

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: JUNE 22, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL
HOGAN
FRASIER
MCDEVITT
SHEPLER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS BRUNO
MAGOWAN

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

CHRISTIAN HANCHETT, COMMISSIONER
JULIE MONTERO, FISCAL MANAGER
AMY MCBYRNE, DIRECTOR, COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME
FRANK E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

RYAN DICKEY, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BEATY

BRAYMER

CONOVER

LEGGETT

TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the June 22, 2020 meeting of the Human Services Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2020/human>

Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed". All of the Committee members in attendance participated by video conference, except for Supervisors McDevitt and Shepler who were physically present.

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

Copies of the Department of Social Services and Countryside Adult Home agendas were distributed to those in attendance, those participating remotely accessed the agendas via the Warren County website. Copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.

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

Commencing the Department of Social Services agenda review, Mr. Driscoll presented a request to fill the vacant position of Caseworker #34, *Grade 16, Base Annual Salary \$43,390*, due to resignation. Chrisitan Hanchett, *Commissioner, Department of Social Services*, indicated there were currently three positions open in CPS (*Child Protective Services*) and over 50% of the caseworkers were over the State limit for the number of case they had at one time. He explained there were other caseworkers outside of the CPS unit that were helping with CPS cases. Mr. Driscoll added the position was mandated and 50% was reimbursed by the Federal Government and 25% was

reimbursed by the State.

Motion was made by Ms. Frasier, seconded by Ms. Shepler and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and to refer same to the Personnel & Administration Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Driscoll explained the next request was to call on the State of New York to release first quarter Enhanced Medicaid Federal matching funds for pandemic response to Warren County. Ms. Hogan inquired when they would receive the funds and Mr. Hanchett replied Friday he had attended the State Commissioners meeting and learned there was a lot of pushback from the Counties because they were desperate for funding. He said the State had the funding, adding he had arranged a working group that would put pressure on the State to release any money in regard to all the funding they received for their programs. Ms. Hogan mentioned she did not support the request because she felt they needed to choose their battles. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, explained there were other Counties who were not paying their Medicaid bill. He informed this was Federal funding that passed through the State and they were required to pass it on to the Counties. He indicated some Counties needed the funding to make payroll resulting in them withholding Medicaid payments. He stated the funding was part of the Stimulus Bill that was passed months prior.

Following some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17, 2020 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Julie Montero, *Fiscal Manager*, who indicated the revenue and expenditures for May were in good shape compared to the same time last year. She voiced her concerns pertaining to the State withholding their claim settlements, pointing out no payments had been received for the month of June. Regarding overtime, she advised they were limiting overtime to only on-call employees and those that had to handle the caseload of a caseworker out on leave.

There being no further Department of Social Services business to discuss, Mr. Driscoll began review of the Countryside Adult Home agenda. He presented a request to renew the service agreement with Mahoney Alarms for regular maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$1,617 (*and not to exceed \$1,000 for unplanned repairs*) for the term commencing August 1, 2020 and terminating July 31, 2021. Amy McByrne, *Director, Countryside Adult Home*, informed they monitored the fire system quarterly and inspected the fire extinguisher annually, noting she added the \$1,000 for maintenance to ensure funds were available if any maintenance issues arose moving forward.

Motion was made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17, 2020 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Driscoll then presented the final Action Agenda item, a request to fill the vacant full time position of Cook #5, *Grade 4, Base Annual Salary \$29,333*, due to resignation. He advised the position was State mandated and reimbursed.

Motion was made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and to refer same to the Personnel & Administration Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Regarding census and overtime, Ms. McByrne remarked she was comfortable with the current status, advising

overtime had increased due to mandatory testing being done twice a week. She apprised during the last pay period testing had decreased to once a week and they were working day and night to keep their residents healthy. She reported overtime hours were only 20 hours over the same period last year. She spoke regarding the census, stating there was one admittance in April and she had multiple referrals. She remarked when visitation opened they would be able to do a proper evaluation of a resident that could not currently be done, adding during the pandemic they only had one discharge.

Mr. Hanchett congratulated Ms. McByrne and her staff for doing a great job. He also thanked Ms. Montero for the help she had provided with budget items and fiscal matters over the past few months.

Mr. Driscoll inquired if there were any public comments and Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, replied in the negative.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Ms. Hogan and carried unanimously, Mr. Driscoll adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board
As transcribed by Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist