Human Services Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2010

Attendance:  E. Hines, J. Vitarelli, M. Sturges, V. Canale, S. Chaudhry,  M. Pickett, M. Calabrese

Staff: M. Piccerillo

Call to Order: M. Sturges called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and led the Pledge of Alliegance and determined a quorum.

Approval of Minutes:  J. Vitarelli made a motion to approve the August 12, 2010 minutes and S. Chaudhry seconded – passed unanimously.

Correspondence: D. Pulisciano send a memo regarding the Municipal Annual Report for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The report included referrals for services and hours of direct care for seniors utilizing the senior center. Members of the committee reviewed the report.

Social Services Report:  M. Piccerillo is here in place of K. Schechter tonight. The department has already begun to accept energy assistance applications – earlier than any previous year. Many of the applicants are new this year. Recently, the department has been running out of food vouchers. Supplies to the food pantry have increased since the newspaper articles – it was bare most of the summer. The food pantry is currently serving 80 – 100 families. Overall, there is an increase in the client base for all programs under Youth and Social Services Departments including domestic violence cases.

Old Business
Fall Festival: The table this year was in a less visible location – the committee collected around $139.00 for the Food Pantry – $18 for the fuel bank.

New Business
Misc:  
J. Vitarelli mentioned the food pantry efforts to move and expand its services. The Human Services committee has not been invited to be a part of the food pantry committee and planning. J. Vitarelli would be interested in being a part of it until her term is up in January 2011. M. Piccerillo updated the committee on the progress and on the changes in the way food pantry operates. Board members were handpicked by those who have been involved from the start. There are currently 9 board members. Down the road, there will be ways to assist the pantry with funding and volunteering opportunities at the food pantry during normal business hours once they are a free standing non profit. M. Piccerillo stated that she would talk to the Board about the committee and have feedback at the next Human Services meeting.

M. Piccerillo mentioned that the Human Services Committee was formed by combining three committees: Social Services, Aging and Disabilities. She mentioned that at the next meeting, she will send some additional ideas for projects that the committee could work on including domestic violence awareness and the food pantry.
E. Hines asked about volunteering at the Senior Center. He also mentioned meeting schedule and possibly reducing meetings until there is a project to work on. M. Sturges is concerned that keeping momentum up with less meetings.

M. Pickett mentioned if there was an attempt to fill the two vacant positions. She spoke with a member of the Republican party who said there are candidates but that have to be presented to the nominating committee which has not met recently.

E. Hines asked M. Piccerillo about areas of concern for Senior Citizens. She mentioned two things: Proper disposal of prescription drugs and grandparents raising grandchildren.

J. Vitarelli made a motion to adjourn S. Chaudhry seconded at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Bogdanski Bourdon