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1.1. November 2018 Minutes

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COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2018

Attending: Patricia Burns, Presiding; Francis Burgweger; Carol Burns; James Dougherty; Anne Marie Hynes; Ellen Wolfson.
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting were distributed. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes. Seconded and Carried.

Budget: The Commission on Aging and Senior Center Budgets for the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year were distributed and reviewed. Representatives from the Health and Human Services committee of the RTM have reviewed the budgets and were very supportive.

COA Budget - The salary line has actually decreased due to the new hire. An additional temporary salary line has been added for data management. A line has been added for a part time unrepresented clerical assistant for help with mandated reporting for health insurance counseling and dementia friendly America. The transition to the value added card system will require expenditures for equipment and training. Overall the Commission budget will increase 5.54 percent which is above the Town guideline.

Senior Center Budget - The Senior Center budget will increase by 2.18 percent. The budget also reflects expenses due to the changeover to value added card system. While there is a cost involved the system will increase accuracy and cost tracking. Direct donations to the Friends will also be possible by donors using credit cards through the Town website.

The two budgets combined represent an approximate 4 percent increase.

MOTION: That the Commission on Aging and Senior Center budgets for fiscal year 2019 - 2020 be approved as presented. Seconded and Carried.

Commission Director's Report:

L. Contadino reported that Lives Well Lived lecture was very successful and very well received. However, the De Gray lecture, while well attended was poorly received and was more like an infomercial with presenters looking to raise money for their project. Medicare D open enrollment is in progress. Hundreds of residents have been counseled with savings of more than \$166,800 realized as of November 19. Lori attended the AARP livable communities conference in North Carolina where she made a presentation. She made contacts with representatives from communities who have completed the stage we are now going through. The contacts, along with printed materials she was able to get from them, will be very helpful to us.

Senior Center
Director's

Report: L. Helmrich reported that the annual Christmas party will be held on December 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On December 5th, 6 chefs will participate in a chili cook-off. The first newsletter using the new Civic Plus (new town website) has been sent out.

Senior

Tax Relief: K. Burgweger reported that a meeting was held with Peter Tesei to brief him on proposed changes to the senior tax relief program. He was supportive of the changes. The proposal will now go before the Board of Selectman then the BET before going to the full RTM. The tax collector is open to including a notice on the availability of senior tax relief when tax bills are sent out as long as it will not increase mailing costs. We will need all Commission members to attend all RTM district meetings and some RTM committee meetings to present the new senior tax relief proposal

Nathaniel

Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that Witherell had a very successful gala honoring Dr. Walsh. It is planned that the third floor renovation will be completed in January and February. On January 23rd a report on the future of Nathaniel Witherell will be presented.

Friends of
the Senior

Center: P. Burns reported that the Friends have been approved for Giving Tuesday and for Fairfield County Gives in February.

Next

Meeting: The next Commission meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary