

Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

February 16, 2023

Present: Director Jim Leydan, Chair Sandra Macfadyen, Vice Chair George Shea, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Saul Finestone, Ron Johnson, Derek Paar, Stephan Platzer, Maryann Squier, Eleanor Stolar, Marjorie Morgan, Judy Yaffe, Marie Angelides

Absent: Rose Morace, Julia Moulton, Candace Serafino

Guest: Robin Frechette, Tom Lachiusa, Fire Chief John P. Dearborn, Jim Moran

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting started at 9:30am.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** A correction made for Robin under B. State Representative; instead of only making \$20 for card games of chance it would be up to \$50. Also, the spelling of two of our members names has been corrected. The minutes were than accepted and read.
- III. **Reports:**
 - a. **Select Board:** Tom spoke of how the town will be missing Peter Landon who passed away a week ago. He had been on several committees in town. He also noted the housing board has two vacancies on their board. They are trying to do their budget but are unable to do so. There will be an election on March 7th between the two people vying for the select board position. One is Walter Gunn, the other is Vineeth Shouker Hemavathi. Also, if you are driving around town and notice a pot hole, let the DPW know so they can take care of them.
 - b. **State Representative:** There have been 6,500 bills filed in the legislature. Today is the vote for chair and vice chair. Robin suggested we have a petition to support the bill for money while gaming. Several centers are doing this. Marge spoke about the 4 nursing homes closing in the area and asked if this has been discussed by the legislature. Robin stated that Representative Ashe is very concerned and they are working on a solution. Judy spoke of the new law with only two people in a room. Elder care attorneys are telling elders to hide their income. Most seniors would like to be able to stay in their own homes.
 - c. **Director's:** Refer to our packet. We are getting new people each month. A guest questioned time for senior basketball. Jim stated they will take it into consideration. Every program is always being evaluated. Judy noted that after two years LACCF will not be funding certain programs. We must consider ways of raising funds.
 - d. **Treasurer's:** Refer to our packet.
 - e. **FOLOCA:** Nothing to report. Ed Sullivan is now attending meetings.
- IV. **New Business:**
 - a. Fire Chief John Dearborn spoke to the board. He has been in the department since 2015. There are 28 firefighters in the department and they handle 3,000 emergency calls a year. The town also has two ambulances which cover all of Longmeadow. Sixty percent of calls are from the elderly. They also work with GSSSI in Springfield. He spoke of the lock boxes for homes as well as taking care of smoke detectors. If during a storm, Eversource has a list of people who require power. He suggested "we all need to look our for each other." Jim stated how well we work with the department and how the response time when needed is great. Marie suggested we should put this information in the Voice.

- b. Adult Center Security system: There will be a camera system to better see the activities in the center. Also, one more camera for the parking lot surveillance.
 - c. Meals on Wheels: Jim informed us of the rising food cost and to think about charging \$4.00 for lunch, instead of the \$3.00 we charge now. Saul made a motion to allow Jim to raise the price. The motion was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting. A question regarding Meals on Wheels; the person receiving the meal has to be home bound. This program is federally funded. Jim applies for the funding.
 - d. Adult Center annual report: Jim is working on it and will report back to us.
 - e. Evening & Weekend hours: LACCF pays for staff covering evening programs.
- V. **Old Business:**
- a. Medical Loan: Maryann noted they were looking at options. One is the involvement of our nurse Ashley Boudreau RN and Earl Godfrey who has volunteered to clean and store equipment at his home. More information will be discussed at our next meeting.
 - b. GSSSI: We had hoped to put a member of the board on their board but there is no vacancy at this time.
 - c. COA FY 24: Jim noted two major things; he is looking to hire a food services manager for our food pantry. The other is the drivers for the meals on wheels to receive reinvestment for basic mileage.
 - d. Footcare: Jim is waiting to hear back from a new vendor.
 - e. Programming discussion and goals: Discussed early on in the meeting.
 - f. Policy Discussion and goals: Working on the new policy booklet. Each member received a copy and was asked to read and make any comments concerning this booklet.
 - g. Board Member Comments, Concerns: Nothing from the council but Walter Gunn, a guest feels we do a lot of good for the senior community.
- VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Tyson