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Monroe County Commission on Aging

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Paul Simonton

John Sledge

Gerald Stone

Monroe County Commission on Aging
Special Board Meeting Minutes
November 04, 2009
Commission on Aging Conference Room

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

Members present: Noel Dentner, Bruce Freimark, Richard Gunn, Aleta Jackson, Martin Kaufman, Paul Simonton, and John Sledge.

Members excused: Nancy Hamman

Member absent: Gerald Stone

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Noel Dentner made a motion to approve the November 04, 2009 Special Board Meeting Agenda. Supported by Aleta Jackson.

Chairman Kaufman amended the agenda to add "and Discussion" under Unfinished Business item A.

Mr. Dentner and Ms. Jackson accepted the amendment. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present:

Margaret Fisher, Iris Schroeder, Virginia Oliver, Rosie Emerick, James Vancena, Kathy Powell, Roberta Vancena, and Richard Vancena, Interested Citizens; Gregory Jones, Chairman, Tina Mullins, Board Member, Linda Burke, Debbie Wahl, Marianne Frising, and Janice Keck, Staff Members, and Larry VanWasshenova, Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services; Floreine Mentel, County Commissioner; Jerry Oley, County Commissioner; Shannon Lucas, and Jennifer Bentley, Legal Services of South Central Michigan.

Public Time:

Commissioner Oley addressed the Commission regarding the size of the Commission on Aging conference room and providing reasonable accommodations for citizens attending.

Kathy Powell addressed the Commission regarding the disclosure of income to get services. Chairman Kaufman commented that the disclosure of income is necessary since it is public money.

Margaret Fisher addressed the Commission with a letter she written on behalf of Monroe County Senior Legal Services and those who are aging.

Chairman Kaufman commented that no one at the table is questioning the value of legal services to seniors.

Monroe County Senior Legal Services staff members addressed the Commission regarding they complied with the commissions requirements.

Many of the guests had concerns of local dollars going out of the county to Ann Arbor.

Shannon Lucas clarified that the Legal Services of South Central Michigan has had a local office in Monroe for thirty-one years, while their corporate office is located in Ann Arbor, the local dollars would not go out of the county.

Unfinished Business:

A. Legal Services RFP Presentations and Discussion:

- **Legal Services of South Central Michigan presented by Shannon Lucas and Jennifer Bentley.**

Shannon Lucas and Jennifer Bentley presented an overview of their RFP application and highlighted the areas of program outreach, cost share, and staffing. Their proposal illustrates a \$50.00 per hours cost with no administration fees.

- **Monroe County Senior Legal Services presented by Larry VanWasshenova.**

Larry VanWasshenova presented an overview of their RFP application and highlighted the areas of program outreach, cost share, and staffing. Their proposal illustrates a \$52.00 per hour cost plus any materials, supplies mileage, photocopying, and postage.

The Commission asked questions of both bidders and entertained the Strategic Planning Committees discussion of their rating of each proposal.

Discussion of the Commission:

The Commission expressed concern with their own decreases in tax revenue. This year alone, and going into next year, the Commission has lost a half million dollars in revenue, and anticipate the same if not more in the next couple of years. They Commission is an advocacy body charged with recommending the prudent spending of public dollars with the greatest benefit going to those most in need, and the frail will receive the highest priority.

Noel Dentner made a motion to close discussion. Supported by John Sledge.

Roll call:

Paul Simonton – Yes	Aleta Jackson – No	John Sledge – Yes
Noel Dentner – Yes	Martin Kaufman – No	Richard Gunn – Yes
Bruce Freimark - Yes		

Motion carried five to two.

Noel Dentner made a motion to grant the contract to Legal Services of South Central Michigan to provide senior legal services in Monroe County beginning calendar year 2010 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 John Sledge.

Roll call:

Noel Dentner – Yes	Aleta Jackson – No	Richard Gunn – Yes
Paul Simonton – Yes	Bruce Freimark – No	John Sledge – Yes
Martin Kaufman – Yes	Motion carried five to two.	

Commission Members' Time:

No members addressed the board at this time.

Public Time:

No one from the public addressed the Commission at this time.

Adjournment:

Paul Simonton made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Commission on Aging Conference Room, 29 Washington Street, Monroe, MI 48161.

Vicky L. Terrasi

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary