

Council on Aging Board of Directors

March 16, 2023

**Present:** Director Jim Leyden, 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 and Marie Angelides on Zoom, Rose Morace, Candace Serafino.

**Absent:** Julia Moulton

**Guest:** Robin Frechette, Select Board liaison Tom Lachiusa, Earl Godfrey, from FOLOCA; Bill Moray and Richard Foster.

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Judy noted that after 2 years LACCF will no longer be paying ½ of the salary for the staff working in the evening. Section B under State Representative- the chair and vice chare are appointed. The minutes were approved.
- III. **Reports:**
  - Select Board:** Tom noted they are working on the budget. The budget is up 4.9% while expenses are down 32%. Contracts are being negotiated. Salaries went up 16%, insurance up 5.7%. The warrant is put together for the town meeting. One issue is approval for a new fire truck and ambulance for the town. We need to approve it now as it takes time before receiving them. Another sewer truck is needed as well as the town only has one currently. Rezoning at Armata's location, the property next to Armata's for commercial usage.
  - State Representative:** A question asked last month regarding the closing of several nursing homes in the area and moving patients to facilities a distance from families. Robin noted that they have received many calls where the care is not what they used to receive. What started this move was following COVID only two people were placed in a room. Rose: there are many options for people who don't need a nursing home. Earl wondered if after May 11, if this policy would still be in effect. Robin: that will probably stay. One problem with these closings, staff in the facilities are looking for other jobs and we risk losing good staff.
  - Director's:** Attendance for the month of February was high. The staff are representative of the way things are run. Check with your packet of information for more details.
  - Treasurer's:** We are on time for our balances and the fees are working. Check your March treasurer's report for more information.
  - FOLOCA:** Meeting tomorrow March 17<sup>th</sup>. Nothing to report today.
    - Longmeadow High School and that we want people to feel welcome to Longmeadow.

IV. **New Business:**

**Anna Randall:** Anna Randall from GSSSI to discuss their mission statement. She has been with GSSSI for 16 years. She passed out information regarding programs and services. There are residents from Longmeadow who utilize the program. GSSSI receives federal monies to support Meals on Wheels and dining programs for older adults. These are referred to as Title 111 grants of which Longmeadow receives \$25,000 annually. Rose: we need a representative from the council to be on the board of GSSSI. George: A motion to have someone from our board to represent Longmeadow. The motion was seconded and passed. One service offered is a registered dietitian that would come to the center or to your home. There is also a state homecare program. Currently, there are 100 on the wait list. A question about staffing and Anna said they were always looking for new staff.

**Senior Rebate:** Marie would like two people to volunteer for help with recommendation for a tax break for seniors in town. She will proceed to check into this which she feels will take a couple of months.

**Special June Meeting:** Saul: recommendation for the board to meet all summer. This will be discussed next month and will be on the agenda. If approved, it will have to go thru the select board as our by-laws state from June till September we do not meet. Judy endorses Saul's recommendation. Saul would also like to know for the election of new officers, who will be running in September.

**Policy Booklet:** The policies procedures and code of conduct booklet was updated and will be subject to change if need be. A motion to record the booklet online was seconded and approved.

**Program Sponsorship:** Health New England has become a sponsor in 2023. Contact Jim if anyone knows of an interested party to sponsor a program.

V. **Old Business:**

**Medical Loan equipment:** Candace spoke with JGS and they would be willing to continue to have the medical loan program. Earl said the American legion post 12 would work with the JGS on pickup and delivery of equipment. We would have a point of contact and would work around set times for pick up and delivery. There would be a liability form for users. The equipment must be functional to be picked up. Jim wondered who would be the contact person. We do need funding for one or two pieces of equipment in order to get started. A thank you to Candace and her committee as well as to Earl and Jim. Candace: a shout out to the Key club for a food drive for the food pantry.

**Nutrition Program:** A discussion on the cost of the lunch program. We haven't raised our lunch cost in 10 years. Jim feels town residents should get a deal. \$3.50 for residents and \$4.00 for out-of-town people. Rose wondered if the increase could be used for programs. Jim stated that the extra money would be used for food costs and staff. A motion to raise the price from \$3.00 to \$3.50 and \$4.00 for non-residents, seconded and approved unanimously. Jim would notify all by posting it in the voice.

**COA FY 24:** The select board meets Monday night for discussion. There is support for Meals on wheels to get reimbursed for gas milage. We also have a new staff member for the food pantry. The pantry offers services to 60 families each week.

**Footcare:** We have a new vendor starting at the end of the month. The cost will be \$29.00. The information will be in May's voice. Paul Goulas will be in charge.

**Board member comments:** There were no comments.

IV. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tyson