



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

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Caryl Leslie Fox  
Director of Senior Services

Patricia Gold, Chairperson

Minutes of COA Board Meeting- February 13, 2013

Members present: All Board members present.

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

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

1. The [minutes](#) of the January meeting were read by Board members. Mike Donham made a motion to approve and V.V. Martin seconded. Passed.

2. Financial Statements:

Caryl Fox highlighted areas from the [January financial statements](#). Ms. Fox noted that the program supply line item is less than it usually is at this time in the fiscal year because of the purchase of the new television stand and Blu-ray player for the new donated television.

3. Springwell FY '12 [Watertown Statistics](#):

Board members reviewed the statistics for Springwell services for Watertown residents. There continues to be a waiting list for homecare service for all of the Towns that Springwell serves due to state fiscal cutbacks. Caryl Fox and other COA directors from these towns will meet with the new Springwell director later this month.

4. FY '14 COA Submitted [Budget Spreadsheet](#):

All departments were required to submit a level service and a two and a half percent reduction budget scenario to the Town Manager. In the level budget, Caryl Fox slightly increased the building maintenance line item because the cost of cleaning and repair services is always rising. The reduction budget included a cut for tai chi classes (a grant would be applied for) and the capital improvements line item would be cut in half. The Town Manager will make his recommendations shortly. Budget hearings are usually held in May.

5. Problems with Electrical Costs (tabled from last meeting):

Board members examined [cost sheets](#) that were prepared by Debbie Dunn. The breakdown showed that electrical costs were significantly higher during the summer months when the air-conditioning is on in the Senior Center and in the Phillips School gym. The air-conditioning in the gym is controlled from the Senior Center and is only on for our activities. Cooling that large space with its high ceiling can be costly. Without it, we would not be able to hold any classes including the exercise classes in the summer. The information showed the electrical costs to be within reasonable amounts.

6. Open Meeting Law: Late Breaking Matters and New/Old Business (tabled from last meeting)

Chairperson, Pat Gold, outlined changes in the open meeting law and how it affects when new or urgent items can be brought up at COA Board meetings. There was a discussion among Board members about how to interpret the alterations to the meeting law. It was noted that a draft of the agenda will be emailed/sent to Board members each month.

7. Outreach to the Aging LGBT (tabled from last meeting)

The issue of outreach to the aging LGBT community was discussed by Board members and staff. It was agreed that if individuals requested, or seemed to need services, the Senior Center would provide them or make referrals. The consensus of the group seemed to be that Watertown seniors are participating in activities and receiving services without being singled out. It was noted that agencies that provide home services need to make sure that their workers have sensitivity training on this issue, so their own viewpoints are not imposed on those they are helping. Although historically, the LGBT community has been "hidden" that is changing as younger seniors are much more open.

8. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox