation, and energy assistance. Theresa Fucini moved to accept report, second Helen Zalewski, so moved.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Claire Hickey noted Sept. was a good month; she made 70 Halloween popsicles already sold. Items are needed for the November bake sale and craft fair November 24. FRIENDS BY-LAWS - Theresa discussed "conflict of interest" issues with First Selectman Flanders. However, he would not forward to Attorney for advice due to cost and felt there was no conflict with members serving on both groups. In communication with other Commissions there is no policy to this effect. Helen Zalewski moved the SSC formally approve the Friends By-Laws, seconded Cathy Kelley, all in favor. Committee officers: Chairman Claire Hickey, Vice Chairman Cathy Kelley, Secretary Mertie Terry, Treasurer Jane Johnson. A bank account will be established; Pat Ahlquist will continue to pursue filing with Secretary of State's office to establish 501(3c) plan. James Gere felt that from First Selectman's point and funds in a checking account, enough safeguards are set up with fiduciary issues along with records and a paper trail.

BD OF SELECTMAN LIAISON: Pat Ahlquist discussed Bd. of Selectman's meeting results. Ongoing construction on Senator Drive, Cider Hill, and Willowbrook Road; selection of Mr. Stevenson for Economic Development Coordinator. Thanked Theresa for her attendance and great report; importance of Dept. Heads to be present to answer questions particularly if they are requesting funds. Note that "surplus" funds are now referred to as "fund balance" monies. Funds were approved and denied for Public Works equipment, and approved to resurface the gym floor; hopefully to be completed by Thanksgiving with no impact on senior programs. Loris Balkun moved to accept report, second Claire Hickey, so moved.

OLD BUSINESS: Pat Ahlquist will continue to followup with the adoption of Senior Services Department as a "Town Ordinance" Charter Revision Committee's housekeeping matters.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE: Next Commission meeting is November 8. Claire Hickey moved to adjourn at 12 noon, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joyce Norman, Commission Clerk