

Monroe County Commission on Aging

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Terri L. Hamad, Director
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Monroe County Commission on Aging
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 09, 2005
Summerfield/Petersburg Community Building

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Member's present: Noel Dentner, Nancy Hamman, Paul Iacoangeli, Aleta Jackson, Martin Kaufman, Mike Pasko, Richard Springstead, and Loyd Sype.

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Richard Springstead motioned to approve the March 09, 2005 agenda as presented. Supported by Paul Iacoangeli. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present: Janette Stark, Interested Citizen, Janet Crego, Home Care Director, Monroe County Opportunity Program, Jan Marra, Assistant Services Coordinator, and Pat Sheets, Services Coordinator, Caring Alternatives, Inc., Amber Totten, Regional Supervisor, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, County Commissioner Floreine Mentel, Larry VanWasshenova, Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services, James Seegert, Interested Citizen, Henry Lievens, County Commissioner, and Adam Yeager, Senior.

The commission welcomed Noel Dentner representing District 1 to the board.

Public Time/Summerfield/Petersburg Senior Citizen Center:

Janet Stark announced that the Faith In Action for Monroe County's Silent Auction is Friday, April 1, 2005 at the St. George Center. Doors open 5:00 p.m. dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment featured by Fiddlers ReStrung. Tickets \$20.00 per person.

Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2005.

Motion made by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Nancy Hamman to approve the regular commission minutes of February 16, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Financial:

The financial reports were presented for acceptance and placed on file. Motion to accept and place on file by Richard Springstead. Supported by Michael Pasko. **Motion carried.**

Commission Members Report:

Michael Pasko announced that Bedford Township is having a "Walk Bedford and Summer Fireworks" on June 24, 2005 at the High School beginning at 6:00 p.m. The walk is part of Walk Michigan. In addition, if the commission would like to have a summer picnic at one of the parks in the Bedford area, there are several nice parks in the area that are family oriented with new playscapes. If the commission chooses to have a picnic, he would be able to secure the Community Building at Samaria or Carr's Grove. The rental is \$200.00 but he would be able to secure either place for \$35.00.

Aleta Jackson announced that she joined the Monroe Senior Center and will be joining all the local centers in the near future. The Monroe Senior Center offers a Tai Chi class that she will be participating in on Friday's at 1:30 p.m.

Nancy Hamman announced that a former classmate from Nursing School and a close cousin passed away this morning. Both were diagnosed with cancer one month ago. This is even more reason she would like to invite everyone to take part in the Relay for Life in Bedford May 21 & 22 at the Senior High School. The funds will go for research. In addition, the opening of the Bedford Francis Family YMCA was extremely successful. The facility is exquisite and Bedford is very proud of that in addition to the new library that opened a few months ago.

Richard Springstead announced that the Berlin Senior Center's enrollment has reach 86 members. In addition, they have put together a system that would notify member's of the closing of the center, due to severe weather, which is when the Airport & Jefferson School Districts closed, the center is closed. Further, after going through arthroscopy and three weeks of chicken fat shots (to rebuild the cartilage), neither worked, he will have knee surgery March 22 for a total knee replacement.

Loyd Sype warned everyone of the credit card identity theft where individuals are switching individual's current cards with out dated cards.

Correspondence:

The list of correspondence was read.

Directors Report:

Terri Hamad reported on the Medicaid long Term Care Finance Task Force.

Terri Hamad reported that the Monroe Aging Consortium dues are due for this year. The dues are \$10 and Commissioner Mentel offered to graciously pay them again this year so that she and the commission would receive all the information from those meetings. The commission accepts Commissioner Mentel's generosity.

Terri Hamad presented the Monroe County board of Commissioners Planning Information on the Monroe County Commission on Aging for the commissions' review.

Terri Hamad reported that the Commission on Aging 2005 Operational Budget that the commission approved then submitted to the County Board of Commissioners was altered by \$7,379.00. Ms. Hamad is not sure at what point it was altered, whether it was before the County Board approved it or after. Ms. Hamad emailed Charles Londo on her disapproval of the budget alterations and the elimination of three account line items. Mr. Londo email response was less than appropriate.

Commissioner Mentel reported that she went to the finance department on behalf of the Commission on Aging and asked what was going on with the funds. The first remark made to her was from the finance *director* "*we have to have a balanced budget for the county and we do it the way we see fit*". She then went into speak with Mr. Londo to say that they are tampering with millage money and it is not county money. Mr. Londo said that the Commission on Aging could have it restored by having Ms. Hamad submit each line item and ask to have the budget amended. Then it has to go to the board of commissioners before the commission could tap any of those line items. This is a two-week process.

Aleta Jackson inquired if the County Board of Commissioners approved the Commission on Aging budget. Commissioner Mentel said that they approved the entire budget.

Commissioner Mentel said that since the cost of \$26,968.00 is being charged of the Commission on Aging to rent office space on the third floor of the Stoner-Kemmerling building, the COA should look at alternate places to rent.

Martin Kaufman questioned if the COA budget was approved by the county commissioners how did these line items ever get removed, why does the commission have to request anything, are they using millage money to balance the county's budget, and if this money is not available to the commission where is it and who is it available to.

Aleta Jackson questioned Commissioner Mentel if the commissioners know that what they approve means nothing and that Mr. Londo can do whatever he chooses to do to what our commissioners, who she has elected she added, approved. Ms. Jackson stated that she is beside herself.

Martin Kaufman stated that in order to restore trust in the county among the Commission on Aging there needs to be an explanation of what happened, restoration of the funds, plus a full explanation of what happen between the times COA submitted the budget and the time it was approved by the County Board of Commissioners.

Aleta Jackson questioned if the commission upon next submission, needs to request a document showing what in actuality the county commissioners are approving.

Commissioner Mentel responded yes. She could get the commission a copy of what is budgeted from the finance department.

Terri Hamad will prepare a letter on letterhead requesting the restoration of funds for the whole board to sign.

The commission requested Terri Hamad to start research on new quarters for the COA office staff.

For complete report, please see attached.

Unfinished Business:

A. Monroe County Aging Consortium Caregiver Fair Sponsorship Request

If the commission chooses to sponsor refreshments at the fair, it would cost an additional \$50.00 to the \$50.00 already paid for the exhibit table.

Motioned by Nancy Hamman to appropriate the additional \$50.00 to sponsor refreshments at the Caregiver Fair with the funding out of the Office Supplies. Supported by Aleta Jackson. **Motion carried.**

B. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report

No report, the committee did not meet.

C. Monroe County Senior Legal Services Proposed Policy on Service to Clients Update

Larry VanWasshenova stated that they made some revisions that went before the Legal Services Board. The board had some comments, criticisms, and suggestions on redrafting the policy. After they redraft the policy, it will go back to the board next Thursday. They are still not, where they need to be, but are still on task to getting it done.

Terri Hamad questioned if the revisions the Legal Services Board made included addressing the conflict of interest. Mr. VanWasshenova state yes, that actually the revision that went before the board last time said conflict.

Aleta Jackson stated that her only comment is that it did not include "conflict".

Martin Kaufman also is concerned that the policy does not include anything regarding a "conflict of interest". In addition, he recommended that in the sections of Legal research, Negotiations, and Document preparation, what appropriate is needs to be spelled out exactly.

Further, in the case of a conflict of interest, there needs to be a definition and what actions would be taken

Martin Kaufman brought up a couple of letters sent in to Ms. Hamad from Mr. Yeager to clarify his concern that Mr. Yeager did not get a written answer until he wrote a second letter.

In Mr. Yeager's first letter, he commented that he was denied legal council by Monroe County Senior Legal Services, due to a UAW attorney board member representing the opposing side, an active UAW member who is not a senior citizen. Mr. Kaufman assumes that this attorney was representing the people through UAW and not through Legal Services. Mr. Kaufman questioned if this conflict of interest was the board members or Senior Legal Services conflict of interest since the opposing attorney is a current board member and a former attorney of the agency.

Mr. Yeager stated that he is the subject of the conflict of interest and it was a member of the board. Mr. Yeager feels that if the board or the agency asked that attorney to step down it would have corrected the problem.

This item will be place on the April agenda for further discussion.

New Business:

A. COA Homecare Program Report

Janet Crego distributed the six-month COA Homecare Program report reflecting July 2004 through December 2004. The report shows that the program is doing what it is intended to do with the clients supporting the program over 50%.

B. 2005 Poverty Guidelines for Emergency Fuel and Prescription Assistance

The draft 2005 Poverty Guidelines for Emergency Fuel and Prescription Assistance was presented and discussed.

Motion by Paul Iacoangeli to accept the 2005 Poverty Guidelines for Emergency Fuel and Prescription Assistance and submit them to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval. Supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion carried.**

Public Time:

Larry VanWasshenova commended Janet Crego on the success of the COA Homecare Program.

Commissioner Mentel commented on the Warmth Senate Hearing in Lansing that she and Ms. Hamad attended on February 23, 2005. Consumers Power, Detroit Edison, Warmth Committee, and the Michigan Public Services Committee were there to testify to increase rates.

Commissioner Lievens commented on his availability for any concerns and that he is looking for a law job but until that time he is taking advantage of his free time to get involved in as many things as he can.

Terri Hamad announced that the S.A.L.T./TRIAD is holding a Senior Mini Conference (Seniors: Safe, Sound & Secure) at the Frenchtown Senior Center on April 19, 2005 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dundee Senior Citizens Center, Dundee, MI.

Vicky L. Terrasi

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary