



# Town of Fairfield

## MINUTES

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

March 24, 2011

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, March 24, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room in the Sullivan Independence Hall in Fairfield.

**PRESENT: Commissioners:** Doug DeFauw, Chairman; Terry Medlin, Secretary; Louis Fernous Jr., Elizabeth O'Connell, Nancy Legare

**ALSO PRESENT:** Claire Grace, Director of the Fairfield Senior Center and Human & Social Services

#### **MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:**

Jennifer Hochberg  
Selma Cohen  
Palma Senator  
Robert P. Melcher

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug DeFauw at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner DeFauw announced that Jennifer Hochberg, former Vice Chairperson of the Human Services Commission, has resigned her commission and was subsequently appointed to the RTM. The Commission expressed their gratitude for her service and wished her well.

Mr. DeFauw then introduced Nancy Legare, the newly appointed Commissioner of the Human Services Commission. Commissioner Legare talked briefly about her background, noting that she is currently on the Board of the Fairfield Senior Center Associates.

Mr. DeFauw also introduced Selma Cohen, who was observing as a member of the public, as the newly appointed Commissioner of the Human Services Commission, effective April 1, 2011. Commissioner Cohen will attend the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the February 24, 2011, meeting were reviewed and approved with the following changes:

Page 2 – last paragraph: Change to read:

Ms. Grace also noted that the deadline for applications for oil assistance is March 15. The deadline for applications for assistance for utilities is May 1; with shut-offs scheduled to begin after May 15. Applications for assistance for gas, oil and electric are handled through the Department of Social Services and the Fairfield Senior Services.

**2. GUEST SPEAKER:** The scheduled guest speakers were unable to attend this meeting.

**3. FAIRFIELD SENIOR SERVICES: Claire Grace, Director  
Fairfield Senior Services**

Ms. Claire Grace discussed the Lifelong Learners Spring 2011 catalogue of courses available at the Fairfield Senior Center in cooperation with Sacred Heart University. The spring session, which begins April 1, has many exciting courses presented in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. Ms. Grace noted the computer courses are already filled. The tuition is \$20 per course plus a \$10 annual membership fee, which is valid from September through June each year.

Ms. Grace presented a copy of *The Fairfield Senior Times* for April 2011 to the Commission, noting the additional sponsors and areas of distribution. The Commissioners were pleased with the new format and the new sponsors.

Ms. Grace reported that the Girl Scouts will spend a day at the Senior Center on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Grace also advised that the Senior Center will hold a Triad Fair on April 27<sup>th</sup>, noting that representatives of the Probate Court, the Police Department, and Child and Family Services will be on hand in addition to many other departments of interest to seniors.

Ms. Grace reported that she attended the Town's March 19<sup>th</sup> Public Budget Comment Session. Commissioner DeFauw asked Ms. Grace about items discussed relating to the Senior Center. Ms. Grace indicated that the new roof and boilers were briefly discussed.

Ms. Grace suggested the Commission visit the Pine Tree and Trefoil senior residences.

#### **4. BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON: Commissioner Doug DeFauw**

Commissioner DeFauw reported the Town will be looking at how tanning salons are managed and the customers rules listed at the salons. The Town will also consider stricter regulations for the tanning salons.

Mr. DeFauw further reported that Mr. Sands Cleary, Director of Health for the Town of Fairfield, attended a 3-day Town emergency readiness conference which was planned by the Fairfield Police Department. The “Training for Command Post Personnel” conference was held on March 9-March 11, 2011.

Mr. DeFauw advised that the Town’s out-reach “Are You Ok?” program is down – and the Town is looking into new software.

#### **5. RTM LIAISON:**

There was nothing new to discuss at this time.

#### **6. SULLIVAN-MC KINNEY HOUSING BOARD: Commissioner Louis Fernous, Jr.**

Mr. Fernous reported that the Sullivan-McKinney Housing Complex will have a grand opening of its newly renovated community room in the near future and invited all Commissioners to attend. Mr. Fernous noted that there is a waiting list for rentals at the complex. Mr. Fernous noted that they are in need of new Board members and asked for referrals.

Commissioner Fernous also noted that the renovations to the Fairfield Senior Center to date have been well accepted.

#### **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

The Commissioners discussed the lack of voice mail at the Senior Center. Ms. Grace will look into implementing voice mail for the Center.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner DeFauw advised that the Commission now has an opening for Vice Chairman, and will be voting at the next meeting in April.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Jennifer Hochberg, former Vice Chairperson and liaison to the RTM, advised that the Board of Finance will be voting on the budget on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Palma Senator advised that she attended the March 19<sup>th</sup> Board of Finance Public Budget Comment Session and complained that while seniors represent 18% of the Town's population only a small amount of the budget was designated for senior services and needs. Ms. Senator reiterated the need for better communication with the seniors.

Ms. Selma Cohen said she also attended the March 19<sup>th</sup> Budget Session and agreed that there needed to be better communication with the seniors.

Mr. Robert Melcher, Director of the *Visiting Angels* for Fairfield and New Haven Counties, advised he may have information that might be helpful to getting the Town's outreach program up and running.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further items for discussion, a motion was made and seconded. The motion having passed unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI  
Recording Secretary