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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

**SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2011**

Gloria Prudergast Asst
TOWN CLERK

SSC Chairman Mary Konopka called meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

PRESENT: James Gere, Claire Hickey, Jane Johnson, Cathy Kelley, Mary Konopka, Helen Zalewski. EX-OFFICIO members present: Claire Hickey, Cathi Jackson, Joyce Norman, Wesley Bell, Theresa Strong, BOS Liaison Patrick Ahlquist. ABSENT: Larry Anderson, Loris Balkun, Theresa Fucini, Mertie Terry.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Under New Business: Add item (a) Question-answer session with Marianne Sylvester, Fin. Dir., and proceed with discussion at this time. Motion by Madeline Lowry, seconded Cathy Kelley, agenda approved as amended. The Board of Selectmen disbanded the practice of "suggested donation" for all senior programs; and ruled that participants can now make a donation of their choice. With the remaining \$22,000 balance in the donation account Theresa will apply to the Fin. Dir. for extra activities, subsidies for existing programs when funds are short, or expenses for retrofitting the two school buses. Jim Gere pointed out it is the role of the SSC as an advisory body and can make recommendations regarding senior center programs and Services. It was recommended that Theresa submit a budget, as done by other departments with a Line Item to reflect unintended/emergency repairs to vehicles. Options to paying program costs are an increased budget, membership fees, or other arrangements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jane Johnson moved, second Jim Gere to accept Sept. minutes as written, so moved.

SS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: * Rental Rebate - 154 applications processed by Sept. 15. * Energy Assistance - Oil deliveries have begun; electric and gas applications begin Nov. 1; amounts will be less than in prior years. *SC program totals for Sept. - 1345; Transportation - 736. Volunteer hours - 218. * Theresa reviewed Financial reports - General and Friends, Program donations and Transportation donations. Donations for transportation/services/programs will still be accepted; Friends monthly report will include donations update, the Exec. Bd. Will designate funds to the general account or Paul Harrington Building Fund.

Upcoming programs - .Bingo night next week, Middlesex Healthcare will sponsor once a month; Halloween party - Oct. 27. Holiday Dinner night is Dec. 8, registration will be taken at the door, free will donations accepted, desserts by Middlesex Healthcare. Masonicare will provide an Arthritis exercise program and do luncheons in Feb. and April 2012. Frank Golden will assist Seniors on medicare enrollment Oct. 18- 7. Theresa continues on a collaborative effort with funding by outside agencies.

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TRANSPORTATION - * Theresa has new vehicle registration and title; bus ready for service, it has a "green" stripe. Jim Gere and Theresa commented on calls on bus services. Drivers are not trained in passenger handling; they can help with bags off the bus but not assist to the building; a senior aide is allowed on the bus. Per drivers manual they are not allowed to receive "tips"; those who wish may make a donation to senior center for services. * Matching grant fund for 2012 is \$13,000. * Holiday trips include shopping, light fantasia; 2012 trips are booked and fliers posted soon. Claire Hickey moved to accept report; second Cathy Kelley, so moved.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi reported 16 calls in Sept. for medicare, medicare Part D, affordable senior housing, home health aide, energy assistance, and weatherization. Madeline Lowry moved accept report, second Jane Johnson, so moved.

FRIENDS OF SC: Next bake sale is day before Thanksgiving; Tag Sale proceeds were \$860. Friends executive board meetings have been productive. Cathy Kelley moved to accept, second Jane Johnson, so moved.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIR.: Wesley Bell reported Flu Clinic dates: Oct. 21 - Zion Church, Middletown, Nov. 2 - 12 noon to 8PM at the Coles Road Firehouse, Nov. 15 - Durham, Nov. 30 - Westfield, Dec. 14 - So. Fire Station, Middletown. There is no Co-pay for shots; get early as vaccine may run out. With nursing staff volunteers service can continue for next 3-5 years. Thanks Wes for coordinating program. Jane Johnson moved to accept report, second Claire Hickey, so moved.

BD OF SELECTMAN LIAISON: Pat Ahlquist reported Senator Drive issues moving through the courts *Open space property ongoing for resolution * Pasco Hill Five lot subdivision approved; drainage and road issues being addressed *CRRA contracts approved with cheapest rates for next three years. * Approval also for recycleable contract * Mattabbassett on hold for Middletown funding approval and discussion on host town compensation. * Bd.of Sel. acted on suggested donations for senior programs and supports the senior center * Budget - it is important for seniors to get to hearings to support programs. * November elections - get out to vote and let your voice be heard on the Town Manager referendum. * Pat expressed his pleasure as a represent the Board, but his schedule does not permit him to continue. The SSC thanked him for his input. Madeline Lowry moved to accept report, second Claire Hickey, so moved.

OLD BUSINESS: TRIAD program will remain on Agenda - Theresa will continue contact with Peoples Bank, and as Pat suggested consider involvement of other small towns in a "Tri-town" Triad system.

NEW BUSINESS: Officers elected for 2011-2012 - Chairman James Gere, Vice Chairman Mary Konopka, Commission Clerk Joyce Norman; MSP.

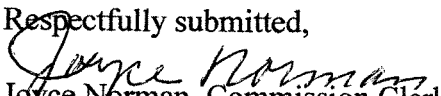
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CITIZENS COMMENTS: Second "school bus" needs to be retrofitted with an additional grab rail; Theresa will followup with maintenance.

GOOD AND WELFARE: Due to rear parking lot change for "Fire Lane Only" Theresa read June E-mail request to Human Resources officer and First Selectman to set aside more parking spaces near the fence for town employees to allow for additional handi-Capped space and visitor parking closer to town hall entrance. Claire moved, second Helen to resubmit request and add item to Nov. meeting agenda, MSP.

Claire moved, second Madeline to adjourn at 12:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Joyce Norman, Commission Clerk