

The Easton Council on Aging met on Thursday, December 27, 2007 in the Mary Connolly Room, 2nd floor, Town Offices, 136 Elm Street, North Easton. Chairman Frank Spillane called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

Present: Chairman Frank Spillane, Vice-chairman Nicolina Previti and members: Marie Healey, Carl (Ted) Palm and Ethel Pomerleau. **Members Excused:** Rose Friedeborn and David Cudmore. **Also present:** Dolores Kent, Director

Minutes: The members reviewed the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Motion by Mrs. Pomerleau, second by Mrs. Healey, to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting as presented. Vote: 3 in favor, 2 abstained.

Monthly Reports:

Finance Report: Mrs. Kent distributed the FY 2008 year to date finance report, which the members reviewed and accepted as follows.

July 1, 2007 - December 15, 2007		Balance	Balances 12/15/07
COA Budget, payroll:	01-531-01	103,195.92	} \$102,835.16
COA Budget, expenses:	01-531-02	-361.76	
State COA Grants:	18-3507	0.00	\$0.00
COA Gift & Donations:	24-3508	9,918.59	} \$14,205.85
Stonehill Gift Account:	24-3509	3,392.77	
COA Misc Gifts:	24-3515	894.49	
COA Senior Center:	24-3517	15,995.60	\$15,995.60
COA Travel Account:	20-3800	344.06	} \$2,344.06
COA Checking Account:	20-3999	2,000.00	

Business:

Monthly Reports:

Programs: Mrs. Kent reviewed the programs listed in the December newsletter. Exercise, Tai Chi, and Line Dancing continued during December along with the birthday lunch and craft class. There was no monthly movie, but there will be 2 movies in January. The COA outreach staff worked with the OCES nutrition department to make the Holiday luncheon, held on 12/20/07, into a celebration with the addition of entertainment provided by Chris Waters, and the distribution of holiday gifts provided by the children in the Olmstead/Richardson after-school KIDS program. Mr. Waters' performance will be paid from Stonehill College grant funds.

Outreach: Both Mrs. Lauricella and Mrs. Beavers helped elderly and disabled residents complete applications for fuel assistance to help pay winter heating bills and distributed KIDS program gifts to homebound elders. Additional gift boxes were given to the Easton Food Pantry.

Volunteer: Additional volunteers are being recruited to deliver meals on wheels on an occasional basis and fill in during the winter months.

Business:

Reserve Fund Transfer Request: Mrs. Kent reported that she had met with the Finance Committee and requested a reserve fund transfer of \$8,721.00 to cover the cost of the optional items on the new 12-passenger shuttle bus that will be delivered in the spring of 2008 to replace our 1999 shuttle bus.

Business (continued):

New shuttle van from Brockton Area Transit Authority: With the \$8,721 from the reserve fund and \$10,288 from the COA gift account to cover 20 % of the base cost and 100% of the options, Mrs. Kent asked the Brockton Area Transit Authority to order the new 12 passenger shuttle bus from National Van Builders, Inc., 80 Pine Street, Attleboro, MA 02703. Funds for the balance of 80% of the base cost will come from an Executive Office of Transportation grant.

FY 2009 Municipal COA Budget: Mrs. Kent distributed her recommendation for the FY 2009 COA budget, which reflected a 21% increase over the FY 2008 appropriation. In past years, the COA budget has been chronically under funded by approximately 21% with additional needed funds coming from donations and grants. Our current FY08 budget does not include any funding for our part-time drivers who are working an average of 39 hours a week transporting our elderly and disabled residents to medical appointments. There is also insufficient funding in our current budget for vehicle maintenance and gas and oil. Funds for our part-time drivers are currently coming from the gift account and a state COA grant. With the purchase of the new 12 passenger shuttle bus, funds in the COA gift account will be depleted. Therefore, next year's budgeted funds for gas and oil will need to be doubled as there will be no gift account funds available to pay for gas and oil. A slight increase in the Program, Office Supplies, and Travel line items for FY 09 is needed as these have been under funded in the past.

A slight increase is needed in the Salary-Outreach line item to cover 1.5 hours per week additional time for each of our Outreach Coordinators so there will be ½ hour overlapping time 4 days a week for the Outreach Coordinators to collaborate on program planning and client casework to provide more efficient, smoother service delivery.

Motion by Mrs. Previti, second by Mr. Palm, to submit a level service COA budget request to the Town Administrator and the Selectmen in the amount of \$232,214.00. Vote: All in favor.

FY 2009 Municipal Capital Budget: Mrs. Kent recommended that the COA submit a request for \$13,000 in the FY 09 capital budget to cover the 20% match needed to replace our 1995 Dodge van, and to continue to submit annual capital budget requests to cover the 20% match needed to pay the base cost of future shuttle vans. So moved by Mr. Spillane, second by Mr. Palm. Vote: All in favor.

Misc. Grants: Mrs. Kent recommended the Council on Aging seek grants from local charitable groups, foundations, and businesses to support our transportation program as our gift account funds will be depleted this year. So moved by Mrs. Pomerleau, second by Mr. Spillane. Vote: All in favor.

Other: Changing the name of the Council on Aging: Chairman Spillane asked the members to consider changing the name of the Easton Council on Aging to some other designation. He pointed out that as the "baby boomers" get older, many may be turned off by the term "aging" in the name of the Council. Mrs. Kent suggested that she contact area towns to see what they call their department that provides services for their older residents and report back to our COA at a future meeting.

Adjournment. Motion by Mrs. Previti to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 am. Second by Mrs. Pomerleau. So voted. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 am in the Mary Connolly meeting room, 2nd floor, Easton Town Offices on Thursday, January 17, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethel Pomerleau, Secretary