

Sturbridge Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2015 ~ Sturbridge Town Hall
7:00pm

Call to Order:

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the following committee members present: Kevin Smith, Chair (KS); Joni Light (JL); Kathy Neal (KN); Larry Morrison (LM); Arnold Wilson (AW); and Bob Jepson (BJ). Absent: Eric Perez (EP); Mike Serio (MS); and Alex Athans (AA).

Guests: Barbara Barry (BB); Alyssa Rusiecki (AR); Mary Blanchard (MB); Greg Morse (GM); Melissa Beauchemin (MBe)

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of April 2, 2015 were reviewed. KN moved the motion to approve the minutes as amended; AW seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-1 (BJ abstaining)

KS recognized BB and AR to speak on the Board of Health's Pay as you Throw Program's revolving fund. AR had gone before the BOS to seek approval to increase the current revolving fund balance from \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 in FY15, and the BOH is also proposing an increase in FY16 to \$20,000.00. AR noted that the over-run happened because of an oversight in process. The company who prints the bags had an oversupply and asked AR to take them. Since the bags can only be used by Sturbridge residents, she agreed to take the excess not realizing the impact it would have on the revolving fund budget. After informing the finance director, under MGL 44 Sec. 53E1/2, they received approval from the BOS to increase the fund to cover the excess cost, and were now seeking approval from the finance committee. AR stated that she was unaware of the consequences of her actions and apologized, but also stated that the town has recently received points for recycling efforts and have received a grant for \$3,200.00, which encouraged her to continue forward with the program.

KS asked if there were any regulations on how to set up revolving funds, and who sets the limits on expenditures. BB noted that under the MGL it cannot exceed 10% of the amount raised by taxation in the most recent fiscal year. Any increase to the revolving fund cannot exceed 1% of the amount raised by taxation. This MGL refers to all revolving funds and not just this BOH revolving fund. BB also suggest the finance committee review the town report and note the accounts with revolving funds that are no longer in use.

AW was curious to know that if extra bags were purchased in this fiscal year, would that suggest fewer bags would be ordered for next fiscal year. AR stated that the success of the program warrants the increase in bags. KS asked if there were measurements in place that could justify the usage, and to ascertain whether the increase is from more residents using the program or merely an increase in consumption to repeat families. AR commented that household waste is down with the increase to recycling, and she further stated that any usage of the program is self-reported. There are also monitors in place to capture who is using the center. KS wanted to know if that information was available over the past few years to determine a trend. AR indicated that she would provide it.

A motion was moved by LM to approve the increase to the BOH Pay as you go Program Revolving Fund to \$12,000.00, in accordance with MGL 44 Sec. 53E1/2 with the approval of the selectmen and finance committee; provided, however, that the one percent limit established by clause four of the third paragraph is not exceeded; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

KS moved the discussion to the line item budget book to review outstanding accounts.

Tree Warden – AA

AA provided more information to the committee with regard to the insecticides and chemicals anticipated to be used on the trees for the tree warden's plan to eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer. KN stated that she did some research and found that there were impacts to avian species, and a few other items she found that she wanted to review further. JL also stated that she would like to understand the effects on other communities in the commonwealth and understand how many other areas are, in fact, infested with the pest. She has concerns about removing trees that are otherwise healthy. KS asked MB is the BOS has a policy on the maintenance of trees, specifically with this revelation. MB noted that the BOS have asked the tree warden for a plan but have not yet met with him. AW wanted to know if there were specific items and associated dollar values that total the cost requested. The committee agreed to hold off voting on the budget until more research was done.

DPW - JL

GM was present for the discussion. JL noted the items in the Purchase of Services account were relatively level except for electricity and repair costs, which increased slightly over FY15. Supplies are up marginally due to additional cost of uniforms, as expected with the two new positions requested. An equipment operator and a heavy equipment operator were approved by the town administrator. Both positions require a CDL license and hydraulic license, both of which the town reimburses. The increase in salary includes the 1.5% increase per the last year of the DPW contract, and these two positions. Overtime increase also reflects the resource increase, and accounts for storm call outs. It is also anticipated that teams would be able to continue work projects beyond the 3:30 end of day, especially when it involves a subcontractor who requires a DPW presence. Most subcontractors end their day at 4:00pm or 5:00pm. The increase to the Other Charges account is due to the increase in hydraulic licensing and training.

KS asked about the increase in electricity. GM stated that he initially based his estimates on what was being forecast by National Grid as their rates jumped significantly before winter. After a review with the finance director the charges were adjusted more in line with the new electricity provider. GM also noted that this was not just for the garage, but includes usage for the buses as they are plugged in early morning via installed timers to warm up the diesel engines.

AW commented on the cemetery maintenance, and how it was noticeable that the town was keeping them well-manicured and clean. He also noticed the shingles on the cemetery shed was in need of repair, which GM stated would be fixed. GM confirmed that they did use funding from the cemetery trusts for repairs and crack sealing to the cemetery roads. LM spoke of the DPW being the responsible party in maintaining the map records for the plot layouts. He was curious to know the process on how the plots are determined, and if there was a time when the town had to accommodate a large family and reorganize the sites. GM stated that this has happened in the past when families had to be notified to get permission to move caskets to allow for an orderly line up, and that the DPW tries to be as flexible as possible with family wishes.

JL moved the motion to accept the line item budget for the Department of Public works as follows:

Line 106	14101-51130	\$757,695.00	Salaries/Wages	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 107	14101-51300	\$10,000.00	Overtime	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 108	14102-52000	\$76,139.00	Purchase of Services	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 109	14102-54000	\$66,240.00	Supplies	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 110	14102-57000	\$1,430.00	Other Charges	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0

KS moved the discussion to the Special Town Meeting Warrant articles to utilize GM's time before the committee and get his answers to some questions. The Word document being viewed is "DRAFT STM WARRANT 4-2-2015-1 2 3 dm 2.doc".

Moving to discuss Article 47 – Engineering Services for Public Safety Complex Drainage Remediation, KS wanted to know if the DPW had been consulted. GM confirmed that he had been consulted and agreed the back area needs work and repairs, along with the senior center. They both have issues with run-off and ultimately causing issues with the buildings. No vote made at this time.

Article 50 – Sewer Engineering Wastewater Treatment Plant Requirements

GM stated that a basin was required for the common fuel tank, due to the size, in order to contain a spill and prevent it from going into the water table. The prevention plans are necessary and should be in place. KS asked if this will complete all that needs to be done to address the plans and catch basins, or if this is one of many phases. GM said this should address everyone one time. The DPW workers do jetting of the area on a regular basis.

LM moved the motion to approve Article 50 - Sewer Engineering Wastewater Treatment Plant Requirements as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Before GM left the meeting a discussion on 8 Brookfield Road was brought up by JL with regard to the boiler and excessive fuel purchases. GM said the best thing to do now is turn off the heat and drain the system. If the building remains empty through another winter, only heat the water line area which is located near the front entrance. The shut off at the road is no longer visible and hard to find. The building is poorly insulated.

Council on Aging – Joni Light

MBe was present to review her request for an increase in hours for the Community Resources Coordinator position. The finance committee was given her letter of justification (Attachment A), along with a schedule of events at the senior center (Attachment B). JL confirmed that the total number of seniors in the town is taken from the census, which indicates approximately 2,000 residents are over the age of 60 years; the age at which you can participate at the senior center as a senior. This milestone entitles individuals to receive the newsletter, and take part in any of the activities and services provided by the Council. Participation is voluntary. MBe further stated that often the COA will provide referrals to folks with a need and the COA has access to myriad organizations. The additional hours requested for the coordinator will help MBe to provide all these services, plus make necessary home visits and roll out new programs that she wants to implement.

LM commented on a great service that the COA provides to the town having experienced the Meals on Wheels program and seeing firsthand how busy the center can be with constant interruptions, although well intentioned. Coupled with the aging building and the attention it needs with MBe going from COA director to facilities manager is commendable. KN asked how many resources were employed, and MBe confirmed 2 part time custodians; 1 administrative assistant; 1 outreach coordinator. KS asked about the tracking of usage to the facility, and if the center is used by non-Sturbridge residents. MBe stated that they do track usage and folks are asked to check in at their kiosk. This report is then reported annually to the state. The facility is available to non-Sturbridge residents, but they must pay a fee to participate in any of the programs that the COA has to pay for that are free to Sturbridge residents. Folks under the age of 60 are also asked to pay a surcharge for such programs. LM asked if the usage of an out of town person would displace a town person at any time. MBe said no that has not happened.

JL moved the motion to accept the line item budget for the Council on Aging as follows:

Line 130	15411-51130	\$54,629.00	Salaries/Wages	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
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KS opened discussion on Article 51 – Transfer of Funds Boiler Replacement at Senior Center and wanted to know if MBe knew why they were looking to replace and keep two boilers rather than replace both with one larger one. MBe was not aware of the plans and did not have any input or discussions around

the plan, although quite happy to have it replaced and working properly. BB commented that the BOS asked to verify if asbestos removal was included in the cost of this article. KS asked if the building would need to be closed if asbestos removal was being done, and MBe indicated that it would not.

Veteran's Services – Joni Light

JL reviewed the Purchase of Services and noted the minimal increases were due to fuel charges to the American Legion, and increase to the Memorial/Veteran's Day flags which adorn the cemeteries, the DPW, Town Hall, Safety Complex and individual graves. Currently the veteran's agent has 6 cases; down from 8.

JL moved the motion to accept the line item budget for the Veteran's Services as follows:

Line 136	15432-52000	\$250.00	Purchase of Services	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 137	15432-54000	\$175.00	Supplies	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 138	15432-54100	\$1,600.00	American Legion	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 139	15432-54400	\$2,837.00	Memorial/Veterans' Day	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 140	15432-57000	\$500.00	Other Charges	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
Line 141	15432-57700	\$60,000.00	Veterans' Benefits	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0

Recreation – Joni Light

JL confirmed that the increase for the department head salary does include a step increase. KS had concerns that the department heads did not receive step increases, but they were eligible for the merit increases. BB noted that the recreation director was recently upgraded to a department head but was not aware of any set policy preventing a final step increase before being made department head. She will look into it and a hold on that line item remains until more details are revealed.

JL continued with the salaries/wages line item and confirmed the increases are due to the change in minimum wages, with an increase on January 1, 2015 and an increase on January 1, 2016. The seasonal staff are paid at minimum wage and this is adequately reflected in the budget.

JL moved the motion to accept the line item budget for the Recreation Department as follows:

Line 149	16301-51130	\$19,500.00	Salaries/Wages*	KN seconds; motion accepted 6-0-0
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BB asked the committee to reconsider the overtime budget already approved for the Fire Department Overtime account. The reason is that there are three EMT mandatory training courses that had a change in schedule and training has to be done in April of this year. The fire chief is concerned that the course may not be offered up within FY16, and since he has funds available in his FY15 budget, he would like to reduce the budget in FY16. The approved budget for overtime in FY16 is \$203,957.00.

BJ moved the motion to reconsider line item 82 of the Fire Department budget; KN seconds. Motion to reconsider accepted 6-0-0.

BJ moved the motion to accept line item 82 of the Fire Department budget for \$191,456.00; KN seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

KS confirmed the outstanding line items as line 72; line 97; line 148; and line 167. All are waiting on additional information to support a vote.

Moving into the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, and now viewing Word document "Draft ATM Warrant-4-7- 2015 dm.doc".

Article 11 – Water Department

Now that the figures have been presented to the BOS KS said this “raise and appropriate” article can be reviewed for a vote. AW asked to confirm the total in the reserve fund, which BB indicated the totals for water reserve as \$774,513.20; and the sewer reserve as \$1,003,178.25 after these articles.

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 11 as written; KN seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 12 – Sewer Department

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 12 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 14 – Community Preservation Debt Service

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 14 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 15 – Revolving Funds

BB noted that the only change to the revolving funds is in the Planning Department, but the changes were not in bold as usual. The purpose of the fund was not quite adequate in the description for what the town planner wanted to do with the funds. The description was broadened to go beyond the GIS services. KS asked to hold voting this article.

Article 19 - Capital Expenditure – (18) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) – Debt Issuance

AW asked about the grant and if it would be awarded prior to town meeting since there was also a request to fund this in the capital budget. BB said she should receive notice in June but likely after town meeting. KN asked to confirm if this article would have to be rescinded at the next town meeting should the grant be awarded. KS and BB confirmed.

BJ moved the motion to approve Article 19 that the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$139,000.00) be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing (18) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department, including costs incidental and related thereto; and that to raise this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$139,000.00 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9), of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 20 - Capital Expenditure – Street Sweeper – Debt Issuance

BJ moved the motion to approve Article 20 that the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$270,000.00) be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing a Regenerative Air Sweeper for the Department of Public Works, including costs incidental and related thereto; and that to raise this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$270,000.00 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9), of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; AW seconds.

Article 21 – Ambulance Stabilization Fund

KS asked BB if some of the \$50,000.00 being added to the fund will be used to cover the cost of the ambulance purchase in Article 25. BB said that some of the funds will have to be used. The town is waiting on the 2016 prices for the ambulance. JL asked to confirm that with the request for \$100,000.00 for the ambulance in the capital program, and Article 25 requesting \$130,000.00, there will still be additional funds from this stabilization fund to cover the purchase. BB estimated the cost to be in excess of \$200,000.00.

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 21 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 22 – Water Meter Replacement Program

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 22 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 24 – Tax Rate Relief

JL moved the motion to accept Article 24 as written; BJ seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 25 – Transfer of Funds – Purchase of Ambulance

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 25 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 27 – Poll Vacancies

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 25 as written; LM seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 31 – Petition for Article for Annual Town Meeting Charter Change – Date of Town Meeting

KS asked to hold this article.

Article 32 – Petition for Article for Annual Town Meeting Acceptance of MGL Ch. 41, Sec. 19K

KS stated that this was giving additional compensation to the town clerk for training and certifications. The town clerk and the finance director are both eligible for this provision if approved by the town, but only the clerk is seeking compensation in this article. LM stated that it seems evident that getting the training is step one, and that step two would be to pay for it. Rewarding the individual with additional compensation is the final step. KS noted that no other person in town is given a bonus for training. AW felt that compensation through salaries and merit increases is a better way to deliver the message on a job well done. However, as LM notes, the original reason for the compensation gets lost over time and therefore becomes the “floor” to base all increases upon. A reward is given and the reason is isolated for all to see. KN noted that the police contract has such compensation which seems very similar in reward for training and certifications. JL asked if the town clerk was eligible for the merit pool. LM said she was not as an elected official.

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 32 as written; LM seconds. Motion accepted 4-2-0. (KS & AW in opposition)

Article 33 – Petition for Article for Annual Town Meeting General Bylaw Amendment – Town Meeting

BJ moved the motion to take no action on Article 33; LM seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Moving to the Special Town Meeting Warrant articles, again, viewing Word document “DRAFT STM WARRANT 4-2-2015-1 2 3 dm 2.doc”.

Article 48 – Transfer of Funds - Town Counsel

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 48 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 49 – Transfer of Funds – Police Department State 911 Training/Support and Incentive Grant Accounts

BB explained that the state is denying payment of recent grants that were put through. The town is allowed to appeal their decision, which is currently in process, yet these are old and need to be funded.

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 49 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 52 – Transfer of Tax Possession

BB explained that this parcel of land at 32 Warren Road will transfer care, custody and control to the Conservation Commission. It is landlocked among other town owned properties.

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 52 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 53 – Transfer of Tax Possessions

BB explained that the three parcels of land in this article are for the town to hold as possible affordable housing parcels and will be put under the town administrator's ownership, care and control.

BJ moved the motion to accept Article 53 as written; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

BB asked to speak on some issues and questions that came about from the last finance committee meeting. She was bothered by the perceived tone of the committee when discussing certain issues and felt that it was suggested there was impropriety being done by her and her team of which she took offense. After clarifying and addressing some of her points the finance committee confirmed that there was never a suggestion of any misconduct on the part of her and her team.

To further clarify the issue regarding the STA and the maintenance of the bathrooms, BB explained that the previous town administrator turned over the care of the facilities to the Chamber of Commerce. This came about after an email from Brian Amedy, STA chairperson, indicating that the bathrooms were disheveled. Complaints were made to the Chamber who is located in the next building. As a way to ensure they are being kept cleaned, the Chamber hired a cleaning company and the bills were given directly to the town accountant to process and pay. The cost was/is approximately \$700 per month. The Chamber agreed to alert the town to any necessary repairs, for example a door had to be repaired, and the town would process and pay the cost directly to the vendor. As a result the town administrator's decision has consequences and the STA portion of the care and upkeep to the bathrooms has increased over that of what is funded by Betterment. The STA appropriates funds for the bathrooms, yet Betterment funds maintenance and repairs.

KS cancelled the Tuesday, April 14 meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by BJ; AW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:02pm.

/jml

Attachments: A & B

January 21, 2015

Barbara Barry
Finance Director, Town of Sturbridge
308 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566

Dear Barbara,

This letter is to serve as justification for the request for an increase in hours for the Community Resources Coordinator position at the Council on Aging.

The Council on Aging/Senior Center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (8 hours daily). We have a staff of 3, Director (35 hours); Community Resources Coordinator (19 hours-due to limitations as a former state employee and her pension requirements); and Administrative Assistant (20 hours). At this time, there is no overlap in hours by the Administrative Assistant and Community Outreach Coordinator. The schedule is such to allow for coverage (2-person) of the center at all times as it is very disconcerting to be in this 3-story building alone. In the three years that I have been Director, we have worked closely with our Police Department and two individuals have been served with "no trespass" warrants due to inappropriate and frightening behaviors towards seniors and staff. At this time, during vacations and or sick leave, one of us is left here on our own and we cannot lock our doors or "close for lunch."

The senior population in our town is roughly 20% of our total census. There are many duties performed by the Community Resources Coordinator to enhance the lives of our seniors and with additional hours granted, we could add additional programs for seniors.

Throughout the year, we have planned activities in the evenings and weekends with the hope that we can continue to offer more "after hours" programming to encourage usage of the Senior Center and to attract the younger "boomers." For instance, exercise and educational programs are very popular with the younger seniors who perhaps are still working and can only partake in after-hours programs. At this time, if we offer anything after-hours, it is manned by the Director who is salaried.

In addition, as the Director, I spend a minimum of 3-4 hours each week on facilities maintenance and management. Since January 5th of 2015 the plumber has been here twice for two different issues, a frozen pipe and a leak in the boiler. It would be a great benefit to have the additional 5 hours to dedicate to "being present" for the seniors when I am unavailable to them due to the handling of these other issues.

Last fiscal year, we handled 4133 "service calls, for seniors and over 400 for non-seniors. This is in addition to our regular programming that goes on daily. Attached is a copy of the January Newsletter so

you can see that there is not an idle day throughout the week. Also attached is a very general list of the specific duties assigned to the Community Resources Coordinator.

Thank you very much for your consideration and attention to this matter. I know that the seniors of the town of Sturbridge will be grateful to you as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Beauchemin". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Melissa Beauchemin, Director Council on Aging

**NOTABLE HAPPENINGS AT THE STURBRIDGE COUNCIL ON AGING
FY 2014**

- New Line Dancing—Absolute Beginners
- Sentimental Journey—Evoke Memories
- Get Your Home Smoke Detectors Checked Program with Sturbridge FD-Ongoing
- Olde Sturbridge Village Presents:--Monthly Free Program at our Senior Center performed by OSV Staff/Monthly
- Annual Tag Sale
- Spaghetti and Meatball Luncheon served by our own Tantasqua High School Football Team—They LOVED it!
- Grandparent's Day Out
- Snellville Schoolhouse "Back to School' Party—to collect school Supplies for our local Elementary School
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- Planning for Medicare Information Session
- Genealogy Group
- "Independent for Life Seminar"
- Social Security Updates Seminar
- "Harvest of Health" Fair—Open to General Public
- Flu Clinic
- "Patient Choices After Leaving the Hospital Information Session—Know your Rights!
- MEDICARE BOOT CAMP
- "Cooking for Just Me"—Nutritionist Presentation
- "HARRINGTON HOSPITAL HEALTH HOUR"
 - Urologist Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg, "Urological Issues Related to Aging for Men and Women"
 - Speech Pathologist Kathleen Williamson: "Speech Changes in Women as We Age"
 - Audiologist Marilyn Reynolds: "New Adaptive Equipment"
 - Rheumatologist Dr. Poon: Osteoporosis and Arthritis
- 90+ Birthday Party
- "Pink Hair For Hope" Hair Extensions for Breast Cancer Awareness
- Reliant Medical Group Information Seminar
- Veterans Day Luncheon
- Monthly Mindful Meditation
- Yankee Swap
- Girl Scout Volunteer Program
- Holiday Card Project—Send Cards to our Troops
- S.A.L.T.—Seniors and Law Enforcement Together-Monthly Informational and Safety Discussion with our own PD
- "Toast & Trivia"—New Year's Eve Party
- Trim the Tree Tea
- Guardian Hospice Memorial Service for all those who lost a loved one in 2013
- Night at the Opera—Monthly
- Cookie Exchange
- Gourmet Grannies and Friends—Televised Cooking Show—over Cable Access
- Apple Pie Social
- New Year's Eve Luncheon, which became Valentine's Day Luncheon, which became Spring Fling Luncheon....
- (flood in the basement in Jan., Snowstorm in February etc....
- The Memory Game
- "The Gift of Life" Informational Seminar about Organ Donation
- "Yearning for the Good Old Days"—Interactive Discussion
- "What's in the Bag?"—Game
- Balance Screening
- St. Patrick's Day Party

- Silver Moon Gypsies—Belly Dancing Show and Classes & Mediterranean Food
- “Be Better Organized in 2014” Presentation
- “Home Safety—A User Friendly Home”
- “Ask the Nurse”—Monthly opportunity to have PB and Pulse Ox screens, and ask any health questions
- Craft Class—Make a Knitted Bunny—NO knitting experience or knowledge required
- Tri-Community Senior SALT EXPO & Luncheon (Sturbridge, Charlton, Southbridge)
- “Healthy Eyes” Informational Seminar
- “Taking Control of Your Future”—A Legal Check-up with Attorney Bob George
- Camp Robinson Crusoe Documentary—Private Screening
- SPRING FLING SWING DANCE with Tantasqua High School Seniors
- Choral Presentation by Burgess Elementary School 5th & 6th Graders
- Band Concert by Burgess Elementary School Band
- “Sturbridge Then and Now” Project with Burgess Elementary School 6th Graders with Mrs. Tsongalis
(Seniors were paired up with students for interviews and then invited to Burgess Elementary to view their finished reports and photos on a Power-Point presentation and student guided tour to Burgess Elementary School—was AMAZING)
- VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT—“A Soup to Nuts Sampler” with entertainment by Lori Festa
- The Last Green Valley –“Notorious Notables”
- Medical Reserve Corps presentation: “Get Ready to Make a Difference”
- Ice Cream Social –two events
- LIGHT ROCK ON THE LAWN—outdoor evening concert held on our Senior Center lawn
- Valentine’s Day Tree with Sweets & Treats
- Trick or Treating by the Sturbridge Nursery School Coop

ONGOING PROGRAMS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO—If you don’t see what you like, we will add it!

- Tai Chi
- Yoga
- Arthritis Exercise
- Fit 4 Life Exercise
- M W F Exercise Class
- Dominoes
- Matinees
- Cribbage
- Pitch
- Line Dancing
- Scrabble
- Wii
- Pool Table
- Exercise Equipment—Use on your own
- Library
- Knitting/Crocheting
- T.O.P.S.—Taking Off Pounds Sensibly support group
- Sing-a-Long with Sue
- Drop-In at Autumn Ridge-monthly (Outreach)
- Drop In at Heritage Green-monthly (Outreach)
- Drop In at Crescent Gate – quarterly (Outreach)
- Drop-In at Sturbridge Retirement Co-Op – when allowed (Outreach)
- Kings Cribbage
- SHINE—Office Hours Bi-Weekly on Fridays
- Coffee and Conversation—available 8:00-4:00 daily
- Book Discussion
- C.O.A. Board Meetings
- Friends of the Sturbridge Senior Center Group/Meetings

Daily Meal at 11:30

ON A SIDE NOTE

On January 6th, 2014 we had a pipe burst in our basement due to freezing weather and ended up with a MAJOR flood down there. It was a mess. The restoration took months as walls were taken down to the studs, carpet and tile torn up etc...We lost all of our furniture, decorations and books and a lot of our equipment—like the air conditioners so it was a HOT May, June & part of July!

I find that being a Director of a Senior Center that is located in an old schoolhouse (while charming) presents a host of additional duties and responsibilities. I have lots of new things to add to my resume like “Facilities Manager,” Maintenance Engineer,” and “Restoration Coordinator/Interior Decorator.” I now know that when a contractor says “Tomorrow at 9:00 am” it really means “Whenever I feel like showing up.” Ethics are non-existent.

I have learned where the water shut-off valve is (6-feet back in a dark, dark crevice behind a wall). I won't tell you what else I found back there...And where the panel boxes are. I learned that if you have a 22-foot dumpster parked on your property, EVERYONE “chips” in—including the *head* of the restoration company (I discovered what brand of beer he prefers—yes, I went dumpster diving to nab the culprit—because after all we are paying by the ton).

I know what a ballast is and what to do if one goes out—that is after being told “Your lights are out because the ballast is bad.” I ASSUMED that he was going to get a new ballast and come right back...I now know where to buy a ballast and what model numbers I need. (I won't tell you who “he” is)

In my short 3-year tenure, we have had:

- The water pipe burst with ensuing flood/damage and frustrating restoration
- Broken windows
- Replacement of water heater
- Leak in the kitchen sink
- Handles in the Ladies Room sink broke
- Leak from the kitchen down into the basement (separate one)
- Leak in the men's room with tile displacement
- Leak in a different pipe in the basement
- Overflowing toilets (a lot)
- Running toilets (a lot)
- Mice infestations—due to their home in the basement being underwater....
- Heating system failures
- Oven stopped working
- Leak(s) in the ceiling
- Pieces of the original plaster ceiling falling down onto the drop ceiling and through the tiles onto the floor
(I'm not making this up)
- Leak in a pipe on our main floor
- Ongoing problems with Furnace—I think it's an antique.

I could go on, but I will stop there. I do still love my job (the actual “Senior Center Director” part of it anyway) And I have a great relationship with our plumber.

I can't wait for Spring—Is this the year of the Locust????