

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 18, 2012

PRESENT:

Elizabeth Young, Chairwoman
Matt Murell
William Hughes, Jr.
Richard Keaveney
Arthur Bassin
Edward Cross
Ellen Thurston

ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Paul Mossman
Gary Flaherty
Kary Jablonka

PRESS: 1

Chairwoman Young called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Veterans: G. Flaherty

2012 Outreach: G. Flaherty informed the committee there is a bill in Congress looking to classify all Reservists and National Guardsmen as veterans. This will have a lot of people entitled to benefits and there are a lot of them in our county. G. Flaherty also stated that he serves on the Advisory Committee to U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson and U.S. Senator Gillibrand and said both are working to promote "Experience Counts" initiative. This policy will offer employers tax credits for hiring veterans. U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson is sending out welcome home letters to the men returning.

Town visits: In the process of still registering veterans and any Supervisors who wish to have G. Flaherty do a presentation to the Town Boards should contact him.

New pick-up schedule: To save on fuel and appts., there will be designated sites for the veterans to be picked up, a central location. Those vets that are handicapped will still be picked up at their residence.

Vet Trac: G. Flaherty has kept eight (8) men out of prison and into programs and therapy. Great thanks to Judge Nichols.

Department of Social Services: P. Mossman

Program/Caseload Update: a packet was distributed to committee with comparisons and review of where DSS is right now.

Homeless Initiative Update: there has been a reduction in numbers of the homeless residents. The staff at DSS is continuing to work with landlords. There are 2 locations of 2 houses, One (1) in the City of Hudson, and the other is on the outskirts of Hudson, we are looking at secure funding. The HHP Community Awareness Outreach program, E. Thurston offered to help out.

DSS Staff Recognition Program Awards: This is something new for the recognition of employees i.e. Achievement Award certificates, annual awards are supplied with a luncheon for retirees, returning employees and jobs well done.

Resolution requesting authorization to enter into and renew existing contracts for 2012, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by R. Keaveney, carried. Refer to budget & Salary, if approved forward to Finance.

Resolution Request: authorization to fill the following vacant, budgeted position, effective February 9, 2012; pending Budget & Salary Review on January 26, 2012 if approved forward to Finance Committee on February 7, 2012, One (1) Child Support Specialist, GR12, 2012 base salary \$37,668; motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, carried.

Office for the Aging: K. Jablonka

Program Updates:

Health Insurance Information and Counseling Program: provided help on seniors Health Insurance Choices for the open enrollment period from 197 last year to 297 this year, and have helped over 1000 in total.

HEAP: benefits from the State have decreased; right now there are 922 applications.

Elderly In-Home Services Program expansion: (ISEP) more home health aides, services, transportation and minor home repairs.

NYS Budget: 2012-2013 was flat funded for OFA. K. Jablonka feels OFA will be ok this year.

Program Management:

NYS Office for the Aging Annual Evaluation Results: No significant issues, this was a very good evaluation.

Registered Dietician: K. Jablonka stated they have an ad in the paper, possibly looking to share with Pine have, the R.D. has to work 12 hrs/week for OFA, very hard to find one.

Philmont Nutrition Building: this is a very old bldg., with the equipment being very old, in time they will need to update some of the equipment and bldg., waiting to see where they will be this year. Expect to see .2 Requests under Capital Replacement Plan.

Ockawamick Freezer move: motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by M. Murell to move this freezer next to the Tripp Bldg., carried.

MOU with Experience Works: (Employment Program) K. Jablonka informed the committee this is a Free Program for Senior Workers motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by M. Murell, carried.

K. Jablonka also informed the committee there are no representatives from the City of Hudson for the Advisory Committee.

A motion to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:47 PM by E. Thurston, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

REASON: to discuss personnel

A motion to return to REGULAR SESSION at 7:14 PM by A. Bassin, seconded by W. Hughes Jr., motion carried.

R. Keaveney asked to inform the County Attorney to draw up a resolution in reference to the Veteran Service Agency Director, as previously discussed he was to have an increase from his yearly salary of \$5,000.00 to \$30,000.00, not \$25,000.00 as stated in the 2012 budget. Also this is retroactive to January 1, 2012. This resolution is to be forwarded to the Full Board on February 8, 2012, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried.

With no further business/discussion a motion to adjourn at 7:27 PM by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

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