

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: JUNE 26, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WOOD
SOKOL
VANSELOW
SEEBER

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:
CYNTHIA SCHROCK SEELEY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
JULIE MONTERO, FISCAL MANAGER
DEANNA PARK, DIRECTOR OF COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR BEATY
SAMANTHA HOGAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
FRASIER
STROUGH

In the absence of Committee Chairman Simpson, Supervisor Wood, as Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Vanselow 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 Cynthia Schrock Seeley, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), who distributed copies of the DSS Agenda, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes. Ms. Schrock Seeley then proceeded to present the following requests:

- 1) To authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Warren County Treasurer to execute and submit the application for Youth Program funds from the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) as outlined in the 2015 Resource Allocation Plan.
- 2) To authorize an agreement with the towns and municipalities within Warren County to reimburse a portion of the costs for their recreational programs and services funded by New York State OCFS for 2015.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve Items 1 & 2, as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the July 17th Board meeting. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to Agenda Item 3, Ms. Schrock Seeley presented a request to amend the 2015 County Budget to include unanticipated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$17,885 for 2015 Youth Development Delinquency Prevention Programs.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the budget and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next Ms. Schrock Seeley presented requests for eight DSS staff members to attend the New York Public Welfare Association's (NYPWA) Annual Summer Conference at the Saratoga Hilton on July 20 - 22, 2015, as well as for Lisa Schmidt, CPS Caseworker, to attend Common Core Training in Albany, NY on August 3-7, 18-31, August 31-September 4, and September 16-18, 2015.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned travel requests. *Copies of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention Forms are on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Schrock Seeley apprised of ongoing internal discussions relative to the possibility of reclassifying the position of Senior Fraud Investigator to an Investigations Coordinator, which would raise the position by a few grades within the Civil Service standings. She stated that this position would be taking on more duties outside of the current job description, and she advised Maureen Schmidt, DSS Commissioner, would provide more information on this matter at the next Committee meeting.

Moving on, Ms. Schrock Seeley stated there had been no applicants for the vacant part-time Social Services Attorney position. She said this was a difficult position to hire for on a part-time basis and she indicated they may need to discuss this issue further in the future.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Deanna Park, Director of Countryside Adult Home, who distributed copies of the Countryside agenda to the Committee members; a copy of the Countryside Agenda is on file with the minutes.

Commencing the Agenda review Ms. Park presented the request to renew the existing contract with Mahoney Notify-Plus for the fire alarm system. She advised the contract would be extended for a term commencing August 1, 2015 and terminating July 31, 2016 at a cost of \$1,514.50.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board meeting; *a copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

With reference to the Overtime Report for 2015, Ms. Park advised overtime expenditures were on target as compared to the same time period in 2014.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Julie Montero, DSS Fiscal Manager, who advised the Overtime Report for DSS was well under last year's figures; she noted the reduced overtime use was attributed to the fact that the necessary training for the Caseworker staff had been completed and the Foster Care Unit was fully staffed. In regards to the Revenue and Expenditures Report, Ms. Montero apprised expenditures were on target, but revenues were down and she noted the low revenue amounts related to the State's Fiscal Year which ended in March. She stated she expected to see a lot more revenue reflected in the June report.

Chairman Geraghty inquired why it was so difficult to find a part-time DSS Attorney. Ms. Schrock Seeley responded this matter had been the topic of discussion between the County Attorney and the County Administrator to try and assist with the issue. Paul Dusek, County Administrator, said he believed the issue was trying to find a part-time Attorney who had the qualifications desired for the position. He noted he and Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, had been discussing alternatives and which could possibly include making this a full-time position that would work in both the DSS and County Attorney's Office.

As there was no further business to come before the Social Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Vanselow and seconded by Ms. Seeber, Ms. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board

