



# Town of Fairfield

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

### MINUTES January 24, 2013

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, January 24, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the John Sullivan Independence Hall.

**PRESENT: Commissioners:** Selma Cohen, Chairman; Linda DeLorenzo, Vice Chairman; Marc Andre, Bruce Carter, Nancy Legare, Kevin Lennon, and Joan Swanson

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

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Ms. Sheila Marmion and Mr. Mark Patton  
Members of the RTM Committee For Tax Relief

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selma Cohen at 4:00 p.m.

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Mr. Thomas McCarthy, the scheduled guest speaker was not able to attend today's meeting. Ms. Sheila Marmion and Mr. Mark Patton came in his place and discussed the proposed changes in the Fairfield Senior Tax Program. Notable were the changes from the five-year qualification to six-years, and the raise in the income qualification. In addition, seniors will now be able to apply every other year instead of each year. Ms. Marmion discussed the various options for single and married seniors. The program is open to town seniors and the disabled. Non-disabled applicants must be 65 years old and all must bring in their W-2 forms and Social Security documentation. Applications may be filed from February 1 through May 15.

Mr. Patton stressed the importance of publicizing the changes, especially getting the information out to the Town seniors so more can apply.

The Commission was very interested and asked many questions in order to get a good understanding of the Senior Tax Program.

Ms. Palma Senator, of the Senior Center “Top Ten” Committee and a member of the public, said she researched many other town senior tax programs and said Fairfield had the best program.

Mr. Patton said the RTM will be meeting on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and expected to vote on the Senior Tax Relief Program - and hoped members of this Commission will attend.

Chairman Selma Cohen thanked both Ms. Marmion and Mr. Patton for their report. Ms. Claire Grace said she thought the changes were favorable to the seniors and also thanked Ms. Marmion and Mr. Patton.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Selma Cohen asked for a motion to approve the minutes for December 20, 2012.

Commissioner Linda DeLorenzo moved for approval of the minutes of the December 20, 2012, as presented. Commissioner Nancy Legare seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Ms. Claire Grace noted that the new buses which have been ordered have not arrived.

Ms. Grace reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Recovery - Loan Outreach Center was still at the Senior Center with hours from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. The deadline to apply is January 28, 2013. The office will remain open until further notice.

Ms. Grace said volunteer tax helpers will be available to help seniors with their tax returns – all those interested should call the Center for information.

#### **3. BOARD OF HEALTH – Kevin Lennon, Liaison**

Commissioner Kevin noted that there was no new business to report at this time.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS:**

Marc Andre noted that there was no new information regarding the appointment of a Program Director for the Fairfield Senior Center.

Ms. Claire Grace noted that the “Top Ten” Committee will be giving their report to the Board of Finance next Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the Board of Education.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI  
Recording Secretary

**N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2013, in the first floor conference room of the John J. Sullivan Independence Hall at 4:00 p.m.**

**Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Human Services Commission.**