

**City of Westfield
Minutes of the Council On Aging
Monthly Meeting ~ ZOOM Conference Call
May 10, 2021**

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

I. The Meeting was called to order by the Chair, James V. Liptak at 1:04 p.m.

Board Members Present: Elizabeth Boucher, KerryAnn Kielbasa, and James V. Liptak. Eileen Rockwal, Alan Sudentas and Barbara Taylor were absent. Also present were Tina Gorman, Director of the Westfield Council On Aging and City Council Liaison, Ralph Figy. There was one guest: Peter Currier, The Westfield News. This COA Meeting was recorded as it is a legal meeting available to the public and was broadcast on Cable Channel 15. Mr. Peter Cowles recorded the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2021 Meeting:

Upon Motion duly made by Liz Boucher, and seconded by Jim Liptak, it was unanimously VOTED: To approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting.

III. Public Participation: NONE

IV: Items for Discussion/Information:

A. Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES):

Mr. Liptak attended the April HVES Meeting and gave the following report:

- All services are continued at HVES and employees are slowly returning to their positions on-site.
- There are three open positions: Care Advisor, Nursing Assistant, and Human Resources Director
- Sierra Bradley gave a presentation to the HVES Board regarding the Protective Services program. Services are provided to those 60+ who are abused physically, psychologically, emotionally, and financially as well as those who are at risk of self-neglect. All referrals go to a central hotline and cases are distributed to the appropriate agency. When a call for service is made, HVES has 48 hours to respond. The hotline number is 1-800-922-2275.
- Approximately one-half of the Senior Centers in the HVES catchment area are open for limited services or programming. Mrs. Gorman asked if the Case Managers are doing home visits yet. Mr. Liptak said that he will get that information for the June meeting.
- The Home Delivered Meals program has increased by thirty percent during the pandemic.

B. COVID-19 Vaccination Update:

Mrs. Gorman gave an update on the percentages of seniors in Westfield who have been vaccinated for COVID-19. As of May 6, 2021:

Age 50-64: 56% have had at least one shot (up 3% from the previous week)

Age 65-74: 75% have had at least one shot (up 2% from the previous week)

Age 75+: 82% have had at least one shot (up 1% from the previous week)

Five Westfield pharmacies are now offering vaccinations. The Senior Center is making progress on providing transportation to vaccine sites. Mrs. Gorman is updating viewers on vaccine availability on her weekly cable television show.

C. Tax Work-Off Proposed Ordinance Change, Update:

Mrs. Gorman explained that the proposed change to offer a maximum 25 participants an \$800 property tax credit in exchange for volunteer work to the City was sent to the City Council. Councilor Figy advised that the proposed change was referred to the Legislative & Ordinance Committee, with Chair Councilor Bill Onyski. At the May 20 City Council meeting, there will be a second reading with a full Council vote. Mrs. Gorman is hopeful that the change will pass and the program can begin in either fall, 2021 or winter, 2022.

D. Hybrid Model for Programs and Activities:

Mrs. Gorman informed the Board that her staff has been working on a "hybrid" model for scaling up operations at the Senior Center in June. A large tent will be put up in the parking lot at the end of this month. Early morning fitness programs will be held under the tent. Curbside meals will continue throughout most of the summer. A select number of indoor programs will be held with a 13-person maximum capacity. Indoor programming will be expanded in July.

V. Items for Action – Election of Board Officers

James Liptak brought forward the names of those COA Board members willing to accept positions as Officers for FY22 as follows:

Chair: James Liptak

Vice Chair: KerryAnn Kielbasa

Secretary: Elizabeth Boucher

Treasurer: Barbara Taylor

Upon a Motion duly made by James Liptak and seconded by Elizabeth Boucher, it was unanimously **VOTED** to accept the slate of Officers as listed above.

- The Board of Directors was advised by Mrs. Gorman that each member must sign the *Signature of Authorization Form*. She asked that each person contact her as to the date/time they could stop at the Senior Center this week to sign the form.