

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – October 14, 2015

Board Members present: Pat Gold, Mary Keenan, Carol Airasian, V.V. Martin, Linda Moffitt, Bertha Anderson, Burt Greenberg

Staff Members present: Caryl Fox and Debbie Dunn

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

1. The minutes for the September meeting were read by Board members. Carol Airasian made a motion to approve and Bertha Anderson seconded. Passed

2. Financial Statements:

All of the line items have adequate funds in them at this time in the fiscal year. The Marshall Home Fund Taxi Grant was used by many seniors in September including people who used it for supermarket shopping while the bus was being repaired.

3. Property Tax Work-Off Program FY '16:

Applications are being received this month from seniors interested in being part of the property tax work-off project. Caryl will be interviewing in November. The program offers up to 10 seniors \$750.00 off of their real estate bill in exchange for 75 hours of work for a participating department. Applicants need to have lived in their owner occupied home for at least 3 years and the property cannot be in a trust. They also need to do the work requested by participating departments. Low income individuals are given preference.

4. 2015-2016 Fuel Assistance Program:

Applications for Watertown seniors applying for fuel assistance for the first time are completed with the help of the COA caseworker. This is a federal program which provides help with energy bills from November 1st-April 1st. The caseworker goes over eligibility guidelines and verifications that are required. She is available to see people at home if needed. Every year there are new people who have difficulty meeting expenses and paying for heating costs.

5. Medicare Open Enrollment:

The annual period for Medicare recipients to make a change in their supplemental insurance coverage or to switch providers is October 15th-December 7th. We have a very experienced SHINE counselor who helps people make informed decisions. During the enrollment period she increases her appointments to accommodate more seniors seeking assistance.

6. Food Pantry Grant Award & Fundraising:

The Food Pantry received a \$5000.00 grant award from Project Bread/The Walk for Hunger. As in previous years, the award is for gift cards for the holidays purchased from Stop and Shop. The amount given is according to family size. It can be used for whatever the recipient chooses at the market.

This time of year, the Food Pantry sends letters to individuals, organizations and businesses. All of the funds go towards food for the Pantry. The community has always been generous in supporting the Pantry.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox