

**COMMISSION ON THE AGING
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812**

MINUTES

Meeting

March 24, 2015

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday March 24, 2015 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Roberta Ilardo, and Janet Loya

Absent: Kathy Hull, Katy Johannssen, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Julia MacMillan, and Jeannette Sweeney

Guests: Scott Akam, BOE Chair, and Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Scott Akam, BOE Chair and Dr. Alicia Roy Superintendent of Schools were present. The BOE is under a tremendous amount of pressure to cut \$400,000 out of their proposed budget. Additionally the BOF originally agreed to pay for the renovations at the schools, but is now looking to take the cost of renovations out of the schools' budget. The town recently underwent a revaluation and the mil rate will go up due to the devaluation of homes. The schools will have roughly a 3.1% increase to their budget. If the mil rate did not increase, their budget would have increased by less than 3%. There are concerns that the recently approved expansion of the elderly tax relief credit would take away from the schools' budget. Maureen Salerno, Chair explained that we are all in this together and the Town Boards and Commissions have to support one another. If we do not support education, what kind of future will the children have? The Commission would like to help support the BOE budget. Dr. Roy explained she is limited by law as to what she can put in print. She would be happy to come to a luncheon at the Senior Center and talk to the seniors about the school budget; additionally she would be happy to speak with any other groups in town. The next BOF meeting is Wednesday April 1 at 7:30pm. It would be very helpful if as many people as possible showed up to help support the BOE budget. Members of the COA will try to go to the BOF meeting on April 1. Dr. Roy and Mr. Akam left the meeting at 8pm.

MINUTES:

Cindy LaCour made a motion to accept the Minutes to the February 24, 2015 meeting as presented, 2nd by Janet Loya, Vote 4-0, unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS

1. On Going Senior Needs Assessment:

Tabled

2. Expanded Elderly Tax Relief:

This was 10 years in the making, and the Town has expanded the income limits for elderly tax relief. Maureen Salerno thanked Janet Loya for doing the research and everyone who helped to support this important cause.

3. May Community Forum:

With April right around the corner it would be best to hold off for May or June to hold a community forum. Maureen Salerno would like to have a dialog with the senior community and then have them break out into groups. After discussing possible dates, it was decided Saturday June 13 may be the best date. The secretary will contact Kathy Hull to see if the Senior Center is available that date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Senior Center Report:

Tabled

2. May Older Americans Month

May is Older Americans Month. Maureen Salerno would like the Commission to think about anyone who they would like to honor this year. Please email the secretary or Maureen Salerno with your recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJUOURN:

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm 2nd by Roberta Ilardo, Vote 4-0, unanimous.