

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Verno, Baldrige, Robusto, Miller, Jacobs, Groat and LeRoy, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Veterans Services Director Jason Eldridge, Aging and Youth Director Penny Shockley and Interim Commissioner of Social Services Shelly Bentley. Supervisor Emmel was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the August 5th Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Eldridge presented the monthly report for Veterans Services. During July there were 243 contacts by Veterans or their family members to the local Office. There were 93 units of transportation to or from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and 20 to or from the Syracuse Medical Center. A total of 34 County Veterans passed away in July and one indigent burial was paid for by the local Office.

A transmittal was presented requesting authorization to amend the Veterans Services hospital benefit budget line due to an additional employee taking coverage through the County health care plan. The amount needed to be placed in this budget line is \$12,204. The amount will come from the County's contingency budget. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Eldridge informed members he has filled the position of part-time Veterans Service Counselor. The individual filling the job is a Veteran and very involved in many community organizations and projects.

Mr. Verno questioned the status of the County offering the Cold War Tax Exemption to taxpayers. He was informed this issue was discussed by the Board; however, at that time it was agreed the County would not approve this additional property tax exemption, this proposal by the State should be paid for by the State.

Mrs. Shockley informed Committee members 12 Home Health Aides have been interviewed for the two vacant positions in her Office. The final decision on hiring will be made next week. The State is very pleased with the best practice model the local Department of Aging and Youth has proposed to help with the statewide shortage of Home Health Aide shortages.

Home Meal Service Offices have relocated from the Health Services Building to 165 East Union Street in Newark. The vacated office space will be filled by the new positions of Home Health Aides.

Mr. Blake provided a summary of changes in appropriations and sources of funding as related to the 2020 County budget. Salaries and benefits are up 5.4%, revenue is projected to be increased .6% in the coming year and property taxes are estimated, at this time, to remain stable. Mr. Baldrige questioned why IGT costs are not being included in the 2020 budget, as this can be costly. Mr. Blake said this unknown cost was not budgeted; however, it can be incorporated into the budget if that is what the Board wants. Mr. LeRoy asked if sales tax revenues were being met in the 2019 budget. Mr. Blake noted sales tax revenue was upped in the 2019 budget and it

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appears the revenue will be met. If the change in sales tax being collected on internet sales would affect this revenue source in the coming year was questioned. Mr. House said he does not anticipate this change to have much effect on County sales tax, as most revenues for internet sales are already being charged sales tax. Mr. Verno stated half of the increase in the numbers provided today are due to increases in salaries and benefits for County employees. Mr. House said the County has not added staff and has decreased equipment purchases.

Mrs. Crane arrived at the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

Monthly reports for the Department of Social Services were presented. At the end of July there were 778 Wayne County residents receiving Temporary Assistance, 5,494 receiving Medical Assistance and 8,060 receiving Food Stamps. The number of recipients of services was down again in July; Mrs. Bentley said this is due to the influx of seasonal employment. The Department expended 55.5% of its budgeted County cost in the first seven months of the year.

The following transmittals were presented for the Department of Social Services:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with ARC Wayne to provide outreach activities for the Home Energy Assistance Program. Mrs. Bentley said this mandated service will be put out to bid for coming years. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to accept New York State Office of Children and Family Services funding in the amount of \$30,000 to be used to prepare for implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act. Mrs. Bentley said a plan is being put together to provide for activities to reduce the number of children in congregate care and increase placements into family Foster Care settings. Mr. Baldrige said he would like to see the written plan for these funds, once it is completed. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Legal Assistance of Western New York for the provision of legal advocacy services for a price not to exceed \$40,000 annually. This contract will cover the entire 2019 calendar year. Legal Assistance of Western NY has been providing services for the County, and due to circumstances that Mrs. Bentley was not aware of, this contract was not authorized for this year. This Agency provides legal services for families with school children, making sure a student is properly evaluated and receives all the services they are entitled to in an effort to keep them in the school system. Approved 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of budget review.