



Stratford C.A.R.E Committee

June 3, 2015

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Stratford Community Services
468 Birdseye St.
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In attendance:

Donald Goodson, John Fahan, Sybil Friedman, Olga Pena, Police Chief Patrick Ridenhour, William M. Boyd, Karen Edwards, Terry Masters, Dennis Granado, Marilyn Gardner, Yan Searcy, Lucretia Duwel, Ann Stockman.

Meeting called to order at 7:12 PM

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Lucretia Duwel– Seconded by Olga Pena. Motion passed unanimous.

Treasury Report: Olga Pena reported the current balance will be \$189.19 as the Community Calendar check has not yet been cashed.

Old Business:

Police/Community Relations (Yearly Overview): A discussion was had concerning the venue for the community forum to take place in June. Donald Goodson said he would contact Councilwoman Philips to get her thoughts. Marilyn Gardner is a member of the Stratford United Methodist Church and offered to secure the Church Hall for the forum. Chief Ridenhour said the department received a grant from AT&T to work with underserved youth. Everything is going well with the Junior Rifle Team, Pal Boxing and the Explorers. There will be public safety camp for 7th-8th graders from July 6th-17th at the sub-station on Gregory Circle. There will also be a field trip to the Dr. Henry Lee Institute at the University of New Haven. On June 16th from 6-8pm there will be a forum at Housatonic Community College hosted by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP). Chief Ridenhour stated he plans to be in attendance.

Chief Ridenhour said there is much talk in the nation about police departments having forces that represent the demographics they serve. The Chief said that is not always easy to achieve but he said currently 21% of the Stratford Police Dept is minority. 11% of the force is white females which in some circumstances is considered a minority classified statistic. In supervisory roles which is Sergeant and above it is 46% minority currently which the Chief said he is proud of but

cannot take full credit for. He makes certain all officers have all the information and material available to them for opportunities for advancement.

In addition, Chief Ridenhour stated there has been a 9% decrease in overall crime in the Town this year.

Leadership Committee: Terry Masters gave a thorough recap of the events leading up to the Superior Court Ruling that put a halt to the selling of the WPCA.

Education Report: Lucretia Duwel stated to have a fully trained individual for study circles we really need to be able to raise money and that is why we should have a 501c3 set up with a fiduciary. Olga Pena stated that the BOE will have to make some critical decisions with the budget. They may have to cut the early language K-3 program or cut teachers and staff. Some on the BOE think that \$700,000 could be saved if Johnson House was made into a neighborhood school. There is no intention this year to cut the budget for busing which would have affected the racial balance of the school.

New Business:

Formation of Finance Committee: Donald Goodson put together a Finance Committee to solicit ideas to raise funds. Members of the sub-committee are: Donald Goodson, Yan Searcy, Lucretia Duwel, Terry Masters, Olga Pena, and Dennis Granado. It was generally agreed that C.A.R.E. needs a fiduciary with experience and credibility to manage our funds. The sub-committee will attempt to meet over the summer as C.A.R.E. will not be meeting in July and it is yet to be determined if there will still be an August meeting.

Adjournment: 8:59pm. Motion by Olga Pena. Seconded by William Boyd.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Fahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Fahan

