

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

July 21, 2020

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

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

Committee Chairman Randy LaChausse called the meeting at 2:58 p.m. and declared the 6/16/2020 committee minutes approved by general consent.

Lewis County General Hospital Project update – Jerry Cayer, C.E.O (attached)

The Lewis County General Hospital addition and renovation project design phase has been worked on for over a year and is at the 90% mark, almost ready for filing the Certificate of Need to the state. This presentation has been given to the LCGH Board of Managers who have been engaged and supportive of moving to the next phase of the project. The plan is to be able to file for the Certificate of Need in September 2020.

Mr. Cayer showed the group front and side views of the design of the addition. The front will have similarities to the original hospital entrance. One of the main reasons why this project is needed is due to Economic Reasons like how the Hospital is the largest employer in the county; has a \$115 million local economic impact; and \$49 million payroll; and also because of the low interest rates it makes bonding a reasonable choice.

The other main reason is for Healthcare Delivery which consists of access to modern health care; recruitment of healthcare professionals; investment in primary care; the age of plant ratio which best practice shows should be 9 – 11 year and LCGH is at 19 years; significantly better bathrooms, private rooms with the capability of a 2 patient capacity; updated ORs and Procedure rooms; much better overall experience for patients; and an investment for the next generations.

The Hospital addition and renovation project SEQR was completed in early June showing no significant impact. The Town of Lowville Planning Board gave their approval in mid-June. There are various areas of Planning underway, several items have been completed such as the OR design, equipment and lighting; Patient room design; and morgue design. Several items are underway such as Fire suppression system design and capacity; Perm-3 application/permit; and Natural Gas supply and line conversion.

Rick Tague from Bernier, Carr and Associates was introduced, and he explained the renovation project phasing. This plan uses 6 phases in order to continue on renovation work while still being able to offer as many services as possible. It will also cut the time of the project down by one whole year. Essentially the old space will be divided into sections with each section being divided by a hallway so work can be done on one side of the hallway while still utilizing rooms on the other side of the hallway. Once a section is completed, those rooms will be usable again before moving onto another section rather than shutting down services completely in an area. The plan is to be able to go out to bid in January of 2021, start construction in April or May of

2021 with new construction being completed by May 2022 and renovations finished in December 2022.

Legislator Hathway questioned if BC & A has experience in hospital engineering, which Rick Tague answered that they have done work for Samaritan, River Hospital, and Carthage Area Hospital. Legislator Hathway also questioned whether there would be any environmentally friendly options with this new addition/renovation because we are “Naturally Lewis” after all. Rick responded that there are ways to be greener however they come at a cost. Jeff Hellinger, hospital CFO and Frank Pace, hospital Facilities Engineer both discussed smaller items that are being looked at that would help with energy savings like a steam turbine for additional power using the steam already generated from the boiler and pervious pavement for parking areas.

Legislator Hathway asked if Mr. Cayer had any data that showed how the addition and renovation would directly impact increased recruitment. Mr. Cayer responded that the physicians just don’t come back. Young professionals are looking for a better experience. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative could also play a big part in that by improving the downtown area. While living in Maine the hospital campus he was responsible for sold itself. Legislator Moroughan had concerns about the parking situation at the hospital and Mr. Cayer responded that with this new addition there will be an additional 80 to 100 parking spots.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Resolution Amending Compensation Plan of the County of Lewis, with reference to the Lewis County General Hospital to Abolish One (1) Full-time Group Practice Administrator position and Create One (1) Full-time Registered Nurse CHHA and One (1) Part-time Licensed Practical Nurse CHHA.
YEA 5 NAY 0
2. Resolution authorizing an agreement through Lewis County Public Health Department with the Beaver River Central School District to provide certified and/or licensed speech language therapists and related services for preschool children residing within the District and attending its preschool program for the period beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, at a cost in accordance with the rates set forth by the New York State Education Department’s Program Services Reimbursement Unit. *There was clarification that the cost is based on 30-minute sessions which are \$36/each. Lewis County gets reimbursed by the state for 60% of the total cost.*
YEA 5 NAY 0
3. Resolution authorizing an agreement through Lewis County Public Health Department and Harrisville Central School to provide Preschool Special Education related services, special education itinerant teacher (SEIT) and evaluations for preschool children with disabling conditions for the period beginning August 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, at a cost in accordance with the rates set forth by the State Education Department dependent on the number of children assigned to contracted providers by the Preschool Municipality Representative and the school district’s Committee on Special Education.
YEA 5 NAY 0

4. Resolution to appropriate funds for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the period April 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022 for Youth per the Notice of Obligational Authority #PY20-1 received June 15, 2020 through the New York State Department of Labor, in the amount of \$72,101.20.

YEA 5 NAY 0

5. Resolution authorizing an agreement between the Department of Social Services and Hand in Hand Early Childhood Center for the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 at the Day Care market rate established by Hand in Hand Early Childhood Center and pursuant to the DSS Fair Market Rates as established by the State. The cost for eligible recipients is approximately 1% for the County and 99% federally reimbursed.

YEA 5 NAY 0

6. Resolution appointing student representatives to serve on the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board for a term effective August 5, 2020 through to the date of their High School Graduation, or upon ceasing to be a full-time high school student.

YEA 5 NAY 0

Legislator LaChausse questioned Mr. Cayer on the time frame for Covid test results and Mr. Cayer responded that with the new Lab Bio-Reference it should be roughly 4 to 5 days. There were 87 specimens that were gathered and sent from the Thursday and Monday clinics and Bio-Reference is much timelier than Lab Corp was. Mr. Cayer went on to clarify that when someone is asymptomatic and tested, they don't have to quarantine unless test results come back positive.

In response to Legislator LaChausse, Mr. Cayer explained that they still have not received the reagents for the newly purchased testing equipment but are hopeful that they will have it by the end of July. This equipment will not be used for the general public but instead for surgical patients.

Legislator LaChausse informed the committee that he received a call from a constituent who explained that there was a Sheriff's deputy in the Croghan Slider's establishment who did not wear a mask. Ryan explained that it is now State Law that you are required to wear a mask in all public establishments. He will send out a memo internally to employees reminding them of this.

At 3:57 p.m. Legislator Kulzer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board