

September 8, 2020

Original to be filed with Sawyer County Clerk, Carol Williamson

Committee Meetings of Sawyer County

COMMITTEE: Health & Human Services Meeting Minutes

PLACE: Sawyer County Court House

DATE: September 8, 2020

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Dale Schleeter, Tweed Shuman, Chuck Van Etten, Dr. Sabrina Dunlap, Lorraine Gouge (arrived at 6:33 P.M.)

Virtually: Dawn Petit

Staff Members in Attendance:

Paul Grahovac, Tom Hoff, Patty Dujardin, Cindy Hanus, Alex Butterfield

Virtually: Julia Lyons, Lauri Perlick, Alicia Carlson, Karla Kay

Community Members in Attendance:

Tibissum Rice, Julie Loder, Sheriff Mrotek, Jesse Boettcher, Julene Brad, Dan Brad, Arlene Alm and Joey Johnson (virtually)

The meeting was called to order by Dale Schleeter at 6:30 P.M., noting for the record that Jennifer Vobornik, Carol Pearson and Dale Olson were absent.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Audience Recognition

Arlene Alm addressed the Board to convey the importance of having the Winter Senior Center open, and meals available for those in need. Dan Brad, owner of the Winter Senior Center building, said years ago he built the original site and the existing building in 2004 because he realized the importance of the service to the community. Joey Johnson, director of the Senior Resource Center (SRC) reported the closing of the Winter site is temporary due to the pandemic. Attendance was down, and the best option for the SRC was to combine the Winter site with Exeland. As soon as the SRC can re-open, all remote sites will re-open, including Winter. The 2021 budget has been prepared as if all sites will be operating “as usual.” She is working to start a new advisory board for the Winter site.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Tweed Shuman, seconded by Sabrina Dunlap to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting as presented; motion carried.

Reports

a. LCO Liaison

Lorraine Gouge reported the following:

- The Tribe is in the process of moving along with the men’s shelter. Full capacity is fourteen and they are trying to increase rooms downstairs, but will have to install egress windows.
- They have increased behavioral health services, hiring Dr. Tina Stec.
- They are providing homes for those who need to quarantine due to COVID-19, but they need additional housing. Ultimately, they intend for these homes to be used by members returning from treatment.
- Dr. Steven Miskiewicz was recently hired as the new medical director of the clinic.
- A new day care center is under construction and may be used for COVID housing if needed in the interim.

LCO Liaison cont.

- The Tribe is experiencing a housing shortage and are planning to build more homes, especially for those members who do not currently qualify for housing assistance.
- LCO needs a new fire hall.
- School is tentatively scheduled to start around October 1, pending possible impact of the Labor Day holiday regarding the pandemic.
- LCO is regularly testing community members for COVID-19.

b. Senior Resource Center (SRC)

Copies of the 2021 budget were provided to the Board. Joey Johnson reported receiving confirmation today of receipt of the 85.21 grant in the amount of \$79,889 with \$15,978 county match. The SRC has been unable to do any fundraising in 2020 due to COVID. They have received some donations from people wanting to donate from their stimulus checks. As of October 1, 2020, all debt incurred by the previous administration will be paid in full. The SRC will start 2021 “with a clean slate.”

Child Protective Services

a. ICW Placement Overview

ICW Director, Tibissum Rice, gave the Board a synopsis of their procedure for out of home placements, noting that their procedure basically mirrors that of the county’s child protective services unit. Their ultimate goal is to try to prevent removal of a child from their home. When removal is necessary, the child is placed where most appropriate to receive needed services. There continues to be a shortage of tribal foster homes for placements. They have recently hired a new foster care coordinator. The position will require extensive training.

Public Health

a) Coronavirus Update

Public Health Officer Julia Lyons provided a power point presentation for the Board demonstrating a cumulative total of 166 positive COVID-19 cases with 7 having been hospitalized. Testing results for the county at its highest were 38 positive results per 1000 tested. Those numbers have significantly improved to 6 positive results per 1000 tested. Current goals are as follows:

- 1) Keep students in school
- 2) Influenza clinics; start vaccinations in mid-October
- 3) Continue contact tracing; four new limited term employees have been hired
- 4) Communication; the website is regularly updated and will continue to grow in content

There is possibly one COVID-related death in the county. Medical records are now being reviewed.

b. Update to Existing Public Health Ordinance

Per Tom Hoff, a Wisconsin Counties Association task force questioned whether a local public health officer could enforce public safety orders more freely than the State public health officer. With legal guidance from corporate counsel Rebecca Roecker, the county public safety committee reviewed the current ordinance and recommended including law enforcement involvement with the public health officer when enforcing public health orders. Sheriff Mrotek spoke in opposition of the safety committee’s recommendation to include law enforcement involvement in public health orders as that is not their area of expertise. PH Officer Julia Lyons agrees the enforcement of public health orders should lie solely with the PH officer. The Sheriff stated his department would support the PH officer in any way they could. After a lengthy discussion, members of the HHS Board will form a subcommittee to discuss the ordinance and any concerns they may have. A motion was made by Chuck Van Etten, seconded by Tweed Shuman to table further discussion until the public safety committee and HHS Board subcommittee can review and revisit; motion carried.

Fiscal

a. 2021 HHS Budget

Tom Hoff reported not much has changed with the HHS budget. The current 2020 operational budget is in “good shape” while out-of-county placements remain problematic. Options to balance the 2021 HHS budget are to utilize existing fund balance or cut \$750,000 out of HHS or other department budgets. At this time, Mr. Hoff and the County Accountant are leaning towards using fund balance rather than cutting services. It is also possible for the county to assume short-term debt to cover capital expenses which would in turn allow more levy available for operational expenses. (IE: highway equipment can be moved from operating debt to short term debt.)

b. Budget Performance Report

The HHS budget performance report for July was provided to the Board.

c. Purchased Services Recap

A copy of the purchased services recap for July was provided to the Board.

Any Items for Discussion Only

Chuck Van Etten attended last month’s meeting via Zoom and was unable to “raise his hand” to comment on the retirement of Juvenile Justice supervisor, Dave Bauer. He commended Mr. Bauer for his years of service to the county.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.