

VALLEY HI COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock, IL 60098

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007

Chairman Zierer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman; Ed Dvorak; James Heisler; Pete Merkel; James Kennedy; Mary McCann; and Dan Shea. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator – Finance; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; John Hadley, Facilities Management; Tim Wenberg, Valley Hi Administrator; Cathy Link, Purchasing; and interested public.

Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman	
Ed Dvorak	James Heisler
James Kennedy	Mary McCann
Pete Merkel	Dan Shea

MINUTES

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2006 meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Front reception / security: Mr. Labaj reminded committee members of the previous discussion regarding the possible need for an Andy Frain uniformed guard at Valley Hi. It has been determined that personnel would be needed from 4:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. on weekdays and 8:00a.m. – 9:00p.m. during the weekends. This amounts to 53 hours per week. The costs would be \$13.95 per hour for normal straight time and \$20.92 for any overtime hours. This amounts to approximately \$43,000 per year. Mr. Labaj noted that the times are subject to change based upon the needs of the department. He stated that someone could be hired as early as February 1st. Andy Frain is located in Waukegan and requested time to interview personnel in the Woodstock area to fill the positions. Holiday costs are included in the \$43,000. It was noted that there were concerns that the residents would be intimidated with personnel in uniform. Committee members were informed that the uniform could be altered to look less intimidating, but, still look like they have authority. A sign in book would be available for sign in upon entrance to the facility. Committee members noted this is a very reasonable cost for the extra security. Mr. Dvorak made a motion to table this issue until the next meeting when a Resolution could be received with additional information this issue. It was noted that a Resolution would be needed in order to create a budget for contractual services for the costs of security. Mr. Dvorak withdrew his motion because of the lack of a second. Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dvorak to recommend we move forward with a Resolution to hire Andy Frain security with a start date of early February for Valley Hi Nursing Home. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Committee 2007 meeting dates/times: Chairman Zierer questioned committee members about the current committee meeting schedule. She stated that this committee's meeting time is in conflict with Planning & Development committee meetings with three County Board members on both committees. She questioned whether it would be wiser to change meeting date times to the 2nd Thursday of the month or later on the current Thursdays. It was noted that Valley Hi committee meetings could be scheduled later on those dates where it is known that the Planning and Development meeting would run late. Committee members agreed to Valley Hi Committee meeting dates and times to be at 9:30a.m. on the 1st Thursday of every month.

Recap of move: Chairman Zierer noted that they had a fantastic day for the move. They had a lot of good help and the ambulance service was excellent. There was enough equipment brought in for the move and everything went well. She noted that the weather even cooperated. She stated that the families joined the residents and were a great help with the move.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was moved until the end of the meeting.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Transition Team Update: Mr. Labaj noted that this has been a stressful couple of weeks. He stated there are additional issues that now need to be addressed, including but not limited to, archiving of the medical reports being stored at Valley Hi. The Transition Team will remain in tact until all outstanding issues have been addressed.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Wenberg presented committee members with the monthly Administrator's report. Mr. Wenberg thanked the many volunteers who showed up to help with the move. He noted that some of the volunteers helped to keep the residents entertained while waiting for their turn to be transported into the new facility. He noted that they held hands and were very pleasant and were a great group of people to work with.

Construction Update: Mr. Hadley noted there are two important dates to remember with Valley Hi, October 2, 2004, the date the contract was signed with Maggio for the construction of the new facility and January 7, 2007, the final move into the new facility. He noted there have been a lot of hiccups along the way and continue to have some issues, but, we are finally moved in. He noted there seem to be some issues with the TV locations in the resident rooms. Evidently they are placed too high for comfortable watching. Mr. Hadley stated the brackets are placed based on the State Nursing Home standards and therefore cannot be moved lower. He noted that they are looking into a different kind of bracket that would allow for more adjustment. The State does not allow TV stands and the County chose not to purchase flat screen tv's for the residents and we have never provided individual tv's in the past. Mr. Austin questioned whether the County wants to purchase tv's and assume the future costs of repairs? Mr. Wenberg noted that 40% of the residents cannot see the tv's. It was noted that the tv's have not been installed in the rooms. Committee members questioned how it can be determined that the tv's can't be scene when they haven't even been installed. A member of the public addressed committee members stating that her mother is a resident of Valley Hi and the main tv's in the community resource rooms have not been installed as well and residents are very bored because of the lack of these amenities. Mr. Wenberg stated he would check to make sure the community tv's are installed and working today. Mr. Hadley stated that the maintenance staff are working hard to make sure these issues are getting resolved and he would continue to work with the architect on the bracket issues for the resident tv's.

Mr. Dvorak left committee at 9:45a.m.

Committee members were informed that Facilities Management staff has been in the old Valley Hi facility in order to prepare the area to accept the boxes that have been in a storage unit and the Government Center. The 1985 section of the old nursing home is being used as storage archives for the County. Decisions will be made by Administration and the Management Services Committee regarding how to best use the rest of the old facility. It was noted that there has been a lot of interest in using select areas of the facility. An auction will be held in April in order to clear out the useable unneeded equipment. The boilers at the old facility will be kept at 55° to prevent the freezing of pipes at the facility. Mr. Hadley stated that freeze alarms have been installed and the expenses for the facility are now part of the general fund.

Volunteer Update: Chairman Zierer informed committee members that Mary Donner is working to get volunteers to help in the Valley Hi ice cream parlor. Chairman Zierer raised questions concerning a possible County Volunteer Program. She was informed that a volunteer policy has been talked about, but, not a program. It was stated that foundations are usually the group behind volunteers and usually takes up the volunteer effort. Committee members noted that when using a volunteer program, you usually have to over schedule volunteer time because some volunteers fail to show up at their designated time.

Incentive Program Update: Mr. Sarbaugh informed committee members that they would be bringing information regarding the incentive program to the next committee meeting. He noted that they have found issues that may be inhibiting the program from working. Committee members questioned whether Valley Hi has seen any savings from the program. Mr. Sarbaugh stated he could not answer that question as the goals set have not been met. He noted that staff has come up with ideas on how this program might work. This will come forward at the next committee meeting.

Chairman Zierer requested that copies of the admission policy be provided to committee members to review. She noted that the new policy should include information regarding the no smoking policy of the new facility. She noted that discussion will take place at the next committee meeting regarding possible changes to the policy.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public requested permission to speak to the committee. Chairman Zierer gave permission to a person whose mother is a resident of Valley Hi. She stated she had a couple of areas of concern regarding the new facility. She noted concern that the bathroom doors seem to close too quickly creating a hazard who may try to enter on their own. Mr. Hadley noted this would be looked into with the Architect. This individual also questioned whether there would be any visitor parking at the Nursing Home. She noted that staff

has been using the front lot requiring the visitors to use the back parking area. It was noted that signage for parking should be placed in the near future. Committee members were questioned if the meeting dates for the Valley Hi committee meeting could be posted at Valley Hi for those interested in attending. It was noted that meeting dates are published in the local newspapers and the County Web Page. Mr. Wenberg noted he would notice the meeting dates on the bulletin board at Valley Hi.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCann, to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, to return to regular session. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote

The Committee was in executive session from 10:05 a.m. until 10:31 a.m.

Committee members were reminded of the housewarming being planned by Tina Hill. This will be held this Sunday afternoon. Committee members were told to be sure to watch their email for information and the time of the event. Mr. Wenberg noted that he believes this will take place at 4:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shea to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

Recommend approval of a Resolution to hire Andy Frain guards for Valley Hi Nursing Home

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