

Monroe County Commission on Aging
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Terri L. Hamad, Director
Vicky L. Terrasi, Administrative Assistant

Monroe County Commission on Aging
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2005
RSVP Conference Room

Vice Chairman Richard Springstead at 1:07 p.m.

Members present: Paul Simonton, Paul Iacoangeli, Marty Kaufman, Richard Springstead, Nancy Hamman, Noel Dentner, Aleta Jackson, Mike Pasko and Loyd Sype

Staff excused: Vicky Terrasi

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Aleta Jackson to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present

Introduction of Guests: Nancy Young-Faith In Action, Pam Rybka-Bedford Senior Center, Gerilyn Powers-AAA 1-B, Pat Sheets-Caring Alternatives, Sharon Williams-Caring Alternatives, Janette Stark-Friend of COA, Janet Crego-MCOP, Floreine Mentel- County Commissioner and Larry VanWasshenova-Monroe County Senior Legal Services

Public Time/Time for RSVP

There was no public time. Deb Brescol stated that RSVP is busy planning an RSVP potluck for RSVP Day at the Monroe Moose and CASA is planning one of its largest fundraising events September 28th, which will be a Fashion show at LaRoy's Hall.

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2005

Motion by Noel Dentner, second by Nancy Hamman to approve presented minutes. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2005

Motion by Aleta Jackson, second by Mike Pasko to approve presented minutes. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Budget Appeals Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2005

Motion by Mike Pasko, second by Noel Dentner to approve presented minutes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Financial Reports:

Ms. Hamad presented the financial reports. Motion by Aleta Jackson, supported by Paul Iacoangeli to accept and place on file. **Motion carried.**

Commission Members Report:

Loyd Sype-Spoke about scams related to stores giving out customer information. Many of them have had computer glitches, which have allowed people to access account information.

Nancy Hamman- Nancy won't be at the next commission meeting due to having back surgery. The Women of Bedford are hosting a charity fundraiser on October 28, 2005 at the New Bedford Library. There will be a fashion show and dinner. The charity will be for "Matt's Angels". These funds are for kids who are identified by their school to be excelling in school to emphasize anonymous support for the child by the community to support the efforts of the child in school and other extra-curricular activities.

Paul Simonton- He is looking forward to working with the Commission and values the programs in the county for seniors.

Richard Springstead- Nothing New.

Marty Kaufman- Nothing new. Took a wrong turn on the way to the meeting.

Paul Iacoangeli- Expressed concern for the overall increase in heating fuels and gasoline.

Aleta Jackson- Welcomed Paul Simonton to the Commission.

Noel Dentner- Welcomed Paul Simonton to the Commission.

Mike Pasko- Bedford Center will hold their fall bazaar on October 14 and 15. Bedford Township has adopted Pass Christian, Mississippi to help, due to their recent devastation from Hurricane Katrina. They will be taking donations for non-perishable and cleaning items at the Township Hall.

Correspondence:

The list of correspondence was read and placed on file.

We received a response from Rep. Herb Kehrl support our position on a level playing field for the electric utilities to contribute to the low-income assistance fund in Michigan.

Director's Report:

Please see attached report.

Ms. Hamad presented updates on the Monroe County Senior Legal Services issues with Mr. Yeager. Motion by Loyd Sype, second by Noel Dentner to limit the time spent on this topic. Motion and second withdrawn. The Commission has spent a significant amount of time on the issue and the Commission feels that we are to a point where we cannot do anymore. The commission discussed the need to monitor the amount of time that gets spent on different topics when we have a large agenda.

Ms. Hamad also presented a letter she received from Monroe County Senior Legal Services requesting our input on holding fewer than monthly meetings at the agency. Most of the agencies meet monthly. The commission expressed concerns about the need to get the board together for input on issues facing the agency. Mr. VanWasshenova commented that he is able to discuss issues with members of the board at times other than meetings. Marty Kaufman addressed the current size of the board and the potential of having a few less members to make achieving a quorum a little easier. Aleta Jackson discussed the past trouble at MCSLS and is concerned about sliding back into issues in having less meetings.

Alysia Dozier begins as our intern September 15th.

On October 18th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30, TRIAD/SALT will host a senior seminar at Frenchtown Senior Center.

On September 15th, Frenchtown Senior Center will be holding an Open House on their new addition from 4-7 p.m.

Lastly, our office received word this week that the Federal Government preserved the CDBG/CSBG funding in the federal government and left it in the hands of HUD.

Unfinished Business

A. Strategic Planning Committee- No report this month

B. Budget Discussion concerning Bedford Senior Center and Caring Alternatives Medication Set-up Program

Ms. Hamad discussed the handouts that were in the packet from Bedford and Petersburg-Summerfield Seniors.

Motion by Mike Pasko, second by Nancy Hamman to approve the Bedford Senior Center revised request at \$165,340. Bedford Center board has approved a \$4.00 dues increase for 2006. The commission discussed that the additional dollars would increase the percentage of funds coming from the commission by 13%.

Roll call:

Paul Iacoangeli-No
Loyd Sype-No
Noel Dentner-Yes

Richard Springstead-No
Nancy Hamman-Yes
Mike Pasko-Yes

Aleta Jackson-No
Paul Simonton-abstained
Martin Kaufman-No

Motion failed.

Richard Springstead commented that he had recommended a \$5,000.00 total increase at the budget appeals meeting and would like to offer that back up for a motion.

Motion by Richard Springstead to increase the 2005 Bedford allocation by \$5,000.00, for a total of \$163,736, supported by Nancy Hamman.

Aleta Jackson asked the rationale for a \$5,000.00 increase. Richard stated that The Bedford Center stated that they really needed another \$5,000.00 in order to manage the expenses of the center.

Chairman Marty Kaufman discussed that we should not send a message to our agencies that just because we ask them to complete a new budget application, we are saying that we are automatically approve their request. Nancy Hamman discussed what was stated in the August 17, 2005 Budget Appeals meeting minutes was that if she could make her budget work with the additional dollars, she would be likely to get it.

Paul Iacoangeli stated that he voted no at the appeals meeting because the commission members put a dollar figure in the motion. Paul Simonton stated also that just because a new budget was submitted, the commission still has to vote on and approve it.

Paul Iacoangeli stated that the commission is not looking at the additional dollars they will receive for the increase in dues in revenue. He suggested that the commission look at making up only the difference between additional dues revenue and the \$5,000.00.

Pam Rybka, Bedford Center Director, stated that she would just like to have parody with the other large centers and feel like Bedford is getting what they contribute to the millage back to the center.

Roll call:

Richard Springstead-Yes
Nancy Hamman-Yes
Mike Pasko-No

Aleta Jackson-No
Paul Simonton-Yes
Marty Kaufman-No

Loyd Sype-Abstained
Noel Dentner-Yes
Paul Iacoangeli-No

Motion failed.

Motion by Mike Pasko to grant \$165,340 to Bedford Senior Center, supported by Noel Dentner. Motion withdrawn.

Motion to reconsider the original Bedford question of \$165,340 for Bedford Center for 2006, by Mike Pasko, supported by Noel Dentner.

Aleta Jackson commented that he "No" vote has nothing to do with Bedford Center, but had everything to do with the other centers who asked for more money and didn't get what they had asked for.

Roll call:

Aleta Jackson-No	Loyd Sype-No	Nancy Hamman-Yes
Paul Simonton-Yes	Noel Dentner-Yes	Mike Pasko-Yes
Marty Kaufman-No	Paul Iacoangeli-No	Richard Springstead-Yes

Motion failed due to a lack of 2/3rd's vote in favor.

The Caring Alternatives, Inc. request was to reconsider a fee-for-service basis on the medication set-up program.

Aleta Jackson requested a small recap on the issue centering on her concern. Sharon Williams stated that her cost is \$40.00 per unit and operating a fee-for-service on this program could potentially increase this cost.

Mike Pasko asked whether we had discussed how her units would be reimbursed at a true cost.

Sharon Williams stated that if we reimburse her at the actual true cost, she will be able to keep the program income and continue to grow the program. The Commission agreed to reimbursement her at the \$40.00 per hour rate up to the allocated \$30,000 for 2006.

Loyd Sype made a motion to work out the arrangement with Mrs. Williams. Motion died for a lack of support. The chairman stated that the director will go forward and provide the clarification to Ms. Williams for the billing of the service.

C. Approval of the 2006 COA Operational and Programmatic Budget

Ms. Hamad walked the commission through changes that came back from the County Finance Department on the submitted operational and programmatic budgets. A change had been made in the office supplies line item and central services/indirect cost line items. The office supply line item was reduced by \$1,220.00 and the central services/indirect cost was increased by over \$12,000. Ms. Hamad stated that she would meet with Mr. Londo regarding these changes. Paul Simonton stated that he feels that the County has been padding expenses in the individual office budgets in order to force cuts and cost savings in other places. Mike Pasko asked what would happen with respect to Bedford Senior Center. Ms. Hamad stated that their allocation would resort back to the \$160,340 recommendation.

Ms. Hamad suggested that we not approve the 2006 Commission on Aging budget until Ms. Hamad speaks with Mr. Londo and has the answers to the changes in the budget.

Loyd Sype asked Commissioner Mentel if the Board of Commissioners was aware of the budget issues the Commission had been having. Commissioner Mentel stated that the Commissioners are aware of the Maximus study and she has no problem challenging the costs that the Commission is being charged with. She will forward her working budget to Ms. Hamad to review for accuracy. Ms. Hamad stated that she is reviewing the prescription and health care line item for her to see if there is a way she can lower the costs by changing her program with her spouses coverage.

Aleta Jackson stated that she is concerned that the county keeps budgeting more and more dollars from the millage to offset the county's general operating costs. The budget approval will be on the October agenda.

New Business:

A. COA Home Care Report

Janet Crego presented a January through June, 2005 Commission on Aging Home Care Program report. We have averaged roughly 22 clients per month at an average of 6 hours per week of service. Clients are contributing 52% of the cost toward the program. The clients in the program are better clients, they are very appreciative of the service, they are there when the worker shows up and they contribute consistently every month toward their care.

Ms. Crego passed around new brochures for the agency highlighting the Home Care program.

B. Agency Health Care Employee Contribution Discussion

Ms. Hamad sent out a draft memo for Commission review. Richard Springstead suggested that we put a please respond by date in the memo. The commission agreed to have November 1, 2005 as the response date to the office.

C. Deaf Interpreting Services Draft Letter

Ms. Hamad sent out the draft letter to Mr. Wakeman of Mercy Memorial Hospital to the commission in the packet for review. The commission recommended some wording changes requesting to know exactly what the hospital is doing with respect to deaf interpretation and request a copy of their policy on interpretation services for deaf and/or hearing-impaired clients.

Public Time

Sharon Williams commented that she has a RSVP volunteer working in her office who as been a real nice addition to the office.

Larry VanWasshenova commented that the agencies could become more self-sufficient if they cut out clients who have the full ability to pay for their services. Chairman Kaufman commented that the commission is not looking to not fund agencies with the millage dollars, however the commission is looking to the agencies to help make the funds stretch to help fund more service to more people. Paul Simonton echoed that comment. Chairman Kaufman stated that Larry was being rather unfair, considering we have asked for a number of items from Monroe County Senior Legal Services and have never really seen it, and is asking for the commission to define something that the commission is not really stating at this time. He stated that it's difficult for them as director's to come in and request what they think they need as an agency and be turned away. Chairman Kaufman stated that the key to this is accountability, and that the agencies need to show complete accountability and justification for the dollars. If these two things are satisfied and the funds are available, they will be likely to get it. Commissioner Mentel stated that legal services can apply for grants that other agencies can't apply for that are specific to legal service provision.

Sharon Williams commented that the commission has always been open to discussing these funding type issues and she appreciates that.

Ms. Hamad read the definition in the Commission on Aging policy that states what the commission means by self-sufficiency. Essentially the policy states that the commission looks to make sure that the agencies are not growing toward 100% dependence from the millage for funding.

Commissioner Mentel stated that there has been discussion in the county to close Fairview. In light of need county budget cuts, she feels this talk is more than just rumor.

Commissioner Mentel also commented on state legislation working to help the low-income utility fund for gas and electric.

In respect to the County Budget, Commissioner Mentel commented that each county agency is being asked to make cuts according to what percentage of the budget they are. These cuts will not make up the full \$4 million that they are short.

Nancy Young announced their "Little Bit of Country" fundraiser coming up on October 1st at St. Patrick Catholic Church. They are selling business card ads if anyone is interested.

Nancy Hamman commented that she has her granddaughter and great-grandchild staying with her due to the hurricane evacuation. She stated that she can see the stress on them and is happy that Bedford is helping Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mike Pasko, seconded by Paul Simonton to adjourn. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 1:00p.m. at the Sullivan Senior Center, 13613 Tuttlehill Road, Milan, MI.

Terri L. Hamad
Recording Secretary