

BRANFORD HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

December 8, 2020

Board Members –

Present: Sarah Lockery, Bill Keane, Mary Grande, Lexie Klarman, Betty Haas, Jane Novick, Elizabeth Sattelberger, John Mooney

Others Present -

Executive Director: Peter Cimino

Social Services Coordinator: Mike Randi

Other: Jennifer Sylvia, Executive Supervisor

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am.

- I. Minutes:** Minutes from November 10, 2020 meeting were read and approved.
- II. Communications:** Received substantial donations from Homemaker's Thrift Shop and Carole Brown.
- III. Income (donations, fees, etc.):** Donations are up from this time last year, with a significant increase in donations being seen in response to the annual Secret Santa Program.
- IV. Statistics:** Social Services has seen a decrease in the amount of emergency housing requests. It is thought to be a result of the amnesty for evictions and shut offs.
- V. Social Services/Basic Needs Account:** The number of utilities paid, income/donation amounts, and number of rents paid were presented to the Board.
- VI. Public Relations/Fundraising:** Not discussed.
- VII. Director's Report:**
 - *Health Initiative* – Peter continues to work on joint public health initiative in conjunction with the VNA, ESHD, Branford Community Foundation, Yale, and others on flu shot clinics for the fall. Details to follow.
 - *Police Accountability Bill* – Peter continues to work on a collaboration with the Town on having a Social Worker at Branford PD. They would be Town employees and accompany law enforcement officers responding to appropriate community related issues.
 - *New Board Member* – Ron Washington will be sworn in as the newest Board member.
- VIII. Old Business:** No old business was presented.
- IX. New Business:** No new business was presented.
- X. Any other business that may properly come before the Board:**
 - Board member Sarah Lockery presented concerns about staff sharing front office and possible COVID-related issues. It was clarified that staff have opted to continue working in shared space and are aware of risks.

The next meeting of the Branford Human Services Board will take place on Tuesday, January 12, at 8:00am via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Sylvia.