

Minutes of the Suffield Social Services Commission  
Jan. 9, 2014 –Senior Center – 8:30 a.m.

Members present:

Rob Michalman, Ruth Clark, Faith Roebelen, Marcia Dufore, Sharon Kozaczka, Bob Brooks, Bridget Fidler

Directors present: Paula Pascoe, Denise Winiarski, Janet Frechette

Vice Chairman Bob Brooks called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: The minutes of the Dec. 12, 2013 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Rob Michalman arrived and assumed the chair at 8:40 a.m.

Mr. Michalman called for Directors Reports.

**Janet Frechette, Director, EAA Town Social Services**, distributed her written report. She noted that approximately 100 applications have been submitted to CRT for fuel aid. Because of the very cold weather, their office has been very busy responding to residents who call to report they are out of fuel. Operation Fuel: this program began again in December. The maximum allotment is \$500. The oil companies are busy trying to schedule the deliveries are not able to deliver the same day.

Meals-on-Wheels: The winter months are challenging for volunteers. The weather can cause havoc for delivering. When it is essential, the staff makes the deliveries.

Salvation Army: The Kettle donations raised \$1,763; Suffield is able to retain 90% or \$1,586.70. This funding is combined with our budget of \$3000. These funds can be used for medicines, partial rents, and other expenses that fall outside other programs.

**Denise Winiarski, Mini Bus Director**, distributed her written report and her proposed 2014 budget. Mini Bus ridership statistics for December: 701 passengers, traveled 6,552 miles, with an average ridership of 37 per day, for 18 days of service and the vehicles used 594 gallons of fuel.

She reviewed her proposed budget noting that for the most part it is the same as the last two years. Negotiations are on-going and non union wages have not changed. The Mini Bus is presently operating three mini buses and three cars. We do our best to utilize the cars whenever possible to help lessen the impact on fuel. Most are individuals in private homes and the bulk of our service is targeted for medical usage and grocery shopping. Daily transportation is provided for Dialysis, Adult day care and Allied Rehabilitation programs.

**Paula Pascoe, Senior Center Director**, distributed her written report. She reviewed the list of the 2014 programs and their starting dates. She noted that the Christmas Party for the seniors was amazing. This party is sponsored by the Police Department, and approximately 90 persons attended. This party is the highlight of the holiday season for the Senior Center and \$480 was donated to the EAA Fuel Bank.

She noted that the Senior Center Newsletter is distributed throughout the Town. Copies are available at the Library, Post Office, Town Hall, and at the banks.

Chairman's update: Mr. Michalman reported that the Youth Services Director position has been posted as of January 8. It may be necessary to post this position more widely.

He has been in contact with the Town's Director of Human Resources, regarding this position and will keep the Commission up to date. He will be scheduling a Special Meeting for January 23, so that the Commission may review applications. An Executive Session is anticipated.

He will notify the Commission members of the Special Meeting and the Agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

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