

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: MARCH 28, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS STRAINER
GIRARD
VANNESS
SOKOL
BENTLEY
CHAMPAGNE
WOOD

DENISE DIRESTA, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES
DANIEL STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
THOMAS
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Strainer called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 10:20 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Denise DiResta, Director of Veterans' Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing her agenda review, Ms. DiResta thanked the Committee for their support of the "Return the Favor" discount program for Veterans. She stated that Pam Vogel, County Clerk; Dave Collins, a local businessman; and herself, had carried out a community outreach effort for program participation. Publication of the program details, she said, would occur in May via local newspapers.

Addressing new business, Ms. DiResta expressed the need for a disposable cellular (cell) phone for use by the Van Drivers for which money was included in the budget. She cited a medical incident where a Driver was unable to call for assistance for an ill passenger due to the lack of a cell phone. It was the consensus of the Committee to authorize Ms. DiResta to purchase the necessary cell phone to ensure the safety of van passengers and drivers.

For informational purposes only, Ms. DiResta advised that she would submit a request later in the year for a transfer of funds to appropriate the sick leave incentive of \$400 in her budget. Additionally, she informed that one of the three Van Drivers' was currently on short term disability and was not likely to return to work. She further explained that the drivers' salaries were included in the Social Services budget and therefore, she said, Sheila Weaver, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), would bring the request to the Social Services Committee. Ms. DiResta added that another Driver was seeking full-time employment.

Ms. DiResta presented a request to attend the 2011 American Legion Basic Training to be held in Syracuse, NY, from May 23 - 27, 2011. She said that although this program was required of her bi-annually and she was not required to attend this year, she felt that the 2011 training was in the best interest of her service to the veterans of Warren County. She noted that the total expense was approximately \$980, and the American Legion and the VFW Post 6196 had offered to contribute \$860 towards this Training. Ms. DiResta noted the remaining funds were included in her budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request for travel. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. DiResta apprised of the need for a used computer for the Office to provide internet access to clients. Mr. Strainer recommended that she contact the Information Technology (IT) Department and Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, confirmed that the IT Department had provided used computers to departments in the past.

Next, Ms. DiResta expounded that the Veterans Fair Mobile Van provided services for veterans which included a wellness clinic, benefits consulting, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) consulting. She stated she would like to consider scheduling the Van for location at the Municipal Center. Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator, stated that there were always some types of risk exposures and it would have to be determined if the benefits outweighed the risks. He apprised that additional information, such as van set-up and anticipated attendance, was required. Ms. DiResta noted there were approximately 7,000 veterans in Warren County. She said she would also consider locations other than the Municipal Center property, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion Post headquarters. Mr. Dusek advised that with additional information and proper preparation in terms of road management, restroom requirements and other details, an optimum location could be determined.

Ms. DiResta informed of a forthcoming request to use the 12 passenger van to transport veterans for the Honor Flight Program. She expounded the Honor Flight Program honored World War II (WWII) Veterans by offering cost-free airfare to the Washington, D.C. WWII Memorial site. She said a Van Driver had volunteered his time to transport veterans to airports in Rochester and Buffalo, New York for a total of three flights in May and June. Ms. DiResta said she would determine the interest level, obtain further details, and report back to the Committee at the next meeting. The only expense, she said, was the cost of fuel.

Returning to the issue of the mobile unit, Mr. Strainer asked if any other municipalities had served as the location for the mobile unit and Ms. DiResta stated that it was typically set up at a Veterans Administration (VA) Center. She added that the mobile unit was located at Fort Ticonderoga last year.

In closing, Mr. Strainer opined that New York State funding for the Employment & Training Administration's Youth Employment Program had likely been restored. He informed that Christie Sabo, Director of the Office for the Aging; Ms. Weaver; and Deanna Park, Director of Countryside Adult Home, were in agreement regarding the relocation of the Warrensburg Meal Site to the Countryside Adult Home and additional information would be available at the next Committee meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Human Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Girard, Mr. Strainer adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist