

Minutes of the Social Services Commission Meeting

Feb. 9, 2012 – Senior Center – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Faith Roebelen, Bridget Fidler, Marcia Dufore, Sharon Kozaczka, Shirley Edmonds Van Allen, Rob Michalman Absent: Ruth Clark

Directors present: P. Pascoe, P. Black, D. Winiarski, J. Frechette

Chairman Faith Roebelen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: By unanimous vote, the minutes of the Jan. 19, 2012 meeting were approved.

Directors Reports

Paula Pascoe, Senior Center Director, reported that Tax season is here; free Tax services are provided on Thursdays for seniors at the Senior Center . She noted that she had met with First Selectman, and that he agreed that in her proposed budget, the hours of the Assistant to the Director would be increased but at a lower rate of pay (no increase to the budget). The staff member has agreed to this. This would take effect July 1, 2012.

Peter Black, Youth Services Director, distributed his written report. The Gaming Group involves 10 high school students; this is a new program. There has been three meetings and one of the sessions was combined with the Best Buddy students; reflecting a combined success with the High School and Town. There is a Team Building program with McAlister fifth grade students. This is a special in class teambuilding academic unit with the PE/Health fifth grade students. This will last for three weeks and takes place two days a week. He has an estimated 27 active individual cases and most involve family meetings.

Denise Winiarski, Mini Bus Director, distributed her written report. Ridership statistics for January are: 677 passengers, 6,246 miles, fuel used, 687 gallons, average number of riders per day, 36, and 19 days of service. She reported that the Municipal Matching Grant through the State application was received and finalized. The original grant allocation was \$31,585. The new grant amount is now \$32,419; this was increased due to increased population. The State has informed the Town to budget for the entire amount with the possibility that 25% will be cut. She noted that she has resubmitted her proposed budget to include a 2.75% pay raise for drivers who are not union; but have not received a salary increase in four years.

Janette Frechette, EAA Town Social Services, distributed her written report.

Fuel Aid: The staff has taken over 180 applications so far. Due to a winter of above average temperatures, the private fuel bank is doing o.k. as a result.

Meals-on-Wheels: We continue to recruit volunteers; we have a new volunteer pending the outcome of the background check. Background checks are done by the Community

Renewal Team for meal volunteers. Emergency Food & Shelter Program: We have received the second half funding of \$623.50. It was used to assist two residents with a portion of their rent. The EAA is looking for an individual who is willing to assist at the Food Pantry two partial days a week to support our long term food bank volunteer, Ralph Fiore.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary SS.MIN.Feb.9.2012

