

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 21, 2012

PRESENT:

**Matt Murell, Deputy
William Hughes, Jr.
Richard Keaveney
Arthur Bassin
Ellen Thurston
Edward Cross**

ABSENT:

Elizabeth Young, notified

ALSO PRESENT:

**Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Kary Jablonka
Gary Flaherty
Paul Mossman
Michelle Ublacker
Lynn Kutski
Michaele Williams Riordin
Sarah Sterling
Katy Drake
M. A. Wiltsie
Randy Wheeler
Ronald Caponera
2-Public
PRESS: 2**

Deputy Chair M. Murell called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES: P. Mossman

STAFF AWARDS & RECOGNITION: Employee Mary Capuano was recognized this time for her duties and dedication, she also received a special parking space for 2 months.

DSS TELEPHONE SYSTEM:

This is a 20 year old system. He has spoken to R. Wheeler, and will work with R. Caponera on the submittal of an RFP.

Requesting authorization/approval to pursue the purchase of a new phone system. MIS/DSS will research and determine best option prior to submitting a Resolution to the Committee for consideration, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by R. Keaveney to move forward on this request.

HOMELESS SERVICES DRAFT RFP:

P. Mossman updated the committee on the number of people housed by the Department in local motels has reached a 22-month low. The County had 32 people placed in motel rooms on March 1, down from 94 in November. P. Mossman stated the figures are a result of a number of factors, including warm weather which is reducing heat costs, higher rent subsidies from the county, and at least three cases over the past year in which social services recipients were denied shelter for violating rules for receiving benefits.

P. Mossman was given the approval to submit an RFP for a new homeless shelter. He will work with the County Attorney and the Controller before submitting. This will be published as a legal notice and will be forwarded to organizations such as Maranatha, Catholic Charities, Family of Woodstock, and the Mental Health Assoc. of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING: K. Jablonka

Mayors for Meals Event: 8 to 9 Supervisors donated their time to help deliver meals to the seniors.

NYS Budget: Flat funded, don't have any new numbers at this time.

Senior Citizen of the Year: Nominations are on April 13th.

Volunteer Recognition Event: May 24, 2012 at Greenport Town Park, more information will follow.

K. Jablonka informed the committee he has joined the Housing Resources Inc. Board, and there are new grants out there.

Resolution Request: Authorization to increase the budget for Nutrition Food Program Acct. AO-1F-2085-0000-1R2085 Revenue Account and Supplies & Food AO-7E-7610-426—E4000 Expense Account by \$5,250.00, motion by E. Thurston, seconded by R. Keaveney, carried. Refer to Budget & Salary Review Committee.

Resolution Request: Authorization to contract with individuals and/or organizations to provide senior health and wellness programs at an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, motion by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by A. Bassin, carried. Refer to Finance.

VETERANS: G. Flaherty

Testimony before New York State Mental Health Comm. on PTSD.

Testimony before Congressman Gibson and Vermont Congressman jointly with NY Commanding General with NY Guard delegation on the Yellow Ribbon Project and decentralization of services for returning Veterans

Presentation before Chairman's Young Town Board mtg.: which G. Flaherty received 22 telephone calls from Veterans down in the Town of Taghkanic to be registered.

Continuation of Outreach: G. Flaherty informed the committee he did half an hour radio show, and has sent out over 400 letters welcoming home our veterans.

Vet Trac Updates: 2 Vets have completed the program and now have jobs.

FYI: On May 3rd there will be a job fair @ Columbia Greene for the Veterans coming home, and we are looking at 125 thousand veterans returning. There will be a turkey hunt for wounded warriors in which J. Bertram will be setting up on April 18th.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD: M.A. Wiltsie and Katy Drake

In order to return to compliance, they are requesting the Restructuring Proposal to be approved/authorized by Columbia County, Greene County has approved the proposal and this would be reducing the board from 38 members to 34 members. A motion to approve said proposal by R. Keaveney, seconded by E. Cross, carried. The Clerk will submit a resolution request to be presented to the Full Board.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn at 6:20 PM by R. Keaveney, seconded by W. Hughes Jr., motion carried.