



Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Virtual Meeting, September 15th, 2020

ATTENDING

Board Members Present: Alan Gunzburg, Winston Robinson, Jeffry Medina, Patty Roberts, Natalie Queen absent

Staff/Other Attendees: Demetria Nelson, Jennafer Kalna, Christina Nappi

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Alan Gunzburg, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM via Zoom.

BOARD PROTOCOLS

The minutes of the July 21st meeting were approved 4-0 as written.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alan Gunzburg went over the committee assignments. Tom Petron moved, so he has resigned from the board. A new board member, Dawn Turner, should be approved at the Sept. meeting. Alan briefed us on the RTM resolution to expand our board from 7-9 members. The process requires two readings, so earliest approval date is Oct 2020

While the goal is to get each of the committees convened, the focus will be initially on the Community Partnerships Committee to insure we have an understanding of whom we will partner with in the coming budget process. Finance will be next.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the board, have them contact John Toner to start the process.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Christina Nappi presented an excellent presentation to the board on Greenwich Youth Conservation Program (GYCP). Her presentation covered the 40+ year history, the funding, the private /public partnership the targeted audience and the impact of COVID-19 on the program. The program provides summer jobs for Greenwich teens ages 14 and 15 in two-week blocks working for the Department of Parks and Recreation. This year due to COVID-19 they provided jobs for 60 rather than 112 children with a wait list of 170. The funding for the \$225 stipend paid to each teen for the two weeks of work is provided by the Friends of the Greenwich Youth Conservation Program and the Greenwich Department of Human Services Fun, INC. Christina noted there no incidents of COVID-19 for staff or teens over the summer.



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**COMMISSIONER'S
REPORT**

Demetria Nelson briefed the board on the July and August Operating statements. To date, the department is under budget by 26% or \$135,809. While the client aid is currently 4% under budget, the demand of rental assistance is up significantly. Demetria highlighted that the CBDG grant of \$50,000 can be used for rental assistance issues incurred beginning January 2020. Staff is currently completing all necessary paperwork to ensure that staff will be able to quickly access this money to help clients in January.

FY 21 top three services provided: rental assistance, benefits and counseling. Staff productivity remains high as demand has increased during COVID. Staff currently has limited face to face meetings with clients. Discussed steps to continue to address food insecurity as well as the process that RITE is taking to help clients with employment opportunities.

Top 3 Agencies used: Ct Department of Social Services for Renter's Rebate program, Neighbor to Neighbor and Meals on Wheels to address food insecurity needs.

Banc Update: Afterschool program to begin at New Lebanon School on 9/21/2020. License should be forthcoming. The plan is to retain license also at the BANC Building in case public schools move back to remote.

BET has requested more information on the community partnership programs before they will authorize any release of money.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion to adjourn by Winston and Jeff 7:57pm

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on October 20, 2020 via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Roberts