

Board Members present: Pat Gold, Mary Keenan, Burt Greenberg, Carol Airasian, V.V. Martin, Linda Moffitt, Dorothy Jean Brown, Bertha Anderson

Members excused absence: Alice Wadden

Staff Members present: Caryl Fox and Debbie Dunn

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

1. The December COA Board meeting minutes were reviewed by Board members. V.V. Martin made a motion to accept and Linda seconded. Passed.

2. Financial Statements:

Caryl highlighted areas from the December statements. All of the line items have adequate funding to sustain services and supplies through the end of the fiscal year. The Revolving Fund will be paying for recent taxi bills. The COA continues to provide transportation for every senior who usually takes the shuttlebus. This will continue until a new driver is hired. The money given to the Marshall Home Fund by the Friends of the COA will also continue to pay for taxi cab rides.

3. Lack of heat in the Phillips School Gym:

Caryl reported that with the cold temperatures in recent weeks, the lack of heat in the Phillips School gym made for very uncomfortable conditions. Caryl and Debbie both worked on this problem, trying for as quick a resolution as possible. With the intervention of the Town Manager and others, the School Dept. was able to make needed repairs and adjustments through a vendor and the problem was resolved.

4. Submitted FY '17 COA Capital Improvement Budget:

Capital Improvement requests for the Senior Center have been submitted for the fiscal years FY '17-FY'21. The project for FY '17 is to repair the outside entrance and front door, both of which sustained water damage some years ago. Projects in subsequent years include exterior and interior painting and replacing carpeting and furniture.

5. Submitted FY '17 COA Budget:

The budget for FY '17 requested by the Town Manager for all departments is a level service budget. The building maintenance, program supplies and food supplies line items all show small increases due to rising costs for these services and supplies. The part-time salaries decrease reflects that the EOEI Formula Grant which funds a portion of these salaries was increased last year at the state level. Caryl will meet with the Town Manager and financial department heads later this month.

6. Shuttle bus driver position:

There are a couple of qualified candidates who have the required CDL license who have applied for this job. Caryl expects to be interviewing them with the Personnel Director by the end of January.

7. Parking:

COA Board member, Burt alerted COA member about potential changes to parking and other issues of community life in Watertown. He spoke about concerns he has about certain Town Councilors who he feels have plans and goals that would be detrimental to Watertown's older adults and the future direction of the Town. He urged Board members to be aware of current issues in Watertown and to become informed and involved.

Board Chair, Pat Gold, noted her concern that the plans for additional bus transportation are for the Arsenal and Pleasant Street corridors but in the residential west part of Watertown.

8. Food Coupons:

Pat Gold suggested that people could donate their food coupons that they don't need to the Food Pantry and that we should let people know through the newsletter. The coupons can be dropped off here and we will give them to the Food Pantry coordinator.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox