

COA Board Meeting Minutes



Date

February 11th, 2026



Time

4:00pm



Location

Virtual Zoom - WCA-TV Broadcast



Roll Call Attendees

10 Person

- Helen Dempsey
Chairperson
- Dan Unsworth
Board Member
- Alison Clapp
Board Member
- Russ Arico
Board Member
- Jamie O'Connor
Board Member
- George Proakis
City Manager
- Ryan Nicholson
Board Member
- Gina Brennan
Board Member
- Sheri Melenciano
Program Coordinator
- Arlene Smith
Board Member

Agenda

Topic

Presenter

Motion to Approve Minutes

Review of prior Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2026 - Approved

Helen Dempsey

City Manager Updates

City Manager Updates:

George Proakis

Review of the Capital Improvement Plan and it's relation to the Senior Center: Document can be located under Watertown City Website - **City Manager's Department - Documents - Fiscal Year 27 Capital Improvement Plan.**

Short Term Goals

Short Term Goals:

- Pulling Phillips building and complex which has appeared on the schools capital plan and putting it on the City's Capital Plan
- Having the Gym become fully available to the Senior Center once the high school opens.
- Senior Center would take control of managing and programming of the gym space
- Finishing the high school will allow for more parking spaces to become available to the Senior Center.
- Wrestling/Multipurpose room accessibility

Long Term Goals:

- New Senior Center **(5 year plan)**
- **\$17 Million Dollar** Budget Item to put into building a new Senior Center
- Putting funds into a stabilization fund for the COA
- Staying on City Land to make it a workable budget
- Hiring an architect to properly plan layout
- Building a strong Senior Center Building Committee to advocate for the best plan

Agenda

Topic

Presenter

Challenges,
Comments,
& Concerns

Comments & Concerns:

- Russ stated that although the long-term plan of having a brand new Senior Center is a long ways ahead, it is extremely crucial for us to obtain full access to the gym and multipurpose room in the interim, and the additional parking.
- George stated that they are working on giving the COA primary responsibility of the gym. The multipurpose room might be a bit more difficult to obtain due to some concerns that the school has for utilizing the space. The freight farm runs two classes that run two hours and they need to utilize the kitchen for the fridge for the veggies they are growing. The superintendent and City Manager are working out the logistics currently to figure out the best plan that works for everyone involved.
- George suggested for the COA Board to write a letter expressing the importance on why the Senior Center needs to utilize both spaces for him to present to the City Council Board Members.
- Helen and George agree to get the letter drafted and presented to the City Manager for submittal to the City Council to help advocate for the Senior Center needs.
- Gina agrees with the plan and would love to see the seniors truly enjoy the space expansion. The parking is a big issue and having seniors walk far to get to the center especially under the current weather standing is an issue.
- Arlene believes that it would be a good idea to have all members of the Senior Center advocate and also write letters to help support the mission.
- Alison stated including the FRIENDS group as advocates as well.
- Jamie stated he is optimistic and the plans that are in place seem very promising of where we are going for the future of the Senior Center.
- Jamie stated is important to meet and discuss as a group, and visit the center to get a live vision of what is needed. Also to have people reach out to their district councilors to advocate for the changes they want to see.
- Ryan stated that the preliminary plans has been presented, they're in subcommittee now being discussed.

George Proakis
Russ Arico
Helen Dempsey
Gina Brennan
Alison Clapp
Jamie O'Connor
Ryan Nicholson

Motion to
Adjourn
Meeting

**Motion to adjourn the meeting, all in favor the board approves.
Meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.**

Helen
Dempsey

Minutes

COA Board Meeting Minutes respectfully created and submitted by
Sheri C. Melenciano, **Program Coordinator of Senior Services**

Sheri
Melenciano