

Senior Millage Allocation Committee
June 15, 2012 8:00 a.m.
Calhoun County Building
315 W Green St., Marshall Michigan 49068

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. by Jill Booth.

Members Present: Rod Auton, Arlene Bolton, Jill Booth, Julie Camp-Siefke, Shirley Clutter, Art Kale, Joanne Konkle, Ralph Moore, Willie Tabb,

Members Absent: Jim Haadsma, Jennie Hoffmann

Staff Present: Carl Gibson, Rodna Stealy, Brad Wilcox

Guests Present: Tom Unger, Acting CEO Lifespan.

Approval of the Agenda:

Bolton made a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of Action Items under continuing Business RFP Performance based contracts for FY 2013, Forks Senior Center Request, Meal Site transitions, Konkle supported. ***Motion Carried.***

Approval of Minutes:

Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from April 6, 2011 Clutter supported the motion. ***Motion Carried.***

Citizen Comments: Thomas Unger addressed the committee regarding a request that Lifespan will be submitting a request that they receive more funding in order for them to serve more clients with Personal Emergency Response Systems, especially those who are already their clients for care management services. Booth requested that Lifespan submit a written request so that the Committee can vote on the issue.

Reports

Bolton made a motion to approve the reports. Konkle supported the motion. ***Motion Carried***

Information & Discussion

Update on Forks Senior Center

Willie Tabb reported to the committee that Albion Public Schools is moving out of the Crowell School Building where the Forks Senior Center is located, on June 30, 2012. The city of Albion will take over management of the building on July 1, 2012. The city is requiring all occupants to sign a lease by July 1, 2012. Forks Senior Center has been paying \$200 per month or \$2400 per year for rental of their space. When the city takes over the rent will have to be increased to cover operations of the building. Rent will be based on square footage being used by the occupant. It is expected that Forks Senior Center will have to pay \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year in the future for their rent to cover their portion of building operations. Tabb reported that there are some tough decisions to be made in order to maintain the Forks Senior Center and that the new Board of Directors is working on a plan to facilitate those changes and to help make the Senior Center sustainable.

Kale proposed that Senior Millage help in the interim, while the new board figures out how to sustain operations. The Senior Center serves over 300 people and they are hoping to have a Community Action Meal site at their location in the near future.

Members discussed the issue, and noted that they did not want to see Forks Senior Center close. It is a much needed entity and could possibly become a place where seniors could go to get needed services.

Wilcox noted that we can't really afford not to help them at this time, we need to complete our Needs Assessment to evaluate the need for this use of Senior Centers.

Kale made a recommendation that this would be a one-time support for One year to allow time for them to develop a plan and for Senior Millage to complete a Needs Assessment.

Recommendation by Art Kale is that the Senior Millage approve a one-time support of up to \$15,000 for one year to allow time for a Needs Assessment and for the Forks Board to plan for a way to sustain the Center. (See Action Items.)

Meal Services

Gibson reported that there has been dissatisfaction with the two meal sites in Albion. There has been much talk of this in the last couple of years, and recently there have been several meetings with Albion City, Community Action, Area Agency on Aging Region III-B, Forks Senior Center and Senior Millage. A plan is in motion to close the two current meal sites and have one site at the Crowell School Building/Forks Senior Center. This transition will take time as there are steps that have to be taken, but the process is beginning.

Members discussed this possibility and how it could potentially bring more members to Forks and it is definitely a step toward all services in one place in Albion. Some members asked if this would be a transportation problem to have the meal site at the Senior Center, but were assured that the Transportation would work about the same.

Transportation Update

Gibson reported that he and representatives from Area Agency on Aging, LifeCare, and Community Action visited Ridelink (Senior Transportation in Kent County). This ride services utilizes the same Trapeze branded software for their dispatch service. They have experienced most of the same issues that we have here.

Software is not intuitive when working with people who require changes so it requires monitoring of individuals able to make those shifts in routes as rides are cancelled or added mid-day.

Continuing Business:

Action Items:

Forks Senior Center

Kale made a motion to approve a one year commitment to support Forks Senior Center up to \$15,000 dollars for the purpose of supplementing their rent for the space they occupy in the Crowell School Building, contingent upon receiving a written request with a written plan for changes to take effect by October 1, 2012, so that they can go ahead and sign the lease being required by July 1, 2012 to go through June 30, 2013. Moore supported the motion. ***Motion Carried***

Discussion was held regarding a revised budget being required as part of the plan to be implemented.

RFQ Needs Committee Report.

Wilcox and Gibson reported on progress with the Needs Assessment and noted that Area Agency on Aging Region III-B is willing to support the needs assessment project with up to \$20,000 if funding to match what Senior Millage spends. Clutter made a motion to authorize Wilcox and Gibson to utilize up to \$20,000 to complete the process of contracting a consultant and completing the Needs Assessment with equal funding from Region III-B Area Agency on Aging. Auton supported the motion. **Motion Carried**

Discussion followed, process is evolving and moving in the right direction.

Directors Report

Members were provided with a copy of the Directors report and invited to address any questions to Gibson at a later time.

RFP for 2013 Services

Wilcox discussed the option to do continuation funding or performance based contracts for some services for the funding year 2013. Wilcox noted that it would be necessary to check with corporate counsel to see if it is within the current contracts to do continuation funding. It would then be possible to focus on a couple of programs that are not functioning at 100%.

Auton made a motion to support Performance Based contract approach for 2013 allocation. Clutter supported the motion. **Motion Carried**

Konkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Clutter supported the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Adjourned 9:42 a.m.

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Next Meeting: August 3, 2012