

SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009

SSAB meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chairman Mary Konopka. PRESENT: Loris Balkun, Claire Hickey, Bernice Hurlbut, Bud Jackson, Jane Johnson, Al Kane, Catherine Kelley, Mary Konopka and Helen Zalewski. ABSENT: Larry Anderson and James Gere. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Claire Hickey, Cathi Jackson, Joyce Norman, Theresa Strong, First Selectman Liaison Fran Monnes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Claire moved to accept, seconded Al Kane, all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Loris Balkun, Jane Johnson seconded to accept as printed, all in favor. Mary Konopka abstained.

SC/HS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Theresa apologized for not mailing out Dec. minutes with mailing. Last week she received a mailing, as well as First Selectman Shingleton, from the Area Agency on Aging regarding available funding from Title III, the Older Americans Act. Since applying in the 1980's for transportation funding, which was intended more for regional organizations than local municipalities, changes in wording of 3B funds for support services include "municipal senior centers". Theresa put together very quickly a proposal to submit at the Bd. of Selectmen's Wednesday meeting for funding to support an outreach program which is deficient in our self-assessment and accreditation process. This program would be for the frail and homebound seniors in the community to not only know what we have available for programs and services, but to realize that we are an overall housing source to gain information and point children or relatives in the right direction to assist in hospice, assisted living, long term care, nursing services, etc. In applying for process to do this the long term cost factor would be \$17,500; 85% match the first year with the town match of 15%; 2nd year - 20% match; 3rd year - 25% match, costing the town approx. \$2500; and to try for one year on a "Contracted" basis, not as a town employee. It would be a part time outreach position of 10-15 hours a week. Program will require monthly and quarterly reporting. Fran Monnes asked about the possibility of Day Care two or three days a week. Theresa explained it would not be feasible due to regulations, space, etc.

Energy Assistance and Operation Fuel are extremely busy. Some are eligible for Operation Fuel, but not EA; however they must apply first for EA and include "denial letter" in packet for OF application.

SC CLASSES AND PROGRAMS: Holiday program very successful, December dinner went well; supported 64 children through adoptive families, 61 families received Human Services Thanksgiving baskets; 76 senior baskets were delivered. Wii gaming system is being held on Wednesday mornings. A seminar preparing for surgery and rehab will be held this week sponsored by Waters Edge and Mapleview marketing departments. "55 Alive classes are Mar. 21 and 28.

TRANSPORTATION: Senior bus was garaged since Dec. 15; back in service on Friday.

BUDGET: On target except for vehicle maintenance. Four tires and fuel pump service taken from donation account. C & R meetings taking place soon on feasibility study.

As recommended accreditation fees will be submitted under contract services. Selectman asked that budgets be submitted with 0% increase across the board; lock in on gas price is being considered. Claire moved to accept report, seconded Al Kane, motion passed.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi Jackson's report total of 25 "new calls" for info on homemaker, Connpace, energy assistance, food pantry, senior housing, income tax assistance, affordable legal advice, Medicaid, senior transportation. These calls are in addition to the 300 plus monthly calls. Bernice Hurlbut moved to accept report, seconded Bud Jackson, so moved.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Claire reported an excellent year, hopes the store does as well this year. Loris Balkun moved to accept report, Cathy Kelley seconded, so moved.

Bernice Hurlbut comments on classes and programs will be discussed under New Business Budget Requests.

SELECTMAN'S LIAISON: Mary Konopka asked for comment on vehicle maintenance situation. Fran noted town is in process of hiring someone to fill vacant position. Nothing new to report. Thanks again to Theresa for super job done with food bank and holiday baskets deliveries. Claire moved to accept report, seconded Bud, so moved.

OLD BUSINESS: a) At next National Accreditation meeting committee will discuss "seventh" standard; after final meeting Committee will meet in the summer for review, and hopefully money will be in the budget for 2009-2010. National Council on Aging will be contacted for review and eligibility for accreditation. Deficiency exists in procedure for support groups and policies for attendance of programs at the center. Received calls from local entertainers to do programs at senior center. b) Charter Revision request letter to First Selectman. Motion was made by Helen Zalewski, seconded by Bernice Hurlbut that SSAB Chairman Mary Konopka sign the letter to recognize the SSAB as a "Senior Services Commission" as recommended by the National Accreditation Board as a self-assessment process. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Choice of various classes and programs, also funding, including payment to instructors, were discussed at length. Theresa explained that some are funded from the donation account, others by grants, and/or donation fees. B) Budget Requests for 2009-2010 will be revised to comply to 0% increase as asked by Selectman Shingleton and submitted to Bd. of Finance by January 22 with comment on vehicle

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maintenance situation. Copy of budget for SSAB members will be ready for Feb. meeting. If you have any comments or additions please let Theresa know.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE: Claire Hickey moved to adjourn at 12:00 noon, seconded Al Kane, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Norman, Clerk

