

Preston Senior Affairs Committee

The May 2, 2023 Preston Senior Affairs Teleconference meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Frances Minor. Members in attendance included Marie Perrin, Morris Fishbone and Frances Minor. Chairwoman Mary Lou Jensen and member Elizabeth Bassette were excused. A quorum was present.

Minutes: M. Fishbone made a motion to accept the April 4, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. M. Perrin seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Correspondence:

a. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier re: ARPA Funds. F. Minor relayed information forwarded to Selectwoman Gauthier from the State Unit on Aging. The Town of Preston is eligible to apply for ARPA Funds for the Senior Center.

Financial Report: F. Minor provided a lengthy report on the status of our Fiscal Budget. Line items for Heating, Electricity and Communications continue to be problematic. We have over spent our Heating Oil Line item by 584.98 thus far with more deliveries to come. We anticipate the other line items will be over expended as well. We continue to have a part-time driver completing weekly shopping trips to the Lisbon area. Medical appointment requests are handled by the ECTC Transportation Grant and in-house requests. Changes internally have created a more streamlined process for the payment of invoices and cleared up much of the backlog. Lengthy discussion followed. M. Fishbone made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. M. Perrin seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Old Business:

a. Annual Flu & Pneumonic Clinic: Tabled from October 2021.

b. Fiscal Budget 2023 – 2024 update: A Public Hearing was held on April 27th. Many citizens voiced their concerns over the increased revaluation of their property and felt that the proposed budget as it was presented and mil rate would fail to pass at a referendum. The Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Education took all comments into consideration. More updates to follow.

c. Building & Facilities Form review: An in-depth review of the Building & Facilities Form continued at length. Comparisons of other facilities rental agreements were discussed. Concerns regarding the septic system, well, heating, electric usage and staffing were discussed at length. A motion was made by M. Fishbone to assess an hourly fee of \$150.00 for any/all interested parties to rent the Preston Senior Center facility. M. Perrin seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. This fee is in addition to the \$500.00 Security Deposit, and Contract agreement already in place.

New Business/Other:

a. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding availability. The State Unit on Aging contacted First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier concerning ARPA Funding availability for senior centers. The Town of Preston would be eligible for approximately \$13,000.00 to use for COVID related projects. F. Minor participated in a webinar offered by the SUA concerning eligible projects, senior center criteria and basic application timelines. F. Minor suggested increasing the handicapped accessible parking area behind the center, and widening the entrance to the senior center to avoid patrons driving through mud and puddles of water during inclement weather. Additional thoughts included replacing the apartment size range and aging refrigerator. M. Fishbone queried as to what backup system was in place for heating food for the Congregate Meal Program. Would we need to close or did TVCCA have emergency services available for our continuation of the meal program? F. Minor suggested that the Committee think about other alternatives and provide additional suggestions. F. Minor will do research on the suggestions already offered.

Public Comment: None.

A motion was made by M. Perrin to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Motion seconded by M. Fishbone. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frances Minor

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Cindy L. Palmer

Asst. PRESTON TOWN CLERK