

SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING
MAY 10, 2010

The Senior Services Commission meeting at 11:00 a.m. was called to order by Mary Konopka, Chairman.

PRESENT: Larry Anderson, Loris Balkun, Theresa Fucini, James Gere, Claire Hickey, Cathy Kelley, Mary Konopka, Madeline Lowry, Helen Zalewski. ABSENT: Jane Johnson and Al Kane. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Claire Hickey, Cathi Jackson, Joyce Norman, Theresa Strong and Board of Selectman Liaison Patrick Ahlquist. Wesley Bell was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Claire Hickey moved, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Loris Balkun moved to accept minutes of April 12 meeting, seconded Claire Hickey with changes – Pg. 1, Accreditation , last line –Plague to read “plaque”. Pg. 2, BOS, third line – poles to read “polls”, so voted.

Theresa welcomed new Commission members Theresa Fucini and Madeline Lowry.

SC DIRECTOR’S REPORT: * Energy Assistance applications processed were about as expected. * Rental Rebate - Cathi and Theresa attended computer and program training sessions; awaiting IT consultant to unload the software; hopefully will be taking applications May 17; program will run through Sept. 15. Will process approximately 200 during this period. * Operation Fuel winter heating assistance program is complete; now processing grants for electric/gas shutoffs.

Classes/Programs – Reports were mailed out with agenda. Transportation – 902, Programs – 1390; and April Volunteer hours – 191.5. Frank Golden is doing all Medicare QMB questions for supplements, getting State certification as a “Choices Councillor.” Krista Dickson does one-on-one computer training, and Lori Young taught a Spring series and will teach a fall series of eight computer classes. Thanks to all store volunteers. * The summer picnic may a Dinner/Bingo night and held at an alternate site where everyone could attend; in the future dinners may be held only 3-4 times a year * Casino trip is June 21.

Transportation - Waiting on approval of grants: 5310 for vehicle replacement and DOT \$17,000 match. Preparing vehicles for DOT summer inspections; brakes already done.

Budget - Running extremely low; will use donation account to finish the budget year if needed. 2010-11 budget referendum is Wednesday, with cuts in program subsidies Theresa will try to run more volunteer programs through outside entities, assisted living facilities and sponsors. Helen Zalewski moved accept report, second Madeline Lowrey, So moved.

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MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi reported 15 calls for April were for Homemakers, energy

assistance, meals on wheels, food pantry, housing, income tax and transportation. Taxes prepared – 156. James Gere moved to accept report, second Cathy Kelley, so moved.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Store is doing well, there are more volunteers and remains open until 3:00 PM. Friends project for 2010-11 is to form a Committee and become a non-profit 501(3c) entity. This would allow the “Friends” to file for grants therefore providing another outlet for funding. BOS Liaison Pat Ahlquist will assist in this project. Loris Balkun moved to accept, second Helen Zalewski, so moved.

BOARD OF SELECTMAN LIAISON: Pat Ahlquist BOS activities update * Last week’s public hearing on the budget was short with no public input * Municipal and Bd. of Ed Budget referendum is Wed., April 12 noon to 8PM at the High School. Next BOS meeting is May 19. * At the last BOS meeting members recognized the “Senior Services Commission” as a Department, and will be formally adopted as a town ordinance through the mandatory Charter revision process by the end of this year. * Economic Development is waiting for budget approval. Claire Hickey moved to accept report, second Helen Zalewski, so moved.

OLD BUSINESS: a) National Accreditation celebration is planned for June 3, 2 PM in Town Hall Commons. Sen. Paul Doyle, Nicki Crawford of the Self-Assessment Board, First Selectman Flanders, SC Dir. Theresa Strong will speak; Liberty Bank will purchase the banner, Refreshments by Waters Edge, the “Plaque” will be hung at this time. Motion by Helen Zalewski and Commission approved to authorize a letter of request to First Selectman’s office for a Proclamation recognizing June 3 as Accreditation Celebration Day.

NEW BUSINESS: a) Quilting Class review with their acceptance of provisions with minimal donation and no meetings in July and August, motion was made by Claire Hickey, seconded Cathy Kelley that this class continue. The Choral Group continues to go out to perform, the Director is trying to get new participants, do not meet in the summer and only cost is for the Director. Motion was made by Helen to review this group again in December, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved. b) programs for review this year are Bookworms, Art Class, Golf. Claire Hickey made motion, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved. Thanks to citizens for attending the meeting.

GOOD AND WELFARE: Theresa read National Council on Aging statistics – When Medicare/Medicaid were enacted in 1965 18 million Americans were aged 65. Today – 35 million; in 2050 – 88 million. Almost 20,000 organizations in the aging network are serving seniors. Theresa will be on furlough May 24-28. Helen Zalewski moved to adjourn at 12 noon, second Claire Hickey, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Norman, Commission Clerk

