MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF AGING MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2023 (ZOOM)

Attendance: COA Members Bob Blair, Chairman, Kate Bliss, Lori Fearebay, Karen Schultz, Pat Wheeler; Others: COA Director Victoria Flynn; Chris Keefe, Select Board Liaison; guest Carol Costello

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review and approve minutes from January meeting - unanimously approved
2. Carol Costello (acting Superintendent) – brief school committee update:

3-year plan for schools (Berlin, Tahanto, Boylston)

Budget – met with FinCom last night

Wants to connect community back to school (asked for ideas); Victoria suggested Pen Pal Program

Next school committee meeting is March 7th

Will be at 19 Carter on March 24th

1. Fiscal updates

Donations = $87.00

Director Wages = $2,580.24

PT wages = $992.37

Expenses = $606.60 (yoga and old bills)

1. Tai Chi, Yoga, blood pressure clinic, and van updates

Tai chi instructor has been out sick for 2 weeks; cancelling today due to snow storm

Blood pressure clinics continue first Thurs of every month at 10:00 a.m.

Van is running 2 days/wk (medical- usually only 1 person; grocery shopping 3-4 at a time)

1 driver is out on medical leave; no van service week of 3/17 as current driver off for 2 weeks

Van upkeep sensors are not in yet; roof leak was fixed

\*Van will be out of warranty starting this June

1. Budget for FY24 and rest of FY23

Victoria has rough #’s for FY24 :

$14,472 Formula Grant will not change until 2030; currently $14,186 budget = $28,658 Total

Budget is not going up; need to prioritize

1. Powder House News

Postage is going up; to consider postage meter as an option long-term

6 sponsors

100 households added based on census

Sub-committee to study options moving forward (less copies mailed/more email; less left around town)

Vote (unanimous) to only add 50 copies at this time

1. Upcoming events for COA

Webinar March 16th Crystal Oriz North Brook 2 regarding Public Housing Process

Presentation March 24th (virtual) from Home Instead

-Berlin Seniors: Clara Bartan in May; Honky Tonk Piano at 1870 in June; Berlin’s Got Talent

1. Other Business

Meals On Wheels delivered last night (frozen) due to today’s snow storm

Pre-packaged foods have been hit or miss with availability

Umass Community Needs Study survey has gone out

**Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:00 p.m.**

* Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.