COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
MAY 20, 2015

Attending: Patricia. Burns, Presiding; Catherine Brennan; Francis Burgweger; James Dougherty; Steven Katz.
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.
Guests: N. Edwards, RTM; D. Kelly, GREATS; G. O’Loughlin, GDSS.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes were distributed for the April 15, 2015 meeting. After a discussion was held on the wording “They are still struggling financially” in the Nathaniel Witherell report, it was determined that a more accurate representation of the report should be “They are losing money”. Under Director’s Report the word “the” in the first sentence should be eliminated. With those changes a motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and carried.

Chairman’s Report: Presented by P. Burns: The report focused on the TAG contract. It was reported that after back and forth negotiations, a draft contract was reached. The proposal does represent a savings over the current contract. It would be for a one year term with the possibility of three one year extensions at an increase of 2.5% each renewal. The draft was distributed and much discussion followed. Highlights from the discussion include:

- It appears that many, if not most of our riders can qualify for Norwalk Transits “Easy Access” program. Once qualified they would be able to be transported at a greatly reduced rate. This would allow us to enter into a per ride contract at a greatly reduced cost.
- Under the old contract we were charged for wait time which was not called for in the old contract. This is being reviewed and could result it a refund.
- The contract as presented is being looked at by us as a 1 year contract that we will not renew under the option but will renegotiate with TAG or negotiate with a new provider.
- The contract as presented calls for an automatic renewal unless affirmatively cancelled. It was suggested that this be changed to an automatic termination unless affirmatively renewed.
- It was questioned whether the 90 day renewal notice was too long and whether this would fit in with the budgeting timeline.
- Discussion was held on whether we should be providing transportation at all and at what cost. It was noted that a significant portion of our budget goes toward providing transportation for a very small portion of our population. It was pointed out that those using the transportation would otherwise be unable to get to the center without some form of
transportation.

- It was suggested that perhaps the Town should be doing the negotiation with TAG for all Town agencies with TAG contracts.
- It is being explored to see if we can get the TAG savings transferred to the Share the Fare program as it is underfunded and already at a deficit in the current fiscal year. This brought up a discussion on what procedures and controls are in place to prevent abuse of the program and whether the program should be under our budget.
- Based on the discussion and Motions below, the contract will be amended and presented to TAG for review. Once agreed to by TAG it will be submitted to the Law Department for final review. Then it would be presented to the Commission for final approval.
- A contingency plan will need to be in place in the event that the contract is not fully approved and in place by July 1. This would result in an interruption of service.

**MOTION:** To approve the basis of 1,000 hours of service in the contract. Seconded. 4 in favor. 1 opposed.

**MOTION:** To make the contract renewable by affirmative action rather than an automatic extension unless notice is given to not renew. Seconded. Carried.

**MOTION:** To approve the 2.5% annual increase under the renewal clause. Seconded. 4 in favor. 1 opposed.

**Administrator’s Report:** L. Helmrich reported that Super Noggin has been successfully rolled out. The Library has indicated a desire to continue sponsoring the program at the Library. A new dishwasher has been ordered and is being paid for with building funds outside of our budget.

**Social Services:** P. Burns reported that Social Services met last night and is looking to hire a consultant for its strategic plan.

**Director’s Report:** L. Contadino reported that a successful Older Americans Month program was presented at Town Hall. The Senior Center is hosting the next meeting of the Greenwich Association of Realtors. Lori and Patricia will address the Association. On June 16th the United Way Planning Council is doing a site visit at the Senior Center to familiarize itself with our needs. We will have an awareness table at the Greenwich Town Party. The Senior Center has been asked to participate in the Greenwich 375th Anniversary event in September. How we will participate is being explored.
GREATS: GREATS President Don Kelly presented a report. GREATS had a profit at its latest Boutique and will hold a Boutique 4 times a year. The Board is looking at providing a coffee machine but will hold off and coordinate with the kitchen renovation. GREATS will be forming an appropriations committee to explore ways of donating to the Senior Center.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Commission will be held on June 17, 2015.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary