

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
MONDAY, September, 13, 2010

Chairman M. Connie Laplante called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Irene Bernstein, Doris Bibeau, Elaine Foley, Betty Innocent, Thomas McAuley, Susan Myers, Melide Normand and Judy Strzempko.

Director Joanne Trybus and Ken Ellis present.

Excused: Dr. Francis Nelen and Donna Robideau.

Guest: Angie Wright

MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2010 meeting by Susan Myers seconded by Irene Bernstein and were unanimously approved.

BILLS PAYABLE: A motion was made to approve the Bills Payable by Melide Normand and seconded by Thomas McAuley. At this time Joanne gave an explanation of the services gift account.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: This report was approved, and as usual was very informative. While discussing her report, Joanne congratulated Angie Wright on becoming a Certified Shine Counselor. Also, she told us about the kitchen inspection-a few minor problems there. At this time, we discussed Joanne's evaluation which was excellent and very comprehensive. There is no increase in salary this year so the Town is trying to come up with different incentives for employees. There is a dilemma in the hallway near the dish room, a hanging plastic barrier, that is related to the roof problem. Joanne is finding it difficult to obtain help to resolve this. Also, a change in Joanne's E-mail address was noted. This also pertains to the rest of the staff.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance/Planning Committee-No Meeting

Personnel/Nominating- No Meeting

Policy-Meeting: No Meeting

WMEC LIASONS:

WMEC: Executive Board: Ken Ellis reviewed notes that were included in last month's Secretary's report. He then spoke about training for new software: MIPS and SIMS. MIPS is accounting software tracking sources such as, Budget Periods and Grants. SIMS is a senior information management software system. Ken also stated that food contracts were awarded to C.W. Resources which had the lowest bid-4% increase.

WMEC: Advisory Council: There was no report on this committee due to absence of Donna Robideau.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Connie Laplante thanked us for choosing committees and went over the list with the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Structure study of basement of COA showed it to be structurally compromised (decaying pillars, etc.) and it might not take the weight of a new roof. There will be a GEOTECHNICAL roof study of structures underground. Also there are other things wrong with the building but limited funds for repair. It was mentioned, at one time, that the COA could be in with the library but this poses problems such as parking.

B. Survey/Needs Assessment: Betty Innocent spoke to Kathleen Bowler of Holyoke COA about surveys they conducted for a new Senior Center in Holyoke and brought back this information:

1. Work group established consisting of Planning Board, Mayor, COA Board Members and Director.
2. The Univ. Of Conn. Health Center on Aging was hired to discuss current and future needs.
3. An eight-page survey was developed which included Transportation; Housing; Activities/Services; Support Network; Caregiving; Health and Finances.
4. Surveys mailed 3,135; returned 1,158.
5. Key informant interviews by telephone with WMEC, Geriatrics, etc.

Survey results served as a springboard for new senior center. Also, by hiring an outside group, Univ. of Conn., eliminated doubts and questions on methodology and recommendations are unbiased. Joanne will present to Selectboard strong concerns about future of our building and structural questions.

C. Suicide Prevention Workshop: This workshop will be presented on Sept. 18th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Sept. 20th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Town Hall.

D. There was a short discussion about the Senior Center Travel Club. A new Senior Center Volunteer Manual, prepared by Anne O'Connor, was distributed to the Board for review.

A motion to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. was made by Irene Bernstein, seconded by Judi Strzempko and unanimously approved by the Board.

The next meeting is October 18, 2010 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Melide Normand, Secretary