

CHESHIRE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 8, 2013 7:00 pm
Cheshire Town Hall

ATTENDANCE: D. Kelleher, V. Canale, B. Trussell, K. Trussell, M. Pickett, R. Veleber. Staff: K. Schechter, S. Ferrell.

CALL TO ORDER: D. Kelleher called the meeting to order led the Pledge of Allegiance and determined a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: B. Trussell made a motion to approve the June 2013 Cheshire Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes. R. Veleber seconded. All were in favor.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT: K. Schechter reported the Renters Rebate program continues although the government has made a change that new people cannot apply. Only those that have applied previously can apply. There were 57 food vouchers handed out for July. There were several new applicants but this is an average amount for the year.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT: S. Ferrell reported for S. Theroux there were 35 scheduled appointments and 154 inquiries this month. There were a lot of drop ins. S. Theroux is very busy. She does not always have time to complete all she would like to do. She works 20 hours. D. Kelleher suggested planning for what lobbying the committee might do to see if her hours could be increased. S. Ferrell also reported the center is getting ready for the wellness fair in October. D. Kelleher offered to put any information they would like to share on the committee face book page.

FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM: D. Kelleher spoke about the issues of town liability regarding the program and if the town attorney provided any new information. K. Schechter reported she spoke with M. Piccerillo about reaching a solution but at this time the town attorney has made it clear that the town would be liable. The program needs to be put on hold until a solution can be found. D. Kelleher suggested the possibility of melding our program with an existing program such as one of the religious programs or New Opportunities. Although the religious programs may not do background checks either and as a town program we would not want to be associated with a particular faith. S. Ferrell stated the senior center has tried to work with New Opportunities in the past and it has not gone well for various reasons. M. Pickett asked S. Ferrell about the over the phone reading program at the Senior Center. Would it be possible for the Friendly Visitor program to take over the phone program? M. Pickett is concerned the phone program may not be enough of a "visit" and is afraid if the Friendly Visitor program gets put on hold it will just stay on hold. She would also like to know what to tell the volunteers that are already in the program. D. Kelleher suggested a letter or phone call stating the program is on hold while the town looks into procedural policies. V. Canale asked K. Schechter to find out if the program could be run as a town program and be covered that way. K. Trussell suggested at least starting with the phone program while

this is on hold. V. Canale agrees but suggested doing it as a separate program. M. Pickett feels very disappointed especially for the one visitor that is already in progress that will have to stop. Also because the committee has been working on this program for over a year. D. Kelleher stated the committee may have been able to realize there were liability issues sooner if the committees Town Counsel Liaison would have attended the meetings and brought the information to the Town Counsel and Town attorney. Perhaps the committee should request the liaison attend the meetings. The liaison is J. Simma.

BYLAWS UPDATE: There is no news. Tabled for next meeting.

CAP PROGRAM UPDATE: Dates need to be chosen. D. Kelleher suggested sometime in October. K. Schechter stated no Tuesdays are available. D. Kelleher will contact Fr. Kaprio and either have him contact K. Schechter directly or choose the dates and email them.

NEW BUSINESS: M. Pickett asked K. Schechter to explain how one qualifies for fuel assistance. K. Schechter explained the program and the qualifiers such as gross income, assets and application. M. Pickett asked if there is anyway to know if the applicant is being fraudulent. K. Schechter replied she checks everything possible but sometimes there is no way to know if the applicant is withholding certain information. D. Kelleher asked for any other new business. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT: M. Pickett made a motion to adjourn. R. Veleber seconded. All members were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by
Leighanne Hartshorn