

SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
November 10, 2008

Chairman Mary Konopka called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. PRESENT: Larry Anderson, Loris Balkun, Bernice Hurlbut, Bud Jackson, Jane Johnson, Cathy Kelley, ABSENT: VC James Gere, Claire Hickey, Al Kane, Helen Zalewski. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce Norman, Theresa Strong, First Selectman Liaison Fran Monnes. Claire Hickey was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Bud Jackson moved to approve, seconded Jane Johnson, motion passed..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Loris Balkun moved to approve, seconded Bernice Hurlbut, motion passed.

SC/HS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Energy Assistance - Extremely busy; Theresa attended a conference on qualifications and guidelines for EA and Operation Fuel programs. Theresa discussed variations of income from \$900 in Social Security, and higher income seniors. For instance – someone with \$900 in Soc. Sec. with assets would not be eligible for assistance; yet someone with \$15,000 income, with no assets, could qualify; and how one must qualify for one program before applying for the other. Too much confusion; The program begins in Dec. yet people are already coming in with questions. With the major cities within the size of this State, funds allocated for Cromwell would help only a very few seniors. At community renewal sites (CRT), there is a wait list for January appointments, even though they could get oil now. Theresa is getting calls from Rocky Hill and Middletown for help with applications. Residents are reporting that vendors will deliver only 150 gals.; however it is a State law that they must deliver “100 gals.” if that is the request, most vendors do not know it. Discounted Oil Co. price is \$2.61 and can be delivered within a days' notice, they also have 24 hr. service contract through another company.

SC CLASSES AND PROGRAMS: Reports were mailed out; totals were 1610, without flu clinic figures; transportation was 1040. Both increased perhaps due to price of gas, and “baby boomer” population use of services. Winter programs are Tai Chi, Yoga , Meditation, Art History and Tax Assistance. Flu Clinic held last week was very successful with no traffic problems and many volunteers; 192 shots given, plus 40 employees. Trips for 2009 are scheduled with Getaway and Friendship Tours. The SC/HS holiday baskets program is underway with delivery of Boy Scout collection.

TRANSPORTATION: 2004 senior bus in for battery replacement. Maintenance issues continue on wheelchair lifts, engine, electric, A/C repairs; ONLY brake, oil changes (a week out of service) & tire rotations can be done at “Town” maintenance facility. Garage crew must service all town equipment and is shorthanded. Recent replacement of fuse for overhead electrical problem (cost \$1.50) was a \$95 charge to Selig Ford. Discussion

followed on options through Technical School, and/or update of mechanic qualifications.

Budget: Well on target. Theresa submitted 30-year capital plan to administration last month. Received confirmation that SC feasibility study is on agenda; Self Assessment sub-committee meetings are ongoing; Economic Development officer met with Savmor property owner on possible purchase; he plans to develop the property. McNeil's building is being considered for more room for activities. The Chronicle cover photo was really nice. Holiday programs budget for 2009-10 is in process; Theresa attended training workshop with different senior center directors concerning wellness and fitness programs. New ideas were reflexology, walking, and involved seniors using canes. Cromwell seniors are very lucky to have services and programs with no fees or charges; many programs are supported through donations.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi Jackson will give two reports in December.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Bake and craft sale day is Nov. 26, the day before Thanksgiving; items are needed. Nov. dinner raffle proceeds were \$78.

SELECTMAN'S LIAISON: Fran Monnes again congratulated Theresa on the fantastic attendance at the exercise program. Bonding issues are scheduled for 2011, depending on the economy; feasibility study is on agenda; all issues will be discussed on a priority basis concerning road repair, school replacement, library and senior center.

OLD BUSINESS: The 5th Self-Assessment process meeting was held with four standards to go. Issues of concern are: research policies; marketing plan for Jan./Mar.; five year Strategic Plan by April/May. At present there is no protocol for fire and safety drills; Theresa will work on with Fire Dept.. Job evaluations cannot be done for paid positions under union contracts; but volunteers can be. Suggested title could be "annual employee review" to meet National Accreditation standards. Committee meetings have been well attended by town officials. Tom Rohr did not attend last week. Next meeting is Dec. 15.

Mary Konopka inquired as to decision of allocation of funds toward the Paul Harrington Building fund. Decision was voted on in second paragraph of FSC report of Oct. meeting. A special function could be held to raise funds for this project.

NEW BUSINESS: Mary Konopka read letter of complaint received regarding Video shown at Spaghetti dinner, which was viewed as a "political activity". It was a tape aired on public access on update of Cromwell projects. Many seniors enjoy the dinner as a "social event", with bingo as entertainment. Several other complaints were heard. Cathi Kelley moved it be the policy of the senior center not to show presentation or video during a dinner/bingo night without prior advertisement of participants. Bud Jackson seconded, motion passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE: Theresa asked members to bring their thoughts or ideas for inclusion in the 2009-10 budget request, such as instructor salaries, contractor fees or anything they'd like to include, for discussion at Dec./Jan. meetings.

Loris moved to adjourn 11:55 pm, seconded by Bernice, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Norman, Clerk

