

Senior Services Commission

January 11, 2021

Prior to the start of the meeting, Luella Landis informed the Commission that Patricia Sienna has resigned.

The meeting was called to order by Luella Landis at 10:40 a.m.

Roll Call: Deirdre Daly Ann Jordan Luella Landis
 Paula Luna Linda Polke

Absent: Shirley Banic Madeline Lowry Mertie Terry

Others: Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director
 Pat Ahlquist, Council Liaison

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Paula Luna; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting made by Paula Luna; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

The Senior Center is still closed. The monthly newsletter is being produced and virtual programs are running. There is a new program, "Stay Connected", intended to provide seniors and residents who are disabled the technology that they need to stay connected.

Amy and her staff are trying to do programs outside of Zoom. They have started a "pen pal" program between Seniors and students (high school and middle school). The participants write letters twice a month.

Amy has received many calls about the AARP tax program. Previously, there would be 6-8 tax preparers in Town Hall. Due to COVID, there are 3 preparers in Town Hall, and they are unable to complete as many tax returns. Seniors can drop off their documents at Town Hall for the tax preparers. Amy is referring seniors to IRS.gov for non-complicated tax returns. There is no fee for this e-file program.

Amy has received a lot of phone calls regarding the COVID vaccine. As part of phase 1A, EMS, fire, police and school nurses received a vaccine. Seniors age 75 and older will be part of phase 1B.

As Amy and her staff hear from seniors, they will be updated in the "my senior center" system. When the vaccine is available, Amy will reach out.

Amy hopes that the Town Hall gym will be used for the COVID vaccine clinic because there is sufficient space to provide social distancing.

The Holiday Bash event held in December was a huge success. More than 80 senior centers participated. It can be viewed on Youtube.

Director of Public Health Update – None

Council Liaison Update – Pat Ahlquist

The January meeting is this week. The public cannot attend, however the meeting may be viewed on the internet. The Council has not been receiving public comments. Public comments may be sent via email to the Mayor and will be read at the meeting. There is a lot scheduled for this meeting (4-5 employee grievances, goals and objectives for the Town Manager, etc.).

Amazon paid a \$122,500 conveyance tax fee to the Town.

Budget season is coming up and there will be a lot of meetings. The dates are still TBD.

Per the Governor's directives, there is a 90-day tax payment extension for residents.

There was one employee grievance which has been resolved.

Old Business – None

New Business

- A. FY22 Budget Discussion – The budget is due to Finance on January 23, 2021. There are currently 2 open part-time driver positions and Amy has not received any applications. Due

to COVID, only 1 or 2 people can ride the bus at a time. Currently only essential trips (grocery store and medical appointments) are permitted. Drivers need to have a CDL. Pat Ahlquist suggested leasing a vehicle that does not require a CDL. Amy responded that there is a mini-van available from the schools to use, however the driver needs a passenger endorsement to drive anyone.

Amy asked the Commission for suggestions on requested items. She expects to come in underbudget this year.

Luella Landis reminded Commission members to reach out to other Seniors who may be lonely. Patricia Sienna had been providing friendly phone calls to Seniors. Amy told the Commission to let her know if they would like to make phone calls (and to alert her of any needs of the seniors – groceries, etc.).

B. State Unit on Aging Funding Opportunity, \$2,500 COVID Related Reimbursements – There is a funding opportunity through the state for a \$2,500 grant for COVID related reimbursements. Amy is looking for suggestion (“touchless” sink; “touchless” water fountain, etc.). The deadline to apply is January 29, 2021.

Citizens Comments – None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paula Luna; seconded by Deirdre Daly.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk