



Town of Fairfield

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

OCTOBER 24, 2013

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Fairfield Senior Center.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Selma Cohen, Chairman; Linda DeLorenzo, Vice Chairman; Bruce Carter, Nancy Legare, Kevin Lennon, Bernard Lynch Alida Ward

ALSO PRESENT: Teresa Giegengack, Director of Human and Social Services

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Approval of the minutes for the meeting of July 24, 2013, was tabled.

Chairman Selma Cohen asked for a motion to approve the minutes for September 26, 2013.

Commissioner Nancy Legare moved for approval of the minutes of the September 26, 2013, meeting with the following changes:

Page 2, paragraph 3, omit Commissioner Nancy Legare's name and replace with Ms. DeLorenzo's.

Commissioner Kevin Lennon seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. NEW BUSINESS -

‘Storm Sandy’ Relief:

Ms. Giegengack presented a Press Release from First Selectman Michael Tetreau regarding the Storm Sandy Rehabilitation and Rebuilding Grant Application Intake Center which has opened at the Fairfield Senior Center. The Intake Center is one of many opened around the state by the Connecticut Department of Housing. Fairfield residents who have uninsured damage to their homes may be eligible for assistance. The Intake Center will be open from 9am to 7pm, Monday through Friday, and 9am to 3:30 pm on Saturdays. Residents may call the Program’s call center for information or to schedule an appointment: 1 866 272-1976.

3. OLD BUSINESS -

DHS Budget FY 14/15:

Ms. Giegengack distributed a draft of the Budget Request and the Budget Control Schedule prepared by the Department of Human and Social Services to the Commissioners.

The Commission discussed the items listed and will further review the proposed budget for a final report at the next meeting. It was noted the Fairfield Senior Center has many more members and an increase in programs and activities - and the Senior Center is open many more hours. The Commissioners expressed the need for a full-time Director of the Senior Center due to the increase in membership, new programs and activities and extended hours.

Community Focus Group:

Ms. Giegengack presented an information package prepared by the Southwestern CT Agency on Aging, entitled “Aging and Disability Resource Centers”. Ms. Giegengack announced that The Department of Human and Social Services will be holding a series of community meetings which will focus on ways to provide information and help improve programs and services for seniors and persons with disabilities. Commissioner Linda DeLorenzo was present at last night’s meeting in the Senior Center as part of the Community Focus Group. Ms. Helen D’Avanzo discussed the need for adequate handicap accessible shelters for the elderly and disabled during severe storms and emergencies. Other meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, and Wednesday, October 30, at 1:00 pm at the Senior Center to discuss transportation, housing, access to public buildings, social support, health, financial and legal matters and other issues of importance to the seniors and the disabled.

Ms. Teresa Giegengack noted that October is ‘National disAbility Employment Awareness’ month. The purpose is to bring about awareness of disability employment issues and to celebrate the many contributions of America’s workers with ‘disAbilities’. The Town’s Human and Social Services is available to help the many residents which are disabled and yet still able to work.

4. DEPARTMENT UPDATE -

Heating Assistance:

Ms. Giegengack reported that the Human and Social Services will be accepting applications for heating assistance and expects the requests for such assistance to exceed the number of application received last year. Ms. Giegengack noted that separate applications must be completed for 'Operation Fuel'.

Volunteer Recognition:

Ms. Giegengack also reported that a Fairfield Senior Center Volunteer Recognition Day will be held on Wednesday, December 11th in the Center's cafeteria. Ms. Giegengack acknowledged that the Center could not function as well as it does without the help of the many volunteers.

Invited Guests:

Ms. Giegengack announced that she has invited CEO Carol Martin and Peggy Ford of the Fairfield Housing Authority to speak at next months' meeting.

Nominating Committee:

Commissioners Kevin Lenin, Bruce Carter, Linda DeLorenzo and Alida Ward have been selected as the Nominating Committee for Commission Officers for the next meeting.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

Ms. Palma Senator spoke as a member of the 'Top Ten 'Committee, noting the many town departments which use the Senior Center. And as an interested resident, noted that by the year 2020 the number of senior residents of the town is expected to increase by 20%.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI
Recording Secretary

N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2013, in the meeting room of the Fairfield Senior Center at 4:00 p.m.

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