

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING
November 20, 2014
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Glenn Carpenter. Also present were Board members Jay Sigler, Olga Church, and Administrator Paul Mohair. Chris had advised she would be unable to attend.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the October 23, 2014, meeting were distributed and read. Upon motion by Olga, seconded by Jay, the minutes as proposed were adopted unanimously.

Budget and Administrative Report Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of November 19, 2014, and as reported by the town accountant and town bookkeeping system, MUNIS. Paul said there were no extraordinary expenses. Paul talked about the miscellaneous line item, explaining that almost all expenses are for kitchen lunch items that are not food, including paper towels, cleaning supplies, utensils, and containers. These expenses should decrease since we have ended the “to go” lunches. There was discussion. Olga asked about the MVC4L expenses, how they fit in the town budget and expenses. There was discussion about the C4L relocating to the old VNA building.

Proposed Fiscal year 2016 Budget and Articles Paul presented the proposed 2016 FY budget. It is the same as the 2015 FY budget except that the miscellaneous line item is increased to \$3,900. There was discussion. Upon motion by Jay, seconded by Olga, the 2016 FY budget was unanimously approved.

Paul presented the two articles he submitted for the April Town Meeting, including funding for air conditioning and the MySeniorCenter hardware/software system. Paul described and explained both. There was discussion.

Program and Volunteer Report Wendy then came to the meeting. The Board complimented Wendy on her work and specifically, the Volunteer Luncheon she helped arrange last week. She mentioned a number of events and programs happening in December, including the annual Holiday Open House on the 12th, from 11:30 to 1:30, for the Christmas in Edgartown weekend. We will have a free chili bar with donations encouraged, which is always well attended. Tom Dresser is giving a presentation on his recent book about music on the Vineyard; he will bring a singer and bass player to perform. We will combine Tom’s program with the Supportive Day Program. The Featherstone Uke Jam will play at a December lunch. Wendy has coordinated the delivery of about a dozen Thanksgiving meals for the holiday. Wendy was complimented on the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon last week. She observed overall volunteer hours had increased about 40% to 2,200 hours last year donated by about 52 volunteers. Olga commented on how positive and upbeat the atmosphere in the Anchors is now including the attitudes of the staff, volunteers and our seniors.

Outreach Report Paul asked Victoria to join the meeting. She said she has been helping process many fuel assistance applications in the last month. The process is labor intensive and time consuming. Olga asked if fuel assistance has been increasing. Victoria said it seems to have gone up, as have food stamp applications. She said she also has about six new clients in the last month she is case managing some of whom are frail and have been referred by their children. She has about nineteen Edgartown clients who are receiving fuel assistance. There was discussion.

Victoria has been very busy- one day last month she saw and/or helped seventeen separate clients. Paul and Wendy help out when and where they can. There was more discussion about the needy and homeless on the Island. Olga suggested considering adding an Anchors position for an outreach worker to assist Victoria. There was more discussion and Victoria left the room.

Friends of ECOA Report There was no one from the Friends present.

MV Center for Living Olga asked about the status of the proposed purchase of the VNA building for the C4L to occupy. Paul said the C4L is proposing articles on all island town warrants to fund the operation of the building as a leased property. The county is approaching all the towns to finance the bond which will pay for the purchase of the building. If all goes well, the county could purchase the building and the C4L could take occupancy sometime in 2017. Paul believed all towns were supportive with the exception of Oak Bluffs, which has not committed to the project. Everyone is encouraged by these developments.

The next meeting will be December 18, 2014.

There being no further business, upon motion by Olga, seconded by Jay, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:40 am.