

Preston Senior Affairs Committee

The March 2, 2021 Preston Senior Affairs Committee Teleconference meeting was called to order by Chairman Elizabeth Bassette at 1:00 p.m. Members in attendance included Elizabeth Bassette, Marie Perrin, Morris Fishbone, Frances Minor and Mary Lou Jensen (arriving at 1:07 p.m.

F. Minor read the following information: Per Lamont's Executive Order 7b:
Participants are reminded to state your name and title before speaking. Please help us make this conference call as useful as possible by keeping your phone on mute when not speaking. We are keeping the line open to all participants by default, but if background noise becomes a problem, we will mute all participants and ask participants to use "chat" to be selectively unmuted.

Minutes: M. Fishbone made a motion to accept the February 2, 2021 Senior Affairs Committee meeting with one correction. Under Old Business: Item a. Flu Clinic (brochure) project on hold ~~during~~ during COVID-19 pandemic. Motion seconded by M. Perrin. Motion approved.

Correspondence: An email was received from the Bd. Of Finance regarding the submission of our Annual Report. The report is due on March 19, 2021.

Financial report: F. Minor provided the committee with a lengthy review of current expenditures and budget balances. Discussion surfaced regarding our responsibility of paying the unemployment benefits to employees. Currently, that amount is \$1,066.57. The Newsletter Line item shows an expenditure of \$245.00 (Annual permit fee); Cleaning Person continues to be employed part-time; Senior Center Repairs & Supplies has greater activity than is customary due to the State Unit on Aging Senior Center Reimbursement Grant of \$2,500.00. (purchases have been made for handsfree lavatory faucets, handsfree soap dispensers, disinfectant spray, disinfectant wipes, signage, etc.) Utility expenditure remain steady with no dramatic increases.

M. Perrin queried as to the combining of line items in our budget. F. Minor explained that Congregate Meal Program, Operating Expense, Senior Center Repairs & Supplies, Activity Fund and Newsletter were all combined into one line item (\$13,866.00). Senior Center Staff and Cleaning Person were combined into one line item (\$8,195.00) plus Telephone and Alarm Monitoring were combined into one line item (\$1,715.00). We were not privy to any discussion or given an opportunity for input before these changes were instituted.

M.L. Jensen suggested that we add a “Not Add Column” to our budget to identify the State Unit on Aging Senior Center Grant amount. The grant is a reimbursement type of grant and F. Minor has been assured that the grant will be allocated back into our budget and not be deposited into the General Fund. F. Minor has been in ongoing conversations regarding the grant process with the Town Treasurer. M. Perrin made a motion to place the Financial report on file. M. Fishbone seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Old business:

- a. Flu Clinic (brochure) No activity occurring.
- b. Fiscal Report: F. Minor indicated that the Fiscal Budget 2021/2022 request was submitted to the Bd. Of Selectmen. We have not received an invitation to appear before the Board of Selectmen at this time. The budget request did not reflect an increase over the current years budget. Not included in the final request was any request for increase in wages for salaried employees. That decision will be the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen.
- c. Grant Opportunities: Grant activities and expenditures are ongoing for the State Unit on Aging Senior Center Grant.
- d. Internet installation: Completed with installation and first month charges being charged to the State Grant.
- e. Kitchen upgrades: F. Minor was charged with locating a carpenter, business firm that may be willing to provide estimates for renovating the kitchen cabinets. Calls have been made and no response has been received. Any names of reliable contractors would be appreciated. M.L. Jensen questioned whether the individual need to be licensed and insured. F. Minor indicated yes.

New Business/Other: F. Minor provided an update for the Pop-Up Food distribution held monthly at the Preston Senior Center. Discussion included information on the Farm to Family Food Boxes which are currently being distributed to residents of Preston Housing. M. Fishbone questioned whether the Preston City Congregation Church was aware of our efforts. F. Minor indicated that they are recipients of the Bits & Pieces newsletter which includes our schedules for distributions. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Amy Brosnan, Cathy Brosnan and Leigh Pappas are instrumental in ensuring that the program runs smoothly; flyers are distributed timely and everyone in attendance is treated respectfully. United Community & Family Services staff are incredible regarding the abundance of time and energy which they provide monthly to our community.

Public Comment: No public present.

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Fishbone at 1:45 p.m. Motion seconded by M. Perrin. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frances Minor