



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## Council on Aging Minutes 08/20/07

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING  
 27 Maple Street  
 Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair  
 Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Meeting of the COA Transportation Committee  
 August 20, 2007

### MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Robert Tosi, Jr., Karen Nichols, Harry McCabe, Ann MacGowan, Mildred Hurd and Shirley Chapski.

Members Absent: Paul West and William Carey

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director and William Murphy, COA Transportation & Volunteer Services Coordinator

Call to Order: Bob Tosi presided and Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 6 was present.

Minutes of the July 16, 2007 Transportation Committee Meeting: There being no corrections to the minutes of the July 16, 2007 meeting, Shirley moved to approve the minutes, Ann seconded, four in favor, Harry opposed, Ann abstained. Motion carried.

Citizens Open Forum: Bill Murphy distributed his document, A TriPronged Approach To A Sustainable Transportation Program, and spoke on the three steps outlined therein:

Step #1: The Board designates Approx. \$30K from the Sevoyan Fund to the transportation Program for each of 2 years - FY 2009 and FY 2010. Discussion ensued and it was concluded that the Town, as well as the COA, needs to be more responsible for the problems facing the COA Transportation Program. It was suggested that a budget showing a deficit be submitted to the Town. Bill referred to Step #1, ¶ 2 of the document: "It is essential to guarantee the money immediately because the budget figures for FY 09 are being formulated by Christine Connolly, Director of Health & Human Services, in September and we need to get on with other facets of the Transportation Program. If we don't do it now, someone else will and we may not like the results." Harry repeated that the responsibility lies with the Town.

Step #2: The Board creates a needs assessment team to study the transportation needs/community accessibility of Arlington Seniors. Ann MacGowan, John and the ASA/COA Joint Committee are working on a survey to be distributed to a percentage of the Town's seniors. When the results of the survey are in they will let both boards know.

Step 3: The Board begins raising money from multiple sources other than the Sevoyan Fund to sustain the Transportation Program. Finding other sources of income was discussed. Harry stated that the Intake Worker and Van driver salaries should not be part of the Transportation Enterprise Program. John said enterprise funds have to pay their own way and this enterprise fund does not and he doesn't think the van program and DART can both be supported in its current form.

Letter to the Town Re: The Transportation Enterprise Fund. Bob distributed draft copies of a letter for discussion that he composed. In the letter it is stated that, "It is projected that only \$550 will remain the fund after FY 08 for FY09." The letter outlines the various steps the COA has taken to augment the fund and the programs that have been subsidized by the Sevoyan Trust Fund, most notably the Sevoyan Dental Subsidy Program.

Karen suggested that on p. 2, ¶1, that the sentences: "The COA recognizes the financial difficulties the Town is facing and is willing to transfer \$19K from Sevoyan funds to Transportation Enterprise Fund. This will keep the fund balance positive and maintain needed

service without further impacting town finances.” be stricken from the document. The sentences would be placed with the following language: “The COA further requests that the Town fund the remaining balance in the Transportation Enterprise Fund for FY 2009 in order to achieve a balanced budget.”

The following additional corrections to the draft letter were made:

Page 1, Par. 1, line 2, the words, “Enterprise Program,” be inserted between the words, “the” and “reserve.” Page 1, Par. 1, Item 5: the words “for the needy,” be added after the word, “program.,” and similarly, the words, “for the needy.” be added at the end of Item 6.

Page 1, last paragraph, line 3: the word, “no,” be changed to “not.” After discussion, it was agreed that the letter be addressed to the Board of Selectmen with copies to the Town Manager and others listed on the draft. Next Harry moved that the letter be addressed to Annie Lacourt, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, and that each selectman be sent a copy of the letter to his home address; Karen seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

#### New Business

- The Capital Budget will include a request for the new van.
- ASA/COA Joint Committee: A joint gathering of the ASA/COA boards is planned for Thursday, November 8 at 7 p.m. Copies of the final survey will be on hand for that meeting.
- Town Day September 8 – Bill welcomes any help from the board.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Next Meeting of the Transportation Committee September 17, 2007 at 4 p.m.