

SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY  
BOARD MEETING  
October 20, 2008

Vice Chairman Jim Gere called SSAB meeting to order at 11 :00 a.m. PRESENT: Larry Anderson, Loris Balkun, James Gere, Claire Hickey, Bernice Hurlbut, Bud Jackson, Jane Johnson, Catherine Kelley, Helen Zalewski. Chairman Mary Konopka and AI Kane were absent. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Claire Hickey, Cathi Jackson, Joyce Norman, Theresa Strong, First Selectman Liaison Fran Monnes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Loris Balkun moved to approve, seconded Claire Hickey, motion passed. Jim Gere abstained.

SCIHS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Rental Rebate - 166 applications were processed, a total of \$65,365 paid out. Energy Assistance - Began Oct. J, 40 applications already processed. Electric and Gas applications will begin Nov. 1. News publicity is very misleading regarding State and Fed. Gov. allocations to middle class families and Operation Fuel for seniors over 65 as there is an "asset limit". Theresa works with a discounted oil company on a "cash or credit card only" policy.

SC CLASSES AND PROGRAMS: Reports were mailed out with agenda; classes totaled 1529 and transportation was 992. TheFesa attended a regional meeting in Newington on senior transportation. Attendies included mayors, 1<sup>st</sup> selectmen, town dept. heads. Cromwell senior center provides more and better service than other towns with more vehicles and drivers. One minibus was sent out with lift problem; additional funds \ViII be requested in budget for outsourcing of bus maintenance. With the Wii program Statewide and Regional championship tournaments are being held; other towns are holding regional events. The new television, paid for with grants, is available for movie viewing. The two former TV's from senior center and dining room were transferred to the recreation department for use for family weekend programs.

Fall programs - "55 Alive" classes are underway; will be getting together tour companies to set up 2009 travel programs. After the holidays winter programs will begin January and February and include World Religion, meditation, yoga, tai chi, all of these programs will be paid from senior center initiative grant funds.

Budget: Running on target. Theresa will submit 2009 budget in January with additional funds for transportation. The SSAB support is needed at budget meetings.

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Human Services: State law requires Theresa to act as Eviction Officer; \$500 is allocated For expenses, which include procedures; cost of moving; storage and/or auction of possessions; In 2009 budget Theresa will address line items to include meds, as She reimbursed the Police Dept. from donation account recently for individual held overnight. Currently using the food bank are 90 families. Claire moved to accept report, seconded Bud Jackson, motion passed.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi Jackson's report totaled 22; regarding homemakers, energy assistance, meals on wheels, food pantry, home health aide, subsidized housing, tax rebate (until the end of Oct.), and transportation. These calls are from new residents, with 150 calls from seniors already familiar with programs. Larry Anderson moved to accept Cathi' s excellent report, seconded Helen Zalewski, motion passed.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Bake and craft sale day is Nov. 26, the day before Thanksgiving. The Riverport Fest booth did well. Theresa reported on an inquiry as to a policy for percentage of funds received from fundraising projects to be deposited in the Paul Harrington Building Fund. In the past Theresa and Claire have made the decision as to percentage, basically 50% of all monies realized from major fundraisers, and all "memorial" donations earmarked specifically for that fund. This is an escrow account with interest and under the direction of the town finance director. Theresa noted that some monies received from the Friends projects go into the "donation account" for vehicle repairs, as town mechanics can due only tires, brakes and oil changes. All major repairs are done elsewhere. Theresa will check with Public Works Dept. and Bd. Of Ed on the benefits of outsourcing. Varlous classes and programs are also covered financially through June if needed from donation account.

Loris Balktin moved that, as previously done, the amount deposited to the Paul Harrington Building Fund from the Friends of the SC fundraising projects be at the discretion of the SC Admin. Director and Friends of the SC Chairman, and all memorial donations specifically earmarked be deposited to that fund. Helen Zalewski seconded, motion passed.

SELECTMAN'S LIASON: Fran Monnes,School Safety Corom., noted that in December 130 cameras will be installed on all schools; open space tax proposal for homeowners with additional property to encourage them not to sell to developers was tabled. There were 3 resignations on town boards and 6 appointments. West cemetery driveway improvements are complete. Town signs are installed; it's great to see the senior exercise program so well attended.

Theresa inquired on status of SC feasibility study for expansion or new site. Rooms now in use total 7,000 square feet. Covenant Village now charges for bus service; therefore more of those residents are using SC services. She asked Fran to bring up at next Finance Bd. Meeting as bonding issues will be in 2010-2011. SavMor property was discussed.

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Theresa will submit a 30-year capitol plan this week. The town should have a "team effort" for town projects, as the town must put \$ amount up front for feasibility study For the senior center. Jim Gere suggested the town should have a "Master Plan" for residents to see stages of implementation of bonding issues.

OLD BUSINESS: a) Outreach program cannot be done as not just supervisors, but 1520 people would have access to SC data base system. However, cost incurred to investigate was \$300. b) Self-Assessment and National Accreditation meetings are once a month. Two issues to be addressed are 1) Paul Harrington Building Fund and 2) Marketing and Outreach Plan which Theresa is working on for April. The Committee meetings have been very good; several town officials have attended, Tom Rohr, Human Resources Director, will attend next week. With discussion of the location of SavMor property a and recommendation of the SSAB, Theresa will E-Mail First Selectman Shingleton to look into the cost of the property as it would be a perfect location. Comm. member Madeleine Lowry commented on bonding issues. c) Approximately 30-35 membership surveys were returned with suggestions of more diversity and cultural events, and good news on transportation. Will continue with article in the Chronicle and Senior Scene; and do summary of findings by Dec.

NEW BUSINESS: Theresa informed board members that posting of agenda in 24 hours and minutes within seven (7) days must be done on the Town Website.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Bernice noted that several people have commented to her that it is too noisy at the bingo games with excessive talking, pool playing, etc. Theresa will address this issue.

GoOD AND WELFARE: Larry Anderson continues to pursue the \$500 energy rebate for furnace replacement. Sen. Doyle will be in Rocky Hill Oct. 22 to address senior issues. Several commented on newspaper and TV warnings against "lock in price" for oil delivery.

Claire moved to adjourn 12: 15 pm, seconded by several, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Norman  
Clerk