

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 18, 2020

Present: Legislators Randy LaChausse, Richard Chartrand, Andrea Moroughan, Greg Kulzer, and Phil Hathway.

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Jerry King, Tom Osborne and Ian Gilbert; County Manager Ryan Piche; County Atty. Joan McNichol; Treasurer Eric Virkler; Human Resource Director Caitlyn Smith; Reporter Julie Abbass.

Committee Chairman Randy LaChausse called the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to approve the 1/21/2020 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

Lewis County General Hospital CEO Jerry Cayer introduced Rick Tague and Ariel Snyder from Bernier Carr and Associates along with Dr. Sean Harney and CFO Jeff Hellinger. Jerry Cayer passed around a design drawing of the front of the hospital back in the late 1920's as he explained the grandeur of the large white columns and the attention to detail that was put into the design. This same attention to detail is in all aspects of the hospital today. He then passed out the estimated timeline for the proposed capital project which had a ribbon cutting date in July of 2022.

Jerry made it clear that the issue of re-certification for the Critical Access designation has not been resolved yet and will need to be before any funding decisions are made. If the issue is not rectified soon the project completion date might not be until 2023. Congresswoman Stefanik, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand are all working on helping to resolve the issue.

Jerry then handed out a packet which included a topographical map of the hospital with the new addition, design drawings of the different angles of the new addition, and the floor plans. One of the issues that the hospital has is that a few days out of the week there is a shortage of parking so with this new addition there will be 86 more parking spaces along with a connection directly to the Number three road and one with State Route 26. The plan is to reach out to both the Town of Lowville Planning Board as well as the Village of Lowville so they can review the plans. The front view of the new addition pulls in details from the original hospital entrance using a portico with columns.

The first floor shows a new Women's Health area, a large Ortho/Surgery waiting room, new conference rooms, a new store room which will have much easier access for delivery of items, and a morgue that can accommodate up to 5 bodies. The second floor shows another waiting area for surgery, pre-op rooms, and modern OR rooms. The old Ortho/Surgery area of the hospital will be renovated to have new single patient recovery rooms with private bathrooms, which was a movement started back in the 1970's.

Rick Tague added that this will be a phased project with the new addition being constructed as the first phase and then the renovation of the old Ortho/Surgery area being the second phase. In

response to a question Rick clarified that the new building was 36,000 sq. feet versus the old area of 18,000 sq. ft.

Jerry then handed out a document that showed the overall project budget of \$31,289,625.00, of which the hospital tentatively plans to use roughly \$5,000,000 of their fund balance and they plan to pay for some of the architectural design costs up front which will leave a remaining balance of \$25,000,000.00 that will need to be bonded. Clarification was made that the contingency percentage used in the budget was 15%. Legislator Dolhof questioned why the 1st floor clinic space cost jumped from \$3,600,000 to \$6,300,000 and it was explained that originally it was just going to be a shell space but later it was decided to have it as a completely furnished area.

It is a good time to bond with the interest only being around 2% so it is possible that the hospital may choose not to use their fund balance and bond a higher amount. Ryan explained that right now the hospital is just looking for a resolution in support of the project as a whole which is needed in order to take the next step of getting the Certificate of Need from the Department of Health, it isn't committing the board to any costs. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to create a resolution in support of the capital project for the hospital, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

The following dockets were then reviewed: (Legislator Kulzer excused himself for a few moments and then joined the meeting again)

1. Resolution to appropriate Federal Grant funds in the amount of \$4,597.46 into Community Services accounts for professional services and the purchase of office equipment.

YEA: 4 NAY: 0

2. Resolution authorizing the continuation of the Agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Office For the Aging and Nascentia Health, Inc., and Fidelis Care New York to provide reimbursement of home delivered meals to their respective eligible seniors. Nascentia Health, Inc. will pay \$8.50 per meal and Fidelis will pay \$10.00 per hot meal and \$8.50 per cold meal to Lewis County Office For the Aging to eligible residents of Lewis County, unless and until terminated by either party pursuant to the notice provisions of the agreement

YEA: 4 NAY: 0

3. Resolution authorizing Agreements by and between various Lewis County Departments and Lewis County Department of Social Services, as grant recipient and administrator of the Pratt Northam "Careers Here" Program, for student intern positions. Pratt Northam will reimburse the County for student interns in the program for 350 hours at the current minimum wage rate of \$11.10 per hour, together with applicable FICA taxes at 7.65% for 2019/2020.

YEA: 5 NAY: 0

4. Resolution appointing Eileen Mathys of Lowville NY and Lisa Peebles of Copenhagen NY as Community Members of the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board for a term from March 3, 2020 through March 3, 2022.

YEA: 5 NAY: 0

5. Resolution authorizing agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Youth Bureau, with the Victim Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Inc. to provide a Safe Harbour Coordinator who shall serve as the point of contact related to providing advocacy and supportive services, outreach and awareness of child trafficking and exploitation in Lewis County, as outlined in the Safe Harbour: NY Project for a term of January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00
YEA: 5 NAY: 0

6. Resolution approving the 2020 Resource Allocation Plan between the County of Lewis and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS”) for the 2020 program year in the amount of \$21,115.00.
YEA: 5 NAY: 0

Motions:

1. Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize Social Services Commissioner Jennifer Jones to re-fill a full-time Caseworker due to resignation, effective immediately, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

Legislator Hathway asked Commissioner Jones if the SNAP participant numbers were higher than average and she responded that they are actually trending down. He then asked if fraud situations with the SNAP program were confidential and Commissioner Jones responded that they are not as confidential as other programs that deal with youth/children.

Legislator Hathway questioned Office For Aging Director Crystal Collette about the waiting lists for respite services. Crystal explained that she is working on finding other vendors that can provide the respite services because their only vendor right now is US CARE. She did specify that respite care does apply to those diagnosed with Alzheimer and she said she would look into the number of caregivers the current respite program covers. She finished by stating that the funding is available but there is a shortage of Aides to be able to provide the respite service.

At 3:50 p.m. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board