



SUSAN STACK  
CHAIRMAN

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Human Services Commission

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HOCINE BAOUCHE  
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TERESA CAVANAGH  
HELEN FILLORAMO  
JAIME FOSTER  
SUSANNE HANNIGAN  
RICHARD PETRUCCI

### **HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

#### **Monday, January 11, 2016**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Sue Stack, Chairman at 6:04 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Sue Stack, Teresa Cavanagh, Hocine Baouche, Richard Petrucci, Yale Cantor, Jaime Foster, Sue Hannigan.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Melinda Ferry, Board of Selectman liaison

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motioned (H. Baouche), Seconded (S. Hannigan) and passed by those present to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Appreciation is shown towards First Selectman Laurie Spielman who has met with department heads and staff, and has given everyone the opportunity to discuss issues that may be of concern to them.

Human Services – The Holiday Season was very successful. Sponsors included the Exchange Club, local civic groups, PTO's, community individuals and others. There were 138 families served this year. A wrap up session will be held to discuss any ideas or improvements that can be made for next year. Public Works has begun repainting the interior of the Human Services building. They are using a higher quality odorless paint than previously used and the walls will now be washable. Public Works along with Robert Tedford and Doris Crayton, will be looking at ways to clean up the basement of the Human Services building to increase storage space and build additional shelving for the food pantry.

Youth Services – Gallery Night will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2016. So far there is low artist participation, so anyone who is interested is asked to contact Youth Services. The Rotary Club of Vernon/Tolland/Ellington donated \$400 to help fund the event. Youth Services volunteers rang the bell for the Salvation Army on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Vernon Stop and Shop for a total of eight hours. They raised \$389.00. It was a wonderful experience for the 12 volunteers and they are excited to do it again next year. Both Youth Services and Senior Center staff attended a 3-day web design training session. These departments, along with the Town of Ellington, will have new websites shortly. A volunteer will help Human Services design

their new website as well. New winter programs are underway. One of these programs helps parents and students dealing with anxiety. While still working on the successful Decide to Be Kind movement Youth Services is also looking for another new community project.

Elderly Outreach –TRIAD recently celebrated ten years. They are currently thinking about new programs and services to offer.

Senior Center: The Senior Center is taking its last quote for hallway railings. There will be work on the sidewalks, weather permitting in the spring. They are looking for an additional van driver due to a resignation in December. The wage guideline for this position is being reviewed. In March the Senior Center will start the application process for a new van. Ownership of the current van was completed in July. They are hoping for a new van and new car by 2017 because the current one is eight years old and has higher mileage.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Human Services received a letter in December from Hockanum Valley informing them that they will also be applying for a new van in March through the same program that the Senior Center will be applying through. The price of the van will be \$63,613, but after a grant of \$50,890 the remaining cost will be \$12,722. They are requesting that the three towns of Ellington, Tolland, and Vernon pay the difference. The total cost would be \$13,529 after an additional \$807 in DMV charges. Ellington would be required to pay \$3,882.40. This is in addition to the current budget request. Doris is meeting with social services directors from Tolland and Vernon to discuss this issue.

Motioned (Y.Cantor), Seconded (S. Hannigan) and passed by all present that the Human Services Commission recommends to the Board of Selectmen that \$3,882.40 be allocated to Hockanum Valley for Ellington's share towards the purchase of a wheel chair accessible van.

Today was the deadline for receipt of funding application requests. All were received. Human Services is ready to begin working on a budget due February 15. Human Services requests to keep contract agencies funding at the current level this year. The salary line in the budget will remain the same. Once negotiations are finished it will be modified. Staff is working to get a true picture of utility costs at the Senior Center. There will most likely be an increase on the "maintenance and building repair" line. We will continue to review salary guidelines from other towns prior to submitting a request for an administrative secretary position at the Senior Center. Our budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motioned (J. Foster), Seconded (S. Stack) and passed by all those present to adjourn at 7:11 P.M.

Submitted by,

Teresa Cavanagh  
Secretary