Human Services Committee
January 14, 2010 Minutes

Attendance: K. Nankin, M. Sturges, M. Rose, J. Vitarelli, A. Harrigan, T. Andrews, C. Cullinan,
Staff: K. Schechter, S. Bourdon, N. Toce
Guests: Hanna Belcher, Youth Services Intern, Dennis Rious, BL Companies

M. Sturges called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. She determined that there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: K. Nankin made a motion to approve the minutes, J. Vitarelli seconded – passed unanimously.

Correspondence: None

SPF SIG Report: S. Bourdon reported that the Taylor Hooton Foundation will be presenting at the High School Auditorium on March 4th, 2010 at 7pm. She also reported that the youth from the Youth Services Committee are putting together a video targeting parents about bullying alcohol and drugs that will have its premiere during Alcohol Awareness Week on April 15th, 2010.

Social Services Report: K. Schechter reported that the Department has processed more Energy Assistance applications this year than all of last year. Operation Fuel was an option for some who were not eligible for the Energy Assistance guidelines because they are so low – but they did not receive enough state funding so their income guidelines are the same this year as the Energy Assistance program.
The Food Pantry – now called the Cheshire Community Food Pantry at St. Bridget is working wonderfully. Even though the site is not connected with the Ct Food Bank, they are following all of the same guidelines. It is fully staffed by volunteers and one in particular, Judy Prue, has taken on the role of running it and scheduling volunteers. Crisis Intervention: there seems to be an increase in family disputes and disorderly conducts. T. Andrews mentioned that K. Schechter came to her church group and talked about the Department and the need in Cheshire and said what an eye opening experience it was for many of those in attendance. One parishioner made baskets up for families in emergencies.

Human Services 2010 Meeting Schedule: K. Schechter passed out the proposed list of meetings for 2010. K. Nankin made a motion to accept the schedule, C. Cullinan seconded – passed unanimously. The following is a list of the meeting dates for 2010. All meetings are held at Town Hall at 7pm:
February 11
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
No July Meeting
August 12
September 16
October 14
November 18
No December Meeting

Alcohol Awareness Week Sub Committee: K. Nankin reported that the committee is working on its assignments and that the Chamber Expo is April 10th. The table will need to be manned from about 10am – 2pm that day.

Dodd Middle School Renovation Project: Dennis Rious from BL Companies gave the committee a presentation on the renovation project to be started summer 2010 on the kitchen and food service areas at Dodd Middle School. Two focus areas of the project are: putting the cooler and freezer on the loading dock to create more room in the kitchen and basement while improving accessibility and making the bathroom for kitchen staff 100% accessible; reorienting the food service area into a food court style to ease cramping in the area and stopping the students from double backing after getting their food. The committee asked about ADA compliance and the safety of the equipment on the loading dock. J. Vitarelli made a motion to accept the plan as presented by D. Rious and approve the project, C. Cullinan seconded – passed unanimously. M. Sturges will write a letter to the Department of Public Works.

Nominating Committee: The following committee members have formed the Nominating Committee to prepare for the April 2010 vote: J. Vitarelli, C. Cullinan, K. Nankin. J. Vitarelli will act as Chair.

K. Nankin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, J. Vitarelli seconded – meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Bogdanski Bourdon