

**Foxborough Council on Aging and Human Services  
Board Meeting**

**November 18, 2010**

**Present:** Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Vice Chairperson Jerry Norwood, Vivian Pitts, Colin Haney, Ann Alibrandi, Wendy Haney, Jeanne Bonneau, Lloyd Gibbs. Ex officio Ed O'Leary, Director Vicki Lowe and HESSCO Representative Tenny Nevins

**Absent/Excused:** Elaine Biggieri

The meeting was called to order by Joan Pratt at 5pm

The minutes from the September 16, 2010 were accepted as read.

**Budget:**

We have unforeseeable expenses in the Salaries and Operating budgets. Ray Wood is now working at full capacity again. When he is out, we need to cover his hours to provide transportation, but have no leeway in the budget to do that. Now that he is back to his regular schedule, Vicki has requested a transfer of \$5015.44. This is equal to his earned time used plus a small reserve of 20 hours in the event he needs to use more time between now and 6/30/11.

Our A/C unit in the front of the building died. We had to replace it. We got a few quotes. The low bid was due to the company finding a compatible unit that was much lower in cost. Vicki has submitted the appropriate forms and asked for a \$3000.00 transfer.

The budget forecast for 2012 is very bad. Every effort is being made not to have layoffs. Vicki has discussed the long standing request for a part-time social worker with Randy. He has instructed her to let the Advisory Committee know that we need the position, but he feels it is doubtful that it will be filled. .

Vicki has been requested to do two budgets for 2012, one level services and one level funded. The level funded budget reduces our Operating budget by \$2812.00. Vicki asked that she would like the board's support when she meets with the Advisory Committee on the budget.

**Director's Report:**

Our new town Manager has started. We will have monthly department head meetings. Each department will host the meeting and spend time talking about their department giving tours, etc. Kevin has some ideas for team building he is pursuing. He attended our Veteran's Breakfast, spoke, and helped serve coffee.

Kevin asked all of the department heads and their board members to identify town issues so he'll have a better handle on what is needed in town.

He came to the Senior Center for a tour and to meet the office staff. Vicki discussed the lack of parking at the center with him. Kevin informed Vicki that he was looking at town owned property. He identified a building on the old state hospital property behind Chestnut Green Apartments that might make a great place for a new senior center

building. The building is earmarked for Recreational use so he is looking at possibly having Recreation office space there too. It is on four acres and has a lot of parking. He feels there may be an opportunity for grant money, combined with the sale of this property to make it happen without having to go to the town for funds. Joanne, Dick Thompson and Vicki will have a preliminary meeting with Kevin on 11/29. If this goes forward it will be the first of many, with many others invited to work on this project. We have had the Community Resource meetings with the group from town departments and with the school department. Mike Johns our new veterans' agent attended the department meeting. He has been very busy and is an asset to our town and the veterans. He will be doing programs here now and then to keep people informed about benefits. Vicki attended the Mass Council on Aging Annual conference in October. Vicki was elected as a regional representative for our area. Vicki's first meeting in this capacity is tomorrow.

Chief O'Leary, Vicki, Maura Jobin, our Domestic Violence support group leader were on a panel at a community education program at B&W at Patriot Place about domestic violence. Chief O'Leary said he was disappointed in the turnout as this is a real problem in our community.

The TRIAD liaison Joe Canavan has been very helpful in getting speakers and the Norfolk County command vehicle. The goal is to increase attendance and to get some of the younger seniors involved. The meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month at 1:00. We had an incident where the person who received a letter of disinvite to the Senior Center came in with his wife. He was asked privately to leave. Vicki has discussed the matter with Chief O'Leary. He wrote the complaint that he violated the order not to come here and Vicki sent another letter of disinvite. The police have informed him that if he violates this again he will be arrested for trespassing. Vicki has placed a photo behind the desk for office volunteers to see who he is, with instructions to alert a staff member if he comes in again. Vicki discussed the legality of posting his photo with Bob Cutler and with Chief O'Leary and the consensus was that as long as it was not in a public area it would be okay.

Event calendars for October and November are in folders.

Upcoming events to be aware of and that you are invited to are the Benjamin's Holiday Party 12/2, the Friends' Senior Center Party 12/9 at 1:00.

There will be a presentation by Dr. Paul Raia – Alzheimer's and the Holidays on 12/16 at 10 am, Vicki encouraged us to attend. He's a wonderful speaker. He is with us thanks to the Neponset Valley Alzheimer's Association.

### **Human Services:**

As predicted case loads are up. Ginger will work as many more hours as she is able to during the Fuel Assistance Program and Open Enrollment period for Medicare part D which started in November. It was suggested that perhaps next year with the full case load a volunteer could be trained to help with the fuel assistance role. We did not have an intern from Bridgewater University. It is hoped that next year we could try some other schools of social work if Bridgewater did not have an intern for us.

**Old Business:**

Bob Swanson said he has been tied up longer than expected with the commuter rail lot and with a project that the Patriots funded on Cross St. He cannot begin to fix the handicapped parking and rear entrance ramp. If it gets too cold to pour concrete it will not be until the spring.

Jerry proposed changes to the Trip Committee by-laws they were seconded by Lloyd and voted and passed.

The turnout for volunteers to make the pies for Thanksgiving was not as many as usual. It was suggested perhaps there should be a chairperson from the Friends for this event so that more volunteers could be contacted the day before. The COA staff then would be free to do their own tasks.

**New Business:**

A motion to change the time of the meeting to sometime earlier in the day but not seconded was made.

The date of the April 21, 2011 Board Meeting has been changed to April 14, 2011.

**HESSCO:**

Tenny informed us of the changes that are happening due to budget cuts. She said she felt everyone was feeling the state budget cuts. Tenny reminded us of the HESSCO funding of the taxi services offered by the Foxfield Taxi company Wednesdays.

Jerry made a motion to adjourn and Lloyd seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Alibrandi

**NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2010**