

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
of the ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DATE: August 18, 1999

TIME: 6:00pm

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Alice Tipp, Robert Aiello, Joan Feldmann
Brian Hathaway, Sam Magarelli, Robert Wilkins

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Edward Jennings, Scott Moone

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: David Donaldson

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathryn Puglisi, Office for the Aging
Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Agency
Donna Hildebrandt, Office for the Aging
Joe Eagan, Veteran
Ellen Greczynski, Office for the Aging

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

KATHRYN PUGLISI - Office for the Aging

Kathy announced that she received a letter from Senator Larkin and a letter from Senator Bonacic stating that the Office for Aging will be receiving \$100,000 to replace the Care-A-Van. She will be working with Kingston Hospital for input and additional financing.

Kathy introduced Donna to the committee. Donna presented the proposed budget for the year 2000 for the Office for the Aging. There are 5 changes proposed on the personnel line. For Ellen, they request a 1 grade increase, for Donna, a 1 grade increase, Annette, a 1 grade increase and Jean, a 3 grade increase, from Account Clerk to Senior Account Clerk. Bob asked if the desk audits were returned yet. Kathy replied no. Bob questioned why Rich Rubin had not been to the office yet. He then asked what criteria they were basing a 3 grade increase for Jean. Kathy responded that at one time Jean and Donna split the Nutrition program work. Now Jean has taken on the entire Nutrition program. There will be added work to each new position. The committee wanted to see a comparison from this year to the next year. Discussion followed regarding the grade increases. It was found that the new personnel budget will be increased approximately 5%. Bob Aiello wanted to remind Kathy that they will need to make sure they check to see if the new position for Ellen will be a civil service position or an appointed position. Since he is on the Personnel Committee, he is interested to find this out. Kathy told him that as soon as she sends the job descriptions to Personnel, she will send him a copy. Kathy then discussed the Needs Assessment survey that went out to seniors. It appears area seniors are in need of medical transportation. Kathy said that since there are unexpended EISEP funds, perhaps the office could purchase a small van that they could use for medical transport. The Care-A-Van Nurse could drive it on the days she is not driving the Care-A-Van, or volunteers can be requested to drive. This was approved by the State, however, approval by the County must be made. Kathy stated that insurance will have to be looked into. Also, they will need to see if they can transport out of the county. Sam asked about the funds involved. Donna said it came down to 32% County and 68% State. Kathy discussed one of her employees, Peggy Eifler. She is an LPN but she also drives the van. She stated that this is a valuable combination and she is being paid at a Grade 9. She would like to upgrade her to a Grade 10 as she performs both duties. The LPNs in the Health Care Facility

are a Grade 10, possibly because of shift work, but as Kathy stated, Peggy is sometimes out with the van early in the morning and returns late in the evening.

Bob Aiello suggested she get an opinion from CSEA. They will send a Union Rep to personnel.

Alice asked if there were any further questions on the budget. There were none.

Kathy was dismissed at 6:45 pm.

*A gentleman asked at the beginning of the meeting if he could make a presentation in regard to a possible designated Veterans Cemetery in Ulster County.

TERRY BREITENSTEIN - Veterans Agency

With Terry present now, Alice asked the gentleman to introduce himself. He said his name is Joe Eagan and he belongs to the Wallkill American Legion Post and is also a Veteran. He stated that a year ago he had made a presentation to the full Legislature asking if the County owns a piece of land that they would not be using, and if it would be possible to take the land and designate it strictly a Veterans cemetery. No^{one} from the Legislature ever responded to him, he stated. He said he felt the County is responsible, to a point, for taking care of the Veterans. Discussion followed on this matter. Terry responded to his request by stating that there is a lot to be explored here. One thing, he said, is they will not receive any monies from the State or Federal Government. He said he knew Dutchess County and Orange County each have a designated Veterans cemetery, but he would have to look into how this could be done. It was decided that Terry would get facts from the other counties and bring them back to the committee. Alice informed Mr. Eagan that he could call her or she would contact him when they had more information.

The next subject was Terry's budget. The personnel budget was raised by \$52,000 due to Michael Gilyardi becoming full time and the addition of an employee; Romey Kelley.

Terry then brought up the subject of the vans purchased and used for the Veterans. He is to purchase a 15 passenger van each year for the next three years, however, he said, if he purchases a new 15 passenger van next year along with a used 12 passenger van, it will ultimately save about \$12,000-\$15,000 next year by not having to purchase another new van. He would utilize it for the Ellenville run and if any of the other vans break down. The final question came from Robert Wilkins. He asked Terry what it cost the County for an indigent burial. Terry answered \$1,800.

Bob Aiello made a motion to adjourn at 7:40pm, seconded by Robert Wilkins.

At this point a discussion began regarding a salary increase for Terry. The committee said they would have to get a resolution to see if it could be done. A motion on the floor to raise Terry's salary to \$43,800, a \$5,000 increase was first made by Sam Magarelli, seconded by Bob Aiello.

The committee will check with Frank Murray if it can be done by putting it into the budget for next year. This will then be brought to Bill Darwak. Alice asked if everyone was in favor. All committee members were.

Robert Wilkins made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Aiello. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tipp, Chairman
Community Services Committee