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Council on Aging Minutes 02/27/2003

Special Meeting of the Council on Aging
 February 27, 2003
 MINUTES

Members Present: Richard Murray, Mary Dodge, Harry McCabe, Mildred Hurd, Mara Klein and Shirley Chapski

Members Absent: Dorothy Nicholas

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director; Gloria von Hyeburg, ASA President; Charles Schwab, ASA Asst. Treasurer; and Joan Pippin, ASA Coordinator.

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Richard Murray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 6 was present. Richard stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the COA Budget, the formula grant, and other budget proposals. Richard asked John Jope to begin the session.

John reported as follows:

- The COA CDBG Funding Request for FY2004 was delivered to the Town on February 24. The total amount of the request is \$138,012. Block grant requests will be submitted to the Selectmen at their March 3 Board meeting. He urged as many COA and ASA members as possible attend the meeting.
- A memo from David P. Stevens, Director MCOA dated Feb 26, highlighting the changes affecting the MCOA due to Gov. Romney's proposed budget. One change would be a 20% cut in formula grant funding in FY2004.
- John next explained charts he had prepared and distributed. Chart (a) being the current fiscal year budget without the November reductions, (b) the Town Manager's recommended budget for FY 04, and (c) a projection prepared by John, at the Board's request, showing a budget for FY2004 modified to 19%.
- John's document outlining budget strategies to consider. The possibility of conducting a fund-raising endeavor with the ASA was discussed. Richard asked John to put something in writing to the ASA Board requesting a joint meeting. Gloria will present the letter at the March 7 ASA board meeting. COA board members were asked to attend said meeting.
- If the nurse's hours are further reduced to we stand to lose our status as a field site for student nurses. Mara asked if John had done any projections on how the proposed cutbacks in the nurse's and social worker's hours would impact seniors. Richard asked John if a comparison could be done showing the proposed 60% reduction versus a 19% reduction. Harry advised that we produce figures of our own to present to the Finance Cte. Mara suggested adding "stories" illustrating the number of elders who will lose services if the recommended cutbacks are implemented.

Next, Harry distributed a report he had prepared at the request of the Council, a copy of which is attached, showing (a) COA Budget for FY 2003 as amended November 6, 2002, (b) COA Budget Comparison FY2003 v. FY2003 (amended), (c) COA Budget Proposal FY2004 (100%), (d) COA Budget

Recommendation by the Town Manager for FY2004 (45% cut), (e) COA Budget Comparison FY2004 (100% Budget v. Manager's Proposal, (f) COA Budget Proposal FY2004 (cut based on 19% formula, and (g) COA Budget Proposal FY2004 (45% Cut "Worst Case Scenario"). Item (g) represents Harry's personal recommendations if the COA had to take a 45% cut because he felt it preserves services to COA clients to the greatest extent possible. There followed a lively discourse but no action taken.

There being no further discussion, Mary moved to adjourn, Shirley seconded; five in favor, Harry against, motion carried. Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Shirley Chapski,
Secretary