



TOWN OF WATERTOWN  
**Council on Aging**  
SENIOR CENTER

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Caryl Leslie Fox  
Director of Senior Services

Patricia Gold, *Chairperson*

***Minutes of C.O.A. Board Meeting – February 9, 2011***

Members present: Pat Gold, Mary Keenan, Dottie Fleming, Will Twombly, Hagop Sarkissian, and Mike Donham.

Members Excused Absence: Jane Stadolnik.

Staff members present: Caryl Fox, Kathleen Wolf, Debbie Dunn, and Laura Gold.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Pat Gold.

1. Remembering Betty Finnell:

Betty Finnell, a member of the COA Board for twenty years and a past Board chairperson, passed away suddenly at the end of January. Ms. Finnell was a valued Board member who contributed much to the COA over the years. She also volunteered in the COA office every Thursday morning and was always helpful. She was kind and very positive in her interaction with others and worked hard to maintain her health and independence. She will be missed.

2. The minutes from the previous Board meeting were reviewed. A spelling error was noted. Mike Donham made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.

3. Financial Statements:

Caryl Fox highlighted the financial report. The electricity line item continues to run high. The Town has a company doing building inspections and they may investigate if this problem is tied to the HVAC configuration. The Marshall Home Taxi grant monies are almost depleted. Usage has been high and people have come to count on this service. An interim grant will be submitted to the Marshall Home Fund so that we can continue to provide this service without interruption.

4. Springwell Update:

Caryl Fox presented statistics provided by Springwell on usage of their services by Watertown residents. Pat Gold and Ms. Fox interviewed Watertown resident, Margaret (Peg) Cassidy for the Watertown vacancy on the Springwell Board. Ms. Cassidy is a retired Cambridge teacher who has been involved in Watertown local government issues. Mike Donham made a motion recommending Peg Cassidy for appointment and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.

5. FY '12 Budget Update:

The Board reviewed the spreadsheet for the FY '12 budget, which was submitted to the Town Manager on January 13, 2011. Caryl Fox met with the Town Manager to review the draft budget on January 19, 2011. A level service and a 5% reduction scenario were required from all departments. If any program funding is reduced, we will try to get grants to pay for the cost.

6. Shopping Bus Update:

Shuttle bus driver, Joe Cavallaro, is on medical leave until the end of March. He had knee replacement surgery. Caryl Fox worked with the Personnel Department to hire a temporary driver. We were fortunate to find Karl Neugebauer who works part-time at the Commander's Mansion and has the required license to drive the vehicle.

7. Property Tax Work-off:

All of the slots have been filled this year with most of the participating departments requesting office assistance. Seniors have been placed in the library, the police, personnel, building, and recreation departments and in the Hosmer and Lowell schools.

8. Snow shoveling:

Mike Donham brought up a concern that we didn't have many people willing and available to do snow shoveling for seniors (for pay). We have put out requests but few people have been interested. It has been a difficult winter, and people need their sidewalks and driveways clear to get out. Seniors can become house-bound when weather is bad. Snow plow companies can be hired but they are more expensive. We will continue to try to recruit more shovellers.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox