

Minutes of the Social Services Meeting
Oct. 9, 2008 – Senior Center – 8:00 a.m.

Members present: Ernie Petkovich, Ruth Clark, Faith Roebelen, Sarah Leahey, David Reed-Brown, Shirley Edmonds Van Allen, Selectman John G. Smith

Absent: Linda Formanek

Directors: Janet Frechette, Denise Winiarski, Peter Black, and Chrystine Longley

Absent: P. Pascoe

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: Faith Roebelen moved to approve the minutes of Sept. 11, 2008, as amended, by the change of the Health Fair date to Oct. 23, 2008; Ruth Clark seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Directors' Reports

Senior Center: Mr. Petkovich reported for Ms. Pascoe who is away. He announced that the Small Cities grant of \$750,000 has been awarded to the Town for the purchase of the Calvary Church for use as a new senior center. The Town has approximately \$500,000 in another grant which can be used for this project; a total of \$1,200,000. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1,800,000. The additional funding will come from the Town in the form of grants and from the Town. The request for the additional funding will go before the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, and the entire project will go before Town Meeting. The Commission members should attend each board meeting as the project comes up on the respective agendas to add their support. He also reported that the attendance at the Senior Center has increased by 10% over the past year.

Social Services: Director Janet Frechette

Fuel Aid: The application process is up and running and we have taken 56 in the last couple of weeks and approximately 32 more applications are pending for oil customers for a total of 88. Last year, we finished the year, having taken 90 fuel oil applications. Now we have taken 88 applications and it is early in the heating season. That makes us nervous. The Town has been clearing some property; and made wood available to certain residents. Operation Fuel is writing new policies to deal with the new regulations. The private fuel bank has already provided 7 emergency oil deliveries.

Meals on Wheels – We are seeing an increase in number of residents signing up for the service.

Salvation Army: There is a need for bell ringers for the SA kettle drive in December. Suffield shares one half with Windsor Locks; funding is approximately \$3000.

The Juvenile Review Board did not meet.

The Food Bank needs bags; may get bags from Highland market.

The Health Fair is scheduled for October 23, 1 – 3:30 p.m. Flu shots will be given.

The holiday basket program is beginning.

Mini Bus: Director Denise Winiarski distributed her written report.

The service is very busy. She is staying within the budget parameters for the number of gallons of fuel used. She is continually getting calls from adult children, asking for services for their parents and getting more calls from handicapped young people.

Chairman Petkovich introduced and welcomed Chrystine Longley, the new Assistant Youth Services Director. She was introduced to each commission member.

Faith Roebelen left the meeting at this time.

Youth Services: Director Peter Black

Offices in the High School and in the Middle School have been offered for his use. He will review each office and decide which office would best serve the students.

The Commission discussed the Juvenile Review Board. The Commission feels that this Board is not fully utilized. It needs reorganization and revitalization. It appears that the Chief of Police does not seem to be supportive and not fully committed to the JRB. If the Chief does not support the JVB, perhaps he could assign another officer to the Board. There seems to be little input from the Chief. The JRB is not fully functional. A process of referrals needs to be defined. The Chairman requested that Mr. Smith contact the Chief and discuss the JRB and its operation. The Commission feels that the Chief should take a more active role. This is a valuable resource and the Town should take advantage of this board. Mr. Smith should inform the Chief that if some positive action is not taken, the Commission will make its concerns known. The Chairman noted that this item will be placed on the November 13 meeting agenda.

New Business:

Executive Session: Ms. Clark moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. The motion was seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was voted into Executive Session at 9:07 a.m.

The meeting entered Open Session at 9:18 a.m. No formal action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary
SS.MIN.OCT.11.08

