

**MINUTES
SENIORS COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Seniors Commission was called to order by Chairperson Jeanette Remsen at 7:02PM in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Jeanette Remsen led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mary Chiodo, Lillian Hendrickson, Veronica Kwasniewski, Mel O'Connell, Jeanette Remsen, Helen Venable

Excused: Cncl. Marvin Dilks

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mel O'Connell made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Seniors Commission Meeting of May 3, 2012. The motion was seconded by Veronica Kwasniewski and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance; abstain by Mary Chiodo, who was not in attendance of the May meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

In attendance at the meeting, was Kevin Heydel, Business Administrator. Mr. Heydel was invited to the meeting to speak in reference to the Seniors Commission's 2012 budget. Chairperson Jeanette Remsen told Mr. Heydel that the Commission needs money for trips; their budget was cut in half. The Seniors Commission received \$5,000.00. Jeanette told Mr. Heydel that the Commission did not use \$1,900.00 from their budget in 2011, due to trip approvals that were to be made by the former Director of Community Affairs, but were not able to be made; so, the Commission did not take all trips they usually book for the year. Jeanette mentioned that this year's January trip did not cost the township anything, it was a Casino trip; Mr. Heydel confirmed there were two, January and April. Jeanette said the Township paid for February, March, May, June and July. \$1,425.00 is left in the budget for the remainder of the 2012 trips; \$675.00 will be used for the August trip, September will also be a Casino trip, \$675.00 will be used for the October trip, leaving \$75.00 in the budget. The Commission needs money for the November and December trips. Mr. Heydel said that the Seniors Commission budget was cut in 2010; \$5,000.00 was budgeted for the Commission in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mr. Heydel said that the reason it got cut, is the same reason all other budgets got cut; because of the economy and the abundance of Tax Appeals getting filed in Monroe Township, bringing in less money in taxes, with a net loss of 20 million dollars, \$165,000.00 cut out of the township budget. Mr. Heydel said that there is an increase in the price of liability insurance, health insurance, salaries, trash disposal fees; that's the reason why there are budget cuts, not to take away from the Seniors. Mr. Heydel stated that for this year, there will be a net loss close to 23 million dollars. Mel confirmed with Mr. Heydel, that because residents are asking for tax appeals, it is hurting the budget; Mr. Heydel confirmed that's the reason. Mel said that if the residents are hurting, then the employees who are getting the raises, should compromise also; everyone is on limited income. Mel said that the retired seniors do not get more money, but taxes go up higher, so the seniors need help,

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (*cont'd*)

also. Mr. Heydel said he is trying to negotiate with the unions. Mel mentioned that there are residents who believe that the Seniors Commission receives \$10,000.00; Mr. Heydel confirmed that the Seniors Commission no longer receives \$10,000.00 in their budget, though they have in past years. As the Business Administrator, Mr. Heydel helps to control the expenses. Jeanette asked Mr. Heydel if monies from Community Gathering in the Municipal Alliance Commission could be used for the Seniors Luncheon; he said to speak with Mary Beth Monroe. Jeanette also told Mr. Heydel that she's been receiving complaints from seniors that the Community Affairs Office is not handicap accessible in the Pfeiffer Community Center building; the seniors cannot go up the stairs to the office to pay for their trips. Also, another complaint is that the office would be closed, with no employee available when the sign says they would be open; seniors cannot keep going up and down the steps, coming and going at different times trying to pay for a trip. Mr. Heydel said that Jeanette can receive the payments for the trips and then can be given to Community Affairs for the deposit to be made at the bank. Jeanette said that the medical forms also need to be given out and that's not always done by the Community Affairs Office.

Jeanette said that after the August trip, a total of 153 different people were serviced in 2012 for the trips. Mr. Heydel has a database of people who attended the trips.

Mr. Heydel and the members discussed how they can hold the November and December trips. Mr. Heydel suggested having another Casino trip in November and confirming who could attend the December trip and raising the price of the trip for each person to compensate the amount that is needed.

Jeanette said that she would like to advertise the trips in the Holiday City Sun booklet, but it costs \$80.00. She would like to see the township get waived this fee.

Mel asked Mr. Heydel if the Seniors Commission could receive a small amount more of money in the 2013 budget, maybe \$1,500.00 more. Mr. Heydel said that he and the township are doing the best they can with what they have. He also suggested maybe instead of making the trip \$675.00, to make it \$550.00 and spreading out the difference in the charge of the trip for each person.

Jeanette and the members thanked Mr. Heydel for attending the meeting and answering questions and explaining the Seniors Commission budget.

Mel suggested having a Christmas show Casino trip in November and not having a trip in December.

Jeanette mentioned that she's been asked if there will be another Atlantic-Cape Culinary Arts trip.

Jeanette noted that 60 pints of blood was donated at the 2012 Blood Drive, with a goal of 45 pints of blood. Mel said that it worked out well with calling donators the week before the drive to remind them. Jeanette suggested that if they do another in 2013, to hold it later in August.

Jeanette will call Marnie to see about what they can do for taking a December trip.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Jeanette Remsen asked for a motion to adjourn. Lillian Hendrickson made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Seniors Commission Meeting of September 6, 2012. The motion was seconded by Veronica Kwasniewski; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Seniors Commission meeting is Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Seniors Commission Meeting of September 6, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____