

Minutes of the Social Services Commission

October 8, 8:30 a.m. – Senior Center

Members present: Ruth Clark, Rob Michalman, Faith Roebelen, Marcia Dufore,

Sharon Kozaczka Absent: Bob Brooks, Maryellen Tunsky

Directors present: Paula Pascoe, Denise Winiarski, Janet Frechette, Leslie Offenbach

Chairman Rob Michalman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Directors' Reports:

Senior Center Director Paula Pascoe distributed her written report. She noted that the Center is still having difficulties with a CREC/School bus parking in the back of the Senior Center. She believes this is a safety issue. The CREC bus stops and picks up 1 child. After discussion, Ms. Dufore moved that the Social Services Commission recommends very strongly that buses not be allowed to enter the Senior Center parking lot for reasons of safety. Ms. Roebelen seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Chairman will speak with the appropriate public school officials and with CREC. Ms. Pascoe noted that the Thanksgiving Dinner will be Wednesday, November 18. There has been a drainage problem with water seeping in the floor. Mark Cervone, Highway Department, is investigating to determine a solution.

EAA, Town Social Services, Director Janet Frechette, distributed her written report. **Fuel Aid:** We have started taking applications. Because of the low price of oil, we are not expecting the frenzy that is typical at this point. **Renters' Rebate:** This program has ended for this year. This year the EAA took 89 applications – 84 were eligible. Total payment by OPM to Suffield residents, \$41,334,.41. **Meals-on-Wheels:** We have recruited two new couples to take bi monthly routes. Flo Packard retired after 35 years of dedicated service. We are grateful for her dedication. **Food Drive at the POLLS:** Volunteers will man the polls, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to

6:00 p.m. to solicit donations for the EAA Food Pantry, We are also appealing for both dog and cat food.

Suffield Mini Bus Director Denise Winiarski, distributed her written report. She reported that 700 passengers, traveled 6,241 miles with the average ridership of 35 per day, and 21 days of service. Mini Bus is pleased with the purchase of the 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis (with only 11,000 on the odometer) and at a price of \$9,000. This car was purchased through the Mini Bus reserve fund. She is pleased to say that the Town of Suffield has never had to add any tax dollars for the purchase of any vehicles. That includes 17 buses of which we cover 20%, three used cars and a new car to be added soon. This is a credit to our generous riders and their families, and we thank them.

Youth Services Director Leslie Offenbach, distributed her written report. She worked Suffield on the Green and found it to be a learning experience. She connected with 2 moms and Suffield residents who are very interested in helping with a Youth Services Advisory Committee. She has created a Suffield Youth Facebook page. She met with the Counseling Director at Suffield Academy for a tour of the campus and she hopes to brainstorm ways to work programs with Town and Academy youth. She began a 4th grade enrichment program (3 week series in each class where she implements a 45 minutes long program focusing on emotions and friendship). She continues working with the JRB. The Board heard 2 new cases this month. This is going well.

Unfinished Business: The Commission discussed previously the compilation of a new survey of needs for Suffield. We will place this item on the November agenda and continue the work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary SS.MINUTES.Oct.8, 2015