

**VALLEY HI COMMITTEE  
Valley-Hi Nursing Home  
2406 Hartland Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098**

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

Chairman Zierer called the Valley Hi Committee 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: Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator – Finance; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Tim Wenberg, Valley Hi Administrator; John Hadley, Facilities Management; Cathy Link, Purchasing; Staff, interested public and the press.

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 recommend approval of the Valley Hi committee minutes of February 1, 2007 as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lenora Nolan and Gina LeFever joined committee members to present their opinions on some of the issues heard from residents of the Valley Hi Nursing Home. They stated that one of the main complaints heard is the problem some residents are having moving on the carpet. They stated these residents have become non-ambulatory because they do not have the strength to wheel themselves on the new carpeting. It was noted that this has created an additional workload for staff at Valley Hi. Another issue is the TV's. They noted that it is not that they don't have a place to put the TV's but, they feel TV's should be provided for any resident who wishes to have a TV. They noted that it has been stated at a previous meeting that the facility is not required to provide TV's for its residents, but there is not a lot for these residents to look forward to and they feel the residents deserve a TV in every room. Ms. LeFever and Ms. Nolan stated that phones should be provided for resident use. Another area of concern was the small chapel area. Committee members were informed of concerns regarding the front door area. It was noted that the ambulances called to Valley Hi use the main entrance and the large wooden door does not work well when trying to get a "wheeled bed" through the door as it keeps closing. Ms. Biestek, a Valley Hi employee and a representative for her father, who is currently living at Valley Hi, addressed committee members to voice concerns for her father. She noted that the biggest concern is the carpet and the size of the dining area. Committee members thanked the public for taking the time to voice their concerns.

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

*Discussion of a Management Audit:* Mr. Austin joined committee members to discuss the idea of bringing in a third party to complete a Management Audit of the facility. An audit would check out how the facility is run, look at costs, operating practices, how operations are structured and find ways to improve the efficiencies of the facility. Mr. Austin stated that we want Valley Hi to be an asset to the County and not a burden and an audit would provide suggestions on ways to improve how things are being done at the facility. Mr. Austin questioned whether the committee members would like to move forward on this issue. Chairman Koehler addressed the committee members and stated that he has been in discussions with Mr. Austin and it was suggested that an outside agency be brought in to look at the best management practices of the staff, what concerns need to be addressed and the best way to implement any suggested changes. Committee members noted concern that there is a lot of positive issues for Valley Hi that have not been discussed. They noted that we now have a state of art nursing home. By giving residents larger rooms, with windows for every resident, some of the other areas had to be reduced. The committee directed staff to explore this issue further and bring back to the next committee meeting for either a decision or further discussion.

*Committee meetings:* Chairman Zierer noted that because of a conflict with meeting time with another standing committee, it was suggested that the meeting dates be changed to the second Thursday of the month. It was also suggested that every other month the meetings be held at Valley Hi. Committee members requested the meeting times to start earlier than the current 9:00a.m. meeting time. Ms. McCann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to change the Valley Hi Committee meetings to commence on the 2nd Thursday of the month, beginning at 8:30a.m. with odd months the committee meeting taking place at Valley Hi and the even months, the committee meeting taking place at the McHenry County Administration Building. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

*Administrators Report:* Mr. Wenberg presented his monthly Administrators report to the committee members. Long term employees were highlighted for committee members. He stated that he continues to work with Administration on the outstanding construction issues that remain at Valley Hi. He reminded everyone that the committee had determined they wanted the Nursing Home to feel like they were a part of a community and included the ice cream parlor to help achieve this feeling. He noted that this room could be removed if needed to expand other areas of the home. He noted that the construction was based upon the requirements of the Certificate of Need. He agreed that there are remaining issues that they are looking at ways to solve. He stated that the staff and residents also have to adapt to the changes and this will take team work. Mr. Hadley noted that we have to follow the various requirements of groups like the Illinois Department of Health, McHenry County Health Department and other government agencies that dictated how much space could be built into the facility as well as the amount of funds that could be expended to build the Nursing Home. He noted that the dining room and placement of the TV's exceeds these standards, but we have to follow the restrictions as set by these groups. He noted that there are always growing pains involved in moving into a new facility with hopes to have the move in glitches handled in a timely manner. It was stated that the Architect was questioned regarding the grade of the carpet and it has been verified that the installed carpet is in fact health care grade carpeting. It was decided to install carpeting to give the Nursing Home a "homey" feeling and to deaden some of the sound. The carpet does meet the specifications for this type of facility.

*Volunteer Update:* Chairman Zierer stated that a new person will need to be appointed to head this project. Chairman Zierer requested Ms. McCann help with this issue. It was suggested that she contact Bonnie at Centegra regarding their program as they have a great volunteer program already set up for the hospital. It was also suggested she contact some of the County Departments that use volunteers.

*Incentive Program Update:* Mr. Sarbaugh informed committee members that they would be bringing information regarding a revitalized incentive program to a future committee meeting. The new program would require County Board approval.

*Committee Members Comments:* Committee members agreed there are always growing pains with a new facility and would like to see some of the positive issues brought forward. It was stated that each of the current concerns should be addressed and continue to move forward. It was noted that the individuals who addressed the County Board were not there to gang up on the board but to inform them of the concerns and to see if these concerns were being addressed. Chairman Koehler addressed committee members and stated there had been discussion in the past about not needing a Valley Hi committee after the completion of the new facility. He noted that the concerns that are being addressed and is a good reason why the committee needs to be kept in place. He noted the committee is a good place for employees and residents to address concerns noted at Valley Hi. He noted that an audit would be a good start to address the current concerns at the facility.

Chairman Zierer informed committee members that Valley Hi is again in need of body wash and depends for those interested in donating these items.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:**

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