

Minutes of the Suffield Social Services Commission
Feb. 12. 09 – Senior Center – 8:00 a.m.

Members present: Sarah Leahey, Shirley Edmonds Van Allen, David Reed Brown, Faith Roebelen E.Petkovich, R.Clark, L. Formanek, absent. Also present: Directors P. Pascoe, J. Frechette, D. Winiarski, and Selectman John G. Smith.

Vice Chairman Sarah Leahey called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Citizen Comment: None
Minutes – The minutes of the Dec. 11.08 were accepted as distributed. For the record, the January, 09 meeting was cancelled due to snowy weather.

*Senior Center Director Paula Pascoe reported that the Capital Campaign Committee for the new Senior Center has met, and is very busy. She announced that the Town has received 2 grants for a total of \$190,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Approximately \$176,000 is designated for the renovation of the church building, and the remaining \$14,000 will fund a computer tracking program for attendance and program participation at the Senior Center. She reported that a future fund raiser will be the sale of bricks (3 lines of your choice) at \$100 per brick. These bricks will form either a walk or patio. Architects are being interviewed, the design work to be 3- 5 months, and it is anticipated that work will begin in the summer.

Ms. Pascoe reported that a Thursday Luncheon has been provided by the Emergency Aid Association for the month of January and will continue for the month of February. The purpose of this program is to bring people out during the cold months and provide a source of nutrition and socialization. This has been very successful; attendance running between 30 to 47 residents. The Commission complimented the Director on her work and efforts on behalf of the proposed senior center.

*Mini Bus Director Denise Winiarski distributed her written report. Statistics for the month of January, 09; 693 passengers, traveled 5,066 miles, 31 one way pick ups per day, and 641 gallons of fuel used. She has placed the order for the new bus, # 16, this was funded by the 5310 grant through the State of Connecticut and the Mini Bus reserve fund. The bus should be delivered in August of this year. The Director also reported that it appears that the Town will lose a \$32,000 DOT grant, which it had been receiving for three years. This funding provides 20 hours of bus service per week. It does not look as if this funding is included in the Governor's proposed budget. She was urged to contact the Governor's Office and Matt Conway, the State representative of the 61st District. This would be a major loss of service. She also reported that medical appointments have top priority.

*Social Services Director Janet Frechette distributed her written report. To day, 187 applications for the CT. Energy Assistance Program have been submitted. There is still funding available for this need. She reported a record 95 Christmas baskets were distributed. She noted that the EAA Senior Center Meal Program (for the months of January and February) was a great success. The attendance is running between 30 and 47 per Thursday. This 2 month service succeeds in bringing people out during these cold months, and provides a source of nutrition and socialization. She commented on the Educational Forum: Me? A Caregiver? - Tools and Tactics for Coping. The Forum is scheduled for March 26, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Suffield Academy.

*Youth Services Feb. 2009 Report of Activities – Denise Winiarski distributed this report for Mr. Peter Black. This report noted that Suffield could sustain a reduction of 36% or \$5,000, from the State Youth Services Bureau grant. Mr. Black will report on the Juvenile Review Board action plan at the next meeting. Chairman Leahey noted that this item, JRB update, will be placed on the agenda of the March 12 meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

SS.MIN.FEB.12.09