

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES –September 8, 2009**

**Town of Whately-CENTER SCHOOL**

**Present: Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Fydenkevez**

**Absent: Mr. Wissemann**

**Others: Whately Board of Selectmen, Deerfield Board of Selectmen – Mr. Paciorek Absent, Whately, Deerfield and Sunderland Administrators, COA members & public.**

**Behind the Camera: WCTV**

---

- Call to order at 7:48 p.m.
- Frontier Senior Center-Jonathan Edwards, Whately Board of Selectmen-Ground rules. Fact finding meeting. Lynn Sibley, Town Administrator for the Town of Whately-Whately Board sent letter to Deerfield board with concerns. Overview of development of this meeting and overview of senior center structure and history. Marcia Gobiell, South Deerfield-Overview of start up of policies for volunteer center. Wants 3-towns' guidance. Discussion regarding senior center hours. Mr. Edwards-Board of Selectmen of 3 towns did not discuss reduction of 5 days to 3 days. Jan Filary-Meals on Wheels is now based in Greenfield. Proposing volunteer program for Tuesday and Thursday. Mr. Edwards-All should agree that fiduciary responsibility of Councils on Aging is with Boards of Selectmen. Director is responsible for daily operations of senior center. Struggle with a volunteer driven operation while director is charged with day-to-day. Oversight of volunteers would be necessary. Paul Newlin-concerned with liability. Bernie Kubiak-All groups are covered under Deerfield's umbrella liability. Should be single governance structure reporting back to Selectboards. No formal structure is in place. Mark Gilmore-Hopes for patience in developing structure. Much misinformation is out there. Would like to investigate where to go with this-moving forward. Would like consensus. Need structure and formalize. Mr. Newlin-Create identity-Have each Council on Aging put together what they'd like to see. Mr. Edwards-Doesn't think there's clarity on the organizational chart. Mr. Fydenkevez-Thinks it's clear, but there are people who don't agree with it. Mr. Edwards-No fiduciary powers in the consortium. No need for Treasurer. No clear understanding of who can make purchases. Mr. Gilmore-The association has money. Carolyn Ness-Association has picked up costs in the past. Mr. Edwards-Propose to create 3-BOS member board of oversight that will run the senior center until bylaws and organization articles, based on the input of the 3 Councils on Aging (COAs) and the Association. Right now, this is not figured out. Mr. Newlin-Wants clarification as to how drafts are prepared, maybe COA's doing drafts and reporting to 3-member oversight board. Nancy Paciorek-Many individuals have volunteered at center for many years. Ms. Sibley-Survey results show a lot of seniors didn't know they could participate at the senior center. People want bus trips on a monthly or occasional basis. Only 8 respondents said they actually attend the center. Two people use it 3 or more times/week. Fifty-nine of 84 said too busy, working or other interests. Seven people wanted transportation. Discussion regarding meeting needs and interests of seniors. Mr. Fydenkevez-Have to establish guidelines very quickly. Need to discuss how to get back on task with single organization structure. Mr. Gilmore-There is a structure in place to allow this to move forward. Chain of command is there. Each Board of Selectmen will select 1 member to serve on oversight board. Chairs of COAs and Director should have input. Mr. Fydenkevez is Sunderland's Board representative. Mr. Newlin-Wants oversight board to meet ASAP. Consortium "bylaws" should be considered "policies and procedures." Mr. Bergeron-would like to see if overall organization could be simplified. Mr. Edwards-Consortium is advisory body. Mr. Gilmore-Simple structure should be Board of Selectmen oversight of Director. COAs report to individual boards. Daily operations overseen by 3-member board of oversight. Director should report to that board. The Oversight Board member reports to its Board of Selectmen. Volunteers should report to Director.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Nartowicz  
Town Administrator

