

Town of Sherman
Commission on Aging
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, 22 Jan. 2018

Members Present: J. Wey, S. McMahon, R. Hudson, J. McRoberts, A. Jellen, J. Garcia

Absent: None

Audience and Invited: B. Beatty, D. Lowe, C. Faure, Senior Center Director: S. Berger and (Acting) Clerk: C. Branson

Call to Order:

Chair J. Wey Called the Meeting to Order at 4:07pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Monthly Meeting of 20 Nov. 2017

R. Hudson Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of 20 Nov. 2017 with amendment: Strike the full sentence in New Business : "The Senior Center offers people the option of picking up an absentee ballot prior to the Budget Vote, as it is on a Saturday".

Seconded by: J. McRoberts Vote: For: Unanimous

Senior Center/Social Services Report:

Senior Center Director S. Berger reported the following to the Commission: The Lunch program has been very successful, the average attendance has been around twenty people every Wednesday. A new oven was donated by a private donor and installed by Powerhouse. In order to use the stove at the Senior

Center, the Town will require Suzette to take "Safe Server Classes" to become certified. This past Saturday, the Senior Center Budget for FY 2018-19 was presented to the BoS. Increases requested were to the Activity line, this increase would allow two additional classes a month. Additional requested increases were to the Transportation line to add hours and staff. With the increase of Seniors with limited mobility, there is a need to have additional help and time. Ms. Berger spoke to First Selectman D. Lowe reminding him that Grant Funding from the State is available in the amount of \$14,750.00 which is to be matched by the Town to fully utilize the funds. Ms. Berger requested the BoS place matching Funds in the amount of \$ 14,750.00 within the FY 2018-19 Senior Center Transportation Budget to match the State Grant, otherwise the funds will not be allocated for expenditure. First Selectman D. Lowe stated this was brought up at the Budget workshop last Saturday and the BoS are aware. At the February Meeting of Senior Center Directors, a new program was introduced: "Brain Fitness" to help those suffering from dementia activities that may enhance their memory skills and motor skills. Another program discussed was "Healthy Eating". The return of "Tech Helpers" will begin soon on Thursdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm where Sherman School students will be paired up with Seniors to review how to use computers, smart phones, and other technology. This program has been a great success in the past. Ms. Berger stated she has \$500.00 left in the supplies budget that she would like to use for a new laptop for public use. The Commission agreed that it should be secured to a table. Social services Director B. Trott has been working on getting a group of residents together to discuss ADA compliance and identify public buildings within the Town that do not meet today's requirements. Known issues were discussed such as; the hearing loop in the ESF facility, entry ways

and bathrooms at Mallory Town Hall as well as the Senior Center. In closing, Ms. Berger reported during the last year of programs offered to Seniors a total of 228 individuals have signed up or been attendance to over 35 events, of those individuals, 98% were over the age of 80. Chair, J. Wey stated that the Senior Center is becoming too small to accommodate the increasing number of attendees as well as their parking. R. Hudson stated maybe the Commission should begin exploring other venues for a new location. Chair J. Wey stated she would add this discussion to the Agenda for March's meeting.

Old Business:

Feedback from the Senator and State Rep. Forum on the budget

Senator MacLaughlin and Probate Judge Langrieb will be coming to the Senior Center to speak on May 11, 2018.

New Business:

Chair J. Wey presented the FY 2018-19 Commission on Aging Budget to the BoS last Saturday with no increase.

The Commission discussed amending Section J to remove the word "Director" and change to "Co-ordinator" and reword the section to read: "Incidental expenses up to the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be dispensed by the Senior Center Co-ordinator without a purchase order. Invoices greater than \$100.00 can be made within the approved FY Budget and submitted with a purchase order to the Town for reimbursement". Additionally an amendment was discussed to Section K strike "provided that a

proposed amendment has been distributed to all members", of the current By-Laws. This amendment will be added to next month's agenda for an official vote.

We still have a healthy amount in our 2017/2018 budget

The Commission discussed proving a luncheon for the upcoming concert.

J. McRoberts Moved to Approve expenditure up \$ 100.00 to provide a luncheon for attendees at the Senior Concert.

Seconded by: R. Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

Comments by Commissioners:

Sheila McMahon- Recommended a presentation "Mental Health First Aid" a nine hour session by Valerie Cooper.

Janet Wey- New Fairfield High School will be presenting a forum in March to discuss the Opioid Crisis in the Nation.

Janet Wey- to add to the March meeting agenda- providing transportation for those who cannot get out to attend Town Meetings and Voting days.

Public Comment:

Betty Beatty; read a letter into record sharing her enthusiasm for the programs the Senior Center offers. She also shared safety concerns regarding the dangerous conditions at the Senior Center Parking lot siting insufficient lighting, and substantial parking barriers to prevent people and cars from driving over the edges and sliding if

the conditions become icy. Also sited was the uneven fieldstone walkway at the front entrance and dangerous road crossing when utilizing alternate parking areas when the lot is full. Mrs. Beatty provided several suggestions to improve these dangerous conditions.

Adjournment:

R. Hudson Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 5:33pm

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Branson (Acting Clerk)
March 15, 2018