

Monroe County Commission on Aging
29 Washington Street, (Stoner-Kemmerling Building) Monroe, MI 48161
Telephone: 734.240.7363 * 734.240.7364 * Toll Free: 1.888.354.5500 ext. 7364 * Fax 734.240.7360
E-Mail: terri_hamad@monroemi.org * vicki_terrasi@monroemi.org
Visit Our Website: www.co.monroe.mi.us

Terri L. Hamad, Director
Vicky L. Terrasi, Administrative Assistant

Monroe County Commission on Aging
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2005
Berlin Senior Citizens Center

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

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

Member's excused: Aleta Jackson and Mike Pasko

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Richard Springstead motioned to approve the August 10, 2005 agenda as presented. Supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present: Pat Sheets, Services Coordinator, and Sharon Williams, President/CEO, Caring Alternatives, Inc., County Commissioner Floreine Mentel and AAA 1-B Board Member, Sherm Timmins, Executive Director, Monroe County Opportunity Program, Margaret Springstead, Berlin Seniors Treasurer, James and Evelyn Towne, Berlin Senior members, Rita Sanders, Director, Ash Seniors and Berlin Seniors Vice-President, Adam Yeager, Citizen, and Larry VanWasshenova, Executive Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services

Public Time/Berlin Seniors:

Commissioner Mentel reported that the owner of the Pleasantville Mobile Home Park located on Nadeau Road has went through and informed each tenant the repairs that are needed to their homes. The first issue is that there are many 80+ seniors on fixed incomes living in those units who cannot afford to have many of these items painted or repaired. The second issue is that the park does not have any sidewalks, the playground is old and non-existent, and these tenants are paying over \$300 per month for lot rent.

Sharon Williams announced the August 18, 2005, Senior Conference held at the Dundee High School from 8:30 a.m. to 1:0 p.m. A continental breakfast and lunch is provided.

Approval of the Pre-Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes of July 08, 2005.

Motion made by Nancy Hamman, supported by Richard Springstead to approve the Pre-Budget Workshop minutes of July 08, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2005.

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Loyd Sype to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of July 12, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2005.

Motion made by Richard Springstead, supported by Noel Dentner to approve the Special minutes of July 12, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2005.

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Nancy Hamman to approve the regular commission minutes of July 13, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2005.

Motion made by Richard Springstead, supported by Noel Dentner to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of July 14, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2005.

Motion made by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Richard Springstead to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of July 21, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2005.

Motion made by Loyd Sype, supported by Noel Dentner to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of July 26, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2005.

Motion made by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Richard Springstead to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of July 28, 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 Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

Commission Members Report:

Richard Springstead reported that in a little over a week the Berlin Center added a new member and lost three to death.

The commission cancelled the August 14, 2005 picnic at Samaria Park due to the lack of members being able to attend. They will hold a gathering at a latter time.

Correspondence:

The list of correspondence was read.

Directors Report:

For complete report, please see attached.

Ms. Hamad spoke in regards to the Tobacco Securitization Plan that threatens respite services to frail older adults and their family caregivers. Governor Granholm and the Michigan Legislature are working on the state budget for next year, and one of their available revenue sources is payment from tobacco companies. For many years, \$5 million of the tobacco settlement payment has gone to the Michigan Office of Service to the Aging, to be used for respite services that help caregivers of frail adults by giving them a break (respite) through adult day care centers and in-home services. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B receives \$953,255 of the \$5 million to support both in-home services and dementia adult day service centers in their six counties. Currently the Frenchtown Senior Center receives \$100,000 per year out of these funds to operate the adult day care they house. If Governor Granholm's plan is successful those funds could be at risk.

Unfinished Business:

A. Strategic Planning Committee Report of June 29, 2005

Paul Iacoangeli commented that he is impressed with the community support being received to perform the Blueprint. The support will insure that the funding for the Blueprint will not come out of Commission on Aging funding. In addition, he reported on the on going problem of a COA staff member not being compensated to the level of her job description and the duties she performs due to the Rye Study the County did several years ago. They are trying to reclassify her in a sensible manner that the administration will buy into.

B. Conflict of Interest – Legal Opinion Review

The commission reviewed and discussed the legal opinion received by County Attorney Tom Graham regarding a conflict or potential conflict of appointing members to the commission that are being compensated through the Monroe County Commission on Aging.

The commission received confirmation that County Commissioner Ansel appointed Paul Iacoangeli as District 7's representative to the Commission on Aging.

Later in the year, the commission will review all their policies, procedures, and by-laws to be sure they are up on everything.

Motion by Paul Iacoangeli to accept the legal opinion and place it on file, supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

A. Berlin Seniors Line Item Transfer Request

The Berlin Twp. Senior Center requested to transfer \$300 from the caterer's salary over to staff mileage.

Motion by Noel Dentner to approve the Berlin Seniors request to transfer \$300 from the caterer's salary over to staff mileage with the stipulation that the funds be used only for the specific line items proposed. Transfers from the approved line items are prohibited without the advance written permission of the Commission. Any funds not used in accordance with the Directive of the Commission shall be returned forthwith. Supported by Paul Iacoangeli. **Motion carried.**

B. Agency Health Care Employee Contribution Discussion

With the high rising cost of health coverage, nearly every company and corporation are requiring employees to cost share in their health benefits plans. The past couple of years the commission is finding that the majority of the agencies budget increases were due to the cost of healthcare benefits offered to employees.

The commission discussed this issue and decided to formulate a letter to the agencies inquiring on the contribution each employee is contributing to their healthcare premium and the cost of that premium.

Ms. Hamad will draft the letter for approval at the next regular scheduled meeting.

C. Commission on Aging Line Item Transfer Request

The Commission on Aging requested to transfer \$50 from postage to printing, \$207.54 from Maintenance & Equipment to Staff travel, and \$1,000 from Legal to Office Supplies.

Motion by Noel Dentner to approve the transfer of \$50 from Postage account into the Printing account, \$207.54 from the Maintenance & Equipment account into the Staff travel account, and \$1,000 from Legal/Professional account into the Office Supplies account. Supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

Public Time:

Commissioner Mentel stated that everyone needs to contact their legislators to vote down the Tobacco Securitization Plan and let them know the impact it would have on respite services for frail older adults and their family caregivers, in addition to the adult day care ran out of the Frenchtown Senior Center if these funds are used taken away and used elsewhere

Adam Yeager commented on the Monroe County Senior Legal Conflict of Interest Policy, which pertained to himself. This has happened to him twice, two separate issues but with the same attorney. In addition, he feels that Legal Services cannot do business without holding meetings. The agency has not had a meeting the past three months due to a lack of quorum.

Larry VanWasshenova commented that he does not know what else he could do to satisfy Mr. Yeager.

Paul Iacoangeli commented that it has been almost a year ago since Mr. Yeager brought this issue to the commissions' attention. Over that time the commission has worked with the Monroe County Senior Legal Services to adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy that may not resolve that similar circumstance but at least the client will have an understanding of what is going to happen in the event if the circumstances happens again. In addition the commission has out for legal opinion whether they have a right to request COA funded agencies to submit minutes of their meetings to the commission. This would show the commission if there is a constant or continuous representation of that agency through their board of directors.

Martin Kaufman commented that the commission did not receive a satisfactory solution to this issue, however in the meantime received an extensive Conflict of Interest Policy from the Monroe County Senior Legal Services that they adopted. In addition, Senior Legal Services has done research, attended meetings, and has received more information about the extent of services that the state requires them to provide.

Motion by Loyd Sype to direct Ms. Hamad to work with Commissioner Mentel to write a letter to Governor Granholm to comment on the proposed plan for the Tobacco Securitization in Michigan. Supported by Richard Springstead. **Motion carried.**

Sherm Timmins announced the MCOP 40th Anniversary celebration on August 24, 2005 at the Monroe Golf and Country Club. Tickets are \$50.00 per person with include dinner, music, silent auction and speakers.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Nancy Hamman, supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the RSVP Conference Room, 1623 West Sterns, Temperance.

Vicky L. Terrasi

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary