

Health & Social Services Committee Minutes
August 5, 2020 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Committee Members Eric Connolly, Todd Kusnierz, Sandra Winney, Tom Wood, Benny Zlotnick; Supervisor Ed Kinowski and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; J. Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction .

Chairman Lucia called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting were approved. Supervisor Kusnierz abstained from voting.

A motion was made by Mr. Zlotnick, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contract with Rejha Group LLC to provide transportation services for preschool children with special needs. Unanimous.

Mr. Carr said that this is a 3 year contract. The current contract will expire at the end of August 2020. The proposed rates are baseline rates and due to the COVID-19 pandemic it may be necessary to come back in the fall to revisit this. Spacing on the bus and the number of children is still unknown. They have averaged 250-300 children annually for the past decade. They anticipate finding out more information this week as to schools opening, rotating basis, week on week off, virtual learning etc. This is a state mandated program. There were two bidders and Rejha was the lowest. Mr. Carr said that due to the current generous unemployment packages, it may be difficult to attract drivers.

A motion was made by Mr. Zlotnick, seconded by Mr. Wood, authorize the Chairman to enter into agreement(s) with Greater Adirondack Home Aides Queensbury NY and NEC Care, Inc. Gansevoort NY for In-Home Respite Care at an hourly rate of \$24.00 beginning September 1, 2020 through December 3, 2020. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross said that currently we only have one agency and they cannot keep up with the demand.

A motion was made by Mr. Kusnierz, seconded by Mrs. Winney, to authorize the Chairman to accept funds from the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) COVID—19 program funded under the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross said that the Office for the Aging will utilize the grant to supplement funding for Seniors 60 and over to access preventative and safety supplies against COVID-19. The office is encouraging the seniors to get their regular flu and pneumonia shots. They are purchasing bags that will contain gloves, mask, thermometer, pill box, cough drops, chicken soup, sanitizing wipes, and Tylenol. These bags will be passed out at the drive-thru senior picnic scheduled for September 10th.

A motion was made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, authorize a contract renewal with Northeast Dining and Lodging d/b/a Golden Corral to provide meals for the Home Delivered Meal Program and the Congregate Meal Program at a cost of \$7.88 per meal for the term January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024. Unanimous.

Ms. Cross said that an RFP was sent out and one response was received. The price per meal will be increased from \$7.61 to \$7.88. Ms. Cross said that they are very happy with the Golden Corral and they especially rose to the occasion during COVID. Ms. Cross said that the \$7.88 rate is for 2021. For each year after that, the CPI is used as the price increase.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize an agreement with Health Research, Inc. to accept a New York State Department of Health Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Grant. Unanimous.

Ms. Medick said that this is an annual grant and will be used to offset salaries. The grant runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The grant amount is \$384,972 with \$200K restricted for use only for Public Health emergencies. Ms. Medick said that some funds from last year's grant were released for the COVID funding. The unused funds are held at the State.

Ms. Medick said that they were informed of a new funding stream coming forth in direct relation to COVID. The funding stream is over \$30M and some of that will come to Saratoga County for COVID related activities.

Ms. Medick said that the new COVID testing machine will be purchased with another Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant.

Mr. Kinowski said that at past meetings he has suggested to Townships and Cities that they consider looking at the Public Health rules for establishing their own Public Health. Until the County Public Health Department is expanded, Towns are supposed to establish their own locals. There are special requirements in obtaining funding through the County. Mr. Kinowski said that he has a package he has put together for this and can provide it to any Supervisor that is interested.

On a motion made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Wood, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board