

COA Meeting, March 4, 2020

Attended by: Roberta Lynch, Bob Heald (2020), Rich Ryder (2021), Perry Conostas (2019), Katie Robinson (2021), Heidi Groff, Peter Burke, Susan Bernstein, Lisa Donovan, Nancy Gerstel; Guests: Colleen Sullivan (Lions Club), Bob Sliney (Warrant Committee)

Date in (2020) = expiration date of term for Council On Aging Board Members

Call to Order: 9:30 a.m. February Meeting Minutes Approved.

COLLEEN: Lions Club is requesting use of building on May 16, Saturday, for their Spring Gala. The money raised is used for Medfield Helping Hands. Requesting \$500 for fee – grandfathered in. Alcohol request to Selectmen. Vote to allow rental: Yes - 5 No - 0

BOB: Went to Warrant Committee meeting. Town looking at COA controlled funds as they want some funds for the Town. Only account they could touch is Respite Fund. Respite not currently contributing to fixed cost of building. Roberta, Rich & Bob calculated allocation based on square footage used and time used and that percent applied to total budget = \$8,000 be used to offset cost of Center. COA recommendation: COA is prepared to contribute \$8000 this year only if they don't touch our budget. Town is also requesting funds from other departments.

VOTE: Yes - 5

NO - 0

BOB SLINEY: Our Town's revenue is based on real estate taxes. Our expenses are higher than our revenue. We have no industrial base. Trying to keep real estate taxes reasonable. Trying not to have override. Need to replace 2 fire engines at \$700,000+ - need contingent if it doesn't pass Town Meeting.

They are having same discussion with all departments. Need to cut at least \$1 million.

ROBERTA: Schools have proposed a 4% increase. Warrant Committee had 2 meetings in March with School Committee and suggested a 4% cut.

BOB S: Dale Street school replacement proceeding which will require town debt. Last year we used "free cash" account – not an option this year. We have to balance our budget, school budget included. Our spending is consistent with towns our size.

ROBERTA: Attendance is at our lowest right now which affects our income.

BOB H: Need to address issue with schools. Schools get more money – everyone else is asked to reduce.

BOB S: There are contractual salary obligations through unions with schools, police and fire. Fixed cost increase in place.

RICH: Realize town is in bad shape. We met right away to address it.

BOB S: Appreciate your positive and quick response. Our overall goal is to reduce the burden on the taxpayer. Town needs to maintain "free cash" and reserve Fund.

ROBERTA:

Club has 41 slots – number is down which means lower money coming in. \$15 charge for transportation of Respite people.

Garage: Selectmen advised go forward and hire architect – done.

Animal Shelter requested rental of building for their volunteer luncheon on March 22 from 1-3 pm. They filled out rental form - \$100. Motion to approved: Yes 5 No 0

Art class will be starting.

We received 1st Place Award from National Council on Aging “Minds in Motion” program. Will be announced in their newsletter.

Yard Sale on May 2nd.

LISA: Will be out Thursday in Stoughton for training meetings on defensive driving and handicapped driving.

Motion to adjourn accepted at 11:15 a.m.



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 1 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Lynch

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