

SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2009

The Senior Services Commission meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Senior Services Director Theresa Strong.

PRESENT: Loris Balkun, Claire Hickey, Bernice Hurlbut, Jane Johnson, Cathy Kelley, Helen Zalewski. ABSENT: Larry Anderson, James Gere, Bud Jackson, Al Kane, Mary Konopka.  
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Claire Hickey, Cathi Jackson, Joyce Norman, Theresa Strong and First Selectman Liaison Patrick Ahlquist. ABSENT: Wesley Bell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Claire Hickey moved to accept, seconded Loris Balkun, so moved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Cathy Kelley moved, seconded Jane Johnson, Nov. 9 minutes accepted as printed.

SC/HS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: \* Energy Assistance - Electric/Gas applications are in process; oil applications have declined. Theresa attended "Operation Fuel" meeting. Due to State changes in benefit levels and guidelines the program, which normally begins in Dec., will not start until Jan. 1, 2010, very disappointing for those who have received assistance throughout the winter in the past. Residents below \$16-20,000 will not be eligible for energy assistance. \* Classes/Programs figures reported for Nov. - 742 for transportation and 1319 programs. Programs are very popular and Cromwell does as much dial-a-ride as larger towns. \* Long Range Planning Comm. met Fri., decision was made to include a new senior center on referendum; Bd. of Sel. will review in Jan., then to Bd. of Finance and on referendum in March. Two questions on referendum will be roads and Police Dept. Communication System improvements, and new infrastructure for Library expansion and a senior center.

Theresa asked Commission members to go out and promote the reason for a new center. She will contact Finance Director on guidelines for PR techniques on referendum; ie, notice in newsletter, Chronicle, etc. \* Theresa received National Accreditation letter that Cromwell Senior Center will receive full accreditation after Nov. 26. Their letter pointed out strengths, they were impressed with choice of "green" notebook; and areas to strive for improvements. Over 130 senior centers are meeting standards for accreditation. Theresa would like to attend the National Conference on Aging in March in Chicago to receive a plaque, and would like a letter of support from the SSC. \* Theresa will be preparing a "small cities block grant" for \$750,000 to be submitted by April 1, 2010.

The Bd. of Selectmen have asked if any Comm. member would consider serving on the Regional Mental Health Board who meet on a monthly basis. Call Theresa if you would like to serve.

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Classes and Programs - Volunteer hours served in November were 217. At Dec. 3 dinner 100

seniors were served. Christmas baskets will be delivered to 80 senior shut-ins next week. The Casino trip is Monday Upcoming trips for 2010 are set up.

Transportation - Theresa will be completing grant application to replace 2004 senior bus for submittal in March. Helen Zalewski moved to accept report, seconded Cathy Kelley, so moved.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi reported a total of 21 “new calls” on energy assistance, meals on wheels, food pantry, visiting nurse, housing, income tax, Medicaid, senior/disability transportation. Claire Hickey moved to accept report, Loris Balkun, so moved.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Claire noted the bake sale was great, the Quilt raffle will be held Dec. 22. Helen Zalewski moved to accept report, seconded Jane Johnson, so moved.

FIRST SELECTMAN LIAISON: Discussions took place at regular Dec. 9 meeting on Road extension at Newberry Estates and Court Place, plus drainage; legal issues and downtown dining policies were tabled to next month; Committee established to solicit bids for new Town Attorney; approved \$764,000 bonding for road improvements on Nooks Hill Road, Summit St., and Holy Apostle drainage. Doing environmental assessment on T & D auto; approved inspection money for Phase 2 road projects and sewer repairs; heard report from Economic Development Committee for a part time/full time Coordinator. There was no action on larger/commercial tax payer issues.

Theresea commented on visit to Aerospace firm on Corporate Row who is a major Corporate sponsor to senior center programs, and spoke of their need for internet services. Loris Balkun moved to accept report, seconded Claire Hickey, so moved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Theresa reviewed draft budget with explanation of changes, and, if Wages are available, the final budget will be prepared for Commission approval at January 11 meeting. \* Meeting dates will remain the second Monday of each month at 11:00 AM; Claire Hickey moved, seconded Loris Balkun to submit the schedule to Town Clerk. \* Theresa has the feasibility study and preliminary building drawings in her office. Space requested is 25% more than already in use at present location.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE: Motion by Commission to send letter of recommendation and support for Theresa to attend NCA conference in Chicago, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved. Theresa wished all a Happy Holiday Season. Cathy Kelley moved, seconded Loris Balkun to adjourn at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Norman, Commission Clerk





