



Town of Deerfield
Board of Selectmen



Town of Sunderland
Board of Selectmen



Town of Whately
Board of Selectmen

South County Senior Center Board of Oversight January 13, 2024, Minutes

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the South County Senior Center Board of Oversight was held on January 13, 2024, at 10:03 am. Meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with adequate, alternative means of public access and, where required, public participation provided, in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 20.

Meeting convened at 10:03 a.m. with Joyce Palmer-Fortune calling the meeting to order.

Attendance: Trevor McDaniel, Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Daniel Murphy

Also present: SCSC (South County Senior Center) Director Jennifer Remillard

Discussion of SCSC Space Status Update: The board discussed the upcoming deadlines for request for proposals (RFPs) for Sunderland and Deerfield South County Senior Center locations. Currently, the SCSC is renting spaces at 29 Sugarloaf St., Deerfield (Holy Family Church) and 22 Amherst Rd., in Sunderland for programming space and administrative offices, respectively.

The maximum rent for each space is capped at \$35,000, after which the center is required to submit an RFP (Request for Proposal). The deadline for both spaces reaching their maximum rent is the end of May 2024.

The board discussed advocating for moving forward on a feasibility study with a \$75,000 Community One Stop for Growth funding earmarked for reviewing the South Deerfield Congregational Church. The deadline for the state grant is June 30.

An additional \$100,000 earmarked for a regional senior center by State Sen. Jo Comerford would also expire June 30.

Palmer-Fortune stated that if the feasibility study can't move forward prior to the deadline, she said she believes contacting State Sen. Jo Comerford would be beneficial in the long-term. Palmer-Fortune said approaching Sen. Comerford to explain the situation regarding delays to the project, could help the study get funding if the towns approached the state for funding in the future.

Discussion of IMA and Consortium Agreements: The board reviewed a consortium agreement by neighboring communities (Ashfield, Buckland, and Shelburne) to compare it with the South County Senior's consortium agreement. The board discussed consideration of the town of Conway joining the South County Senior by updating its intermunicipal agreement to add Conway as part of SCSC. Financial contributions for each town would be based on senior populations in each community, Remillard stated.

The board reviewed the current IMA with possibilities for changes to the existing agreement with suggestions that included clarifying language in the document and reviewing personnel policies in the IMA alongside town of Deerfield policies.

The Board of Oversight scheduled its next meeting for Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. at 22 Amherst Rd., Sunderland, MA, with all in agreement.

Palmer-Fortune motioned to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.