

Terri L. Hamad
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Monroe County Commission on Aging

Board Members

Martin Kaufman
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Bruce Freimark

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Paul Simonton

John Sledge

Monroe County Commission on Aging
Budget Appeals Minutes
September 29, 2009
Commission on Aging Conference Room

Gerald Stone

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Members present: Noel Dentner, Bruce Freimark, Richard Gunn, Nancy Hamman, Aleta Jackson, Martin Kaufman, John Sledge, and Gerald Stone.

Members excused: Paul Simonton and Terri Hamad

Chairman Martin Kaufman led the Pledge of Allegiance and silent prayer.

Approval of the Agenda:

Aleta Jackson made a motion to approve the September 29, 2009 Budget Appeals Agenda as presented. Supported by John Sledge. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present:

No guests were present at this time.

Public Time:

No public was present at this time.

Vicky Terrasi reported on an e-mail notification Terri Hamad received from the County Treasurers Office regarding a MI Tax Tribunal Refund of an ongoing three-year battle with the City of Milan and Automotive Components Holdings. It appears at this time, the Senior Citizen portion of the refund affecting the 2006, 2007 and 2008 and 2009 summer taxes for both real /personal property equal approximately \$31,379.60. This is anticipated to hit the Senior Citizens Cash Account in twenty to sixty days, which will be taken out of contingency.

Budget Appeals:

A. Living Independence for Everyone:

Frankie and Alan Foidl presenting- Living Independence for Everyone initially requested \$412,161.00 for calendar year 2010. At the Budget Workshop of the Commission on Aging, held September 15, 2009, the commission approved a recommendation to present to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval for \$409,945.00 for calendar year 2010.

Ms. Foidl requested the Commissions' consideration to reconsider the initial request of \$412,161.00 a difference of \$2,216.00 for fiscal year 2010.

Ms. Foidl commented that she is aware of the economic position the Commission is in, and if they cannot grant her initial request, she would make changes in her budget to make up the difference- by decreasing the following line items.

- meal supplies \$38,000.00 to \$36,893
- Vehicle, Insurance, Gas, Oil, Etc. from \$43,099.00 to \$41,992.00

The commission questioned what the impact would be if they did not receive the \$2,216.00 difference.

Ms. Foidl commented that the two line items she mentioned earlier are the only places she would be able to make up the difference if she does not receive the initial request. It would make it easier for her if she did receive the total request, but knows that the Commission is looking at big crunches. Since the State has not balanced their budget yet, she too is still in limbo. There is a great possibility that the State still will give them a huge cut in funding on the home delivered meals, and she might have to come back to the Commission with a new budget containing major changes to how they do business.

In addition, Ms. Foidl wanted to clarify that when the Auditors reported on her programs regarding serving levels to the Commission at the September 9, 2009 meeting, they added the congregate and home delivered, but when they compared it to what they actually served they only used the home delivered meals count.

B. Lake Erie Transit Commission – Essential Transportation Services:

Mark Jagodzinski, Joseph Lybik, and Bruce Weeks presenting- Lake Erie Transit Commission initially requested \$184,214.00 for calendar year 2010. At the Budget Workshop of the Commission on Aging, held September 15, 2009, the commission approved a recommendation to present to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval for \$179,447.00 (under a fee-for-service contract) for calendar year 2010.

Mark Jagodzinski requested the Commissions' consideration to reconsider the initial request of \$184,214.00 a difference of \$4,767.00 as well as the change to be under a fee-for-service contract for fiscal year 2010.

Mr. Jagodzinski commented that with the amount recommended being close to their request, it leaves them with the flexibility to cut some service that would have minimal impact in Dundee from 4 days per week to 3 days per week. As far as the fee-for-service contract, it would create many difficulties for them- one being that it is almost October and the contract goes in effect the first part of January, as well as transition the seniors to the new structure. With this type of payment structure, it would require riders to schedule forty-eight hours in advance.

Mr. Jagodzinski understands the Commissions need to do fee-for-service and requested their consideration to give them at least a six-month timeframe for implementation.

C. Discussion on the Adult Day Care Fee-for-Service:

The Frenchtown Senior Center requested \$21,894.00 in matching funds for the Adult Day Services to obtain the Area Agency on Aging 1-B grant for calendar year 2010. At the Budget Workshop of the Commission on Aging, held September 15, 2009, the commission approved a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval for the \$21,894.00 requested (under a fee-for-service contract) for calendar year 2010.

This year the Commission committed to pay the full match for 2010 to secure a contract with the Area Aging on Aging 1-B. If the Commission switches the Adult Day Service to fee-for-service this year, changes in units could prevent them from getting the full match and jeopardize their funding.

The Commission discussed this concern and decided to leave the Adult Day Service on Allocation for 2010 and work to convert them to fee-for-services for 2011.

Noel Dentner made a motion to grant the Frenchtown Senior Center request of \$21,894.00 in matching funds for the Adult Day Services to obtain the Area Agency on Aging 1-B grant and to leave the Adult Day Service on Allocation for 2010. The Commission would work to convert them to fee-for-services for 2011.

Roll call:

Gerald Stone – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

John Sledge – Yes

Bruce Freimark – Yes

Aleta Jackson – Yes

Nancy Hamman – Yes

Noel Dentner – Yes

Richard Gunn – Yes

Motion carried.

Commission Members' Time:

Bruce Freimark commented that with the continued lack of revenue coming in, the Commission needs to look at prioritizing services, and discussed the prospect of holding special workshop meetings to discuss a way to prioritize as well as what tools they would need to help with prioritizing. At this point and time, the Commission needs to look at urgent needs as well as look at the pros and cons of large agencies vs. small agencies.

Chairman Kaufman commented that the Commission did that in the past, and it did not go over well with the agencies, however the Commission does need to revisit the idea but it needs to be done carefully.

Mr. Freimark commented that in good times it tougher to get people to work together than it is in tough times. Five years ago, it would have been hard to get the agencies to hold the line on their budgets, but this year most of the agencies understood that the Commission has decreased funding. This is the time to work on prioritization.

Chairman Kaufman commented that this topic could be placed on a regular meeting agenda for the board to come up with exactly what kind of things they would like to discuss, put it in writing, and look for someone to speak to the board for guidance that specializes in prioritization.

The full Commission agrees to hold a special meeting to discuss prioritization.

Nancy Hamman commented that while looking at prioritization the Commission also needs to look at all the duplication of services.

New Business:

No new business conducted at this time

Public Time:

No public was present at this time.

Adjournment:

John Sledge made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Gerald Stone. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Commission on Aging Conference Room, 29 Washington Street, Monroe, MI 48161.

Vicky L. Ferrasi

Vicky L. Ferrasi, Recording Secretary