

Senior Services Commission

June 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Luella Landis at time 1:02 pm.

Roll Call: Luella Landis Madeline Lowry Paula Luna
 Linda Polke Patricia Sienna

Absent: Shirley Banic Ann Jordan Mertie Terry
 Helen Zalewski

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

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Patricia Sienna; seconded by Linda Polke. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020, Regular Meeting made by Linda Polke; seconded by Paula Luna. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

The announcement for the AARP Challenge Grant will be in June. This would be for handicap accessible swings, improvements to the tennis and pickleball courts and ADA compliant trails.

A small grant from the National Council on Aging and Air BNB was received. This will offer virtual experiences, such as yoga with a Buddhist monk and cooking with a Spanish chef, to name a few. Cromwell was one of eight senior centers nationally that received this grant.

The Senior Center is still closed, although Town Hall reopened last Thursday. The library is also closed. The CHOICES Counselor is available via telephone.

Paperwork for Renter's Rebate can be dropped off outside Town Hall and an application can be completed over the telephone.

Sue will not be continuing with Foot Care Services. The Foot Care participants have been notified.

The full time Outreach position has been approved. Lisa Olson has resigned. Her last day was last Friday. Her position will be posted.

There are currently 70 seniors participating in the Frozen Food Program. Since there are limited people allowed in Town Hall, volunteers cannot help with the program at this time.

Director of Public Health Update – None

Council Liaison Update - Pat Ahlquist

The Council has been very busy. They will meet again this week via a Zoom call.

They expect to see new policies and procedures for the police department.

They have not gotten the final answer on the Board of Education budget. The superintendent wants to keep 5 social workers. They have received notification that the Chairman of the Board of Education has resigned. The Board of Education requested a 6.4% budget increase, however it was reduced to 3.2%.

Old Business – Building Re-opening Guideline/Updates – Amy Saada

Town Hall has reopened. People must wear face coverings. There will be shields on desks to allow for social distancing. Human Services and The Senior Center are still closed. Amy is in the office if anyone needs food. There are also gift cards for grocery stores. A lot of people have not received their unemployment yet.

Amy is working with senior centers across the state to determine opening plans. There are a lot of questions to be answered (How do you distance? How do you sanitize?). Everything is touched – bingo cards, coffee pots, chairs, etc.

Transportation is still available for medical appointments and grocery stores only.

The pickle ball courts are open. Phone calls are being made to lonely seniors. The senior population is most at risk and the seniors need to be cautious about going out in public.

New Business

Pat Sienna is one of the volunteers calling the homebound seniors. They are very grateful. Pat advised the commission that cloth face masks are available in Rocky Hill (at the adult day care on Elm Street). Amy also has masks available at no charge.

Election of Officers

Motion to nominate Luella Landis for Chairwoman was made by Pat Sienna; seconded by Madeline Lowry. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to nominated Paula Luna for Vice Chairwoman was made by Linda Polke; seconded by Pat Sienna . All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments – None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Madeline Lowry; seconded by Patricia Sienna.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be on September 14 at 10:30 (if back in person).

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk