

**SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING
JUNE 14, 2010**

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Claire Hickey moved, seconded Jane Johnson, approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Loris Balkun moved to accept minutes of May 10, 2010 meeting, seconded Theresa Fucini, approved.

SENIOR SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Operation Fuel –electric/gas shut-off assistance applications will end June 30th.

Rental Rebate – Began on May 15th – will run through Sept 15th.

Tax Appeals – will be accepting appeals until June 21st. 180 denial letters will be mailed out around 6/14.

Volunteer Hours - May 2010- 162.25 hours

Special/New/Recent/Future Programs –

Dinner/Bingo Night –next one will be summer picnic (either July or August)

Next Casino Trip- Monday, June 21st

Summer Cooking for One Series (Emeritus Chef) sponsoring for us 4-week course & Craft “Go Green” Class – 7/21 & 7/28

Transportation-

➤ 5310 Grant application –just got notification that we are approved for up to 40,000 to replace our 2004 senior bus – will accept delivery on this vehicle if all goes well in the summer of 2011.

➤ DOT Match Grant –grant submitted – waiting to hear on approval

➤ Getting ready for Summer DOT Vehicle Inspections (SB & MB) both due this year. – Brake readings, etc have been completed in advance. Will schedule appointments as soon as we get paperwork from DMV -

2010-11 Budget –have requested standing orders for next fiscal year to start July 1st

Theresa Fucini made a motion to accept report, 2nd by Claire Hickey, approved.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi Jackson gave monthly report as follows:

She attended annual municipal agent training last week at which time the quarterly report was updated to include adding program referral information for reporting purposes.

New ‘cold’ calls as follows: 1/home-maker; 1/live-in companion, 1/choices, 3/housing, 5/rental rebate, 7/transportation. Loris Balkun made a motion to accept report, 2nd by Jane Johnson, approved.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Store continues to do well. Claire commented that the friends will be participating in the Riverport Festival on August 28th. They are looking for volunteers to help out with event and also craft donations to sell. Mary Konopka commented that the store seems to be open longer hours and how nice that is for residents and visitors to town hall. Loris moved to accept report, seconded by Jane Johnson, approved.

BOARD OF SELECTMAN LIAISON: Pat Ahlquist noted that Board of Selectman regular meeting for June was canceled and a special meeting is due to be held on 6/23/10. Business from last month was routine in nature and nothing major. Commission members did ask questions on the status of pending road projects in town. Pat also advised members that solar panel awnings will be put on the courtyard of town hall to save energy. Short discussion was held on this issue as it pertains to possible future renovations at town hall. Lastly, Pat let the commission know that he has recruited a volunteer accountant who will help us get our friends group established as a 5013c non-profit charitable institution. Theresa will work on getting by-laws from another senior center to start the process; then we will have to file the application with the federal government with a cost association of \$300.00 for the application fee. The commission thanked Pat for all his help with this project. Claire Hickey moved to accept the report, seconded Loris Balkun, approved.

OLD BUSINESS: both items a) and b) from old business will remain on the agenda until resolved or completed.

NEW BUSINESS: none

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Alice Kelly and others spoke regarding why the dinners haven't been held as often this past year. Theresa spoke at length explaining that there is a combination of factors that have caused the department to reduce the number of monthly evening dinners being held. Theresa will advertise to look for a few volunteer chefs, which may help with one factor in this issue. Next dinner will be our annual picnic in August. Fran Rollish spoke about the Chorus group and how they would hate to see their group canceled. The commission discussed how this group has very low attendance and that we need to consider what taxpayer funds are going towards and make the best decisions for the budget. However, the chorus funding is in place for 2010-2011 and if town resident participation increases, it may continue beyond this year as well. Commission will review the status of this program in the spring of 2011.

GOOD AND WELFARE: We are sorry to report that Al Kane has resigned from our commission. Theresa will notify the 1st Selectman's office that we will need to have a replacement put on the commission as soon as possible.

Claire Hickey moved, seconded by Jane Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Strong
Senior Services Director
Town of Cromwell