

JOINT HUMAN SERVICES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

Minutes of Meeting
December 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m.
Administration Building

Committee Members Present: John O'Day, Anita Faraone, Joe Clark, Mark Wisnefski, Judy Rossow, Ed Kubicki, David Arrington, Ruth Booth, Bill Grady

Committee Members Absent: Bob Carbone (excused)

Staff Present: Dennis Schultz, Laurie Staves, Dr. Mary Mainland, Frank Matteo, Bob Riedl, Dave Geertsen

Others Present: Emily Ayshford, Kenosha News; Belinda Thelen, Unite Here

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mark Wisnefski, Acting Chairperson.

2. Citizen's Comments

Belinda Thelen, with the Unite Here Union, said they represent 300,000 workers, of which 70,000 are laundry workers. Kenosha County has a contract with Superior Health Linens for the Brookside residents, which is coming up for automatic renewal at the end of the month. She urged this Committee to put this contract out for bid and call a special meeting to consider the mismanagement at Superior Health Linens (SHL). Packets of information were sent to all County Board supervisors. Dane County decided not to renew their contract after seeing this information. SHL employees' rights were violated in not being allowed to unionize.

David Arrington stated that he received phone calls from Latino people in his district. He would like to look into this closer. If there is some justification to these allegations, we should have a special meeting to address these issues.

Mark Wisnefski said that Brookside will have to look at this and bring it to the Human Services Committee, then back to Finance, and then the County Board.

3. Approval of Minutes: 11/21/06 Jt. HSC/Finance

Finance Committee: MOTION to approve minutes by Anita Faraone, seconded by John O'Day. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Human Services Committee: MOTION to approve minutes by Ed Kubicki, seconded by Ruth Booth. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Medical Examiner: Resolution to Modify the 2006 Budget Resulting from the Increase in Service Activity Related to Autopsy Services provided to other Jurisdictions within the State of Wisconsin

Laurie Staves stated that the purpose of this resolution was to request an increase of \$12,600 in expenditure authority. We are covering this by excess revenue from out-of-county autopsies. The 2006 budget included enough for 175 autopsies and inspections, but we have exceeded that budget. We will be at about 238. We just received 3 more

referral autopsies over the weekend from Ozaukee County. Autopsy revenue will be at \$84,000 - \$85,000 now with these additional autopsies. We are only partially reimbursed for in-county autopsies - \$165 per case, but the cost is \$900+. Any excess revenue from autopsies will be sent back to the general fund. We have to provide these services under State Statute.

Answering Joe Clark's questions, Ms. Staves said that about \$2,500 - \$3,000 could possibly be returned to the general fund, depending on the extra out-of-county autopsies and how many in-county autopsies we get in December. Mr. Clark is correct in stating that the surplus from the out-of-county autopsies covered the extra in-county autopsies.

Dave Geertsen confirmed to Bill Grady that prior to the consortium and handling only in-county autopsies, it was taken from the general fund.

Ms. Staves said that from 2004 - 2006, we have doubled the number of autopsies. John O'Day said that State Statutes require us to do the autopsies and we cannot charge for them.

Dr. Mainland stated that autopsies determine the cause and manner of death. We don't autopsy on request of families or doctors. Dr. Mainland decides what cases need to be autopsied. The Medical Examiner's office runs strictly by State Statute 979. A change in personnel could be the reason for the increase in the number of autopsies. We are doing things the way they do them in surrounding counties. The standards have not changed. We are adhering closer to the standards required by the State. We have improved the professionalism of the Medical Examiner's office and raised the standards of this county.

Anita Faraone said that funeral directors are happier with how the Medical Examiner's Office is running now, as compared to how it was run before.

Dennis Schultz added that law enforcement are also extremely pleased with Dr. Mainland and her office.

Judy Rossow said another reason for increased autopsies could be the increased population in the county.

Dave Geertsen said that in 2004, a \$60,000 deficit was covered with a surplus from DHS. This was the last year of part-time operation. In September, 2004, it was turned over to DHS. This was the last year we had a deficit.

Joe Clark moved, and John O'Day seconded, to bring this resolution back to the County Board as it is, with the information provided.

5. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law
6. Committee Members Comments - None

7. Adjournment

Finance Committee: It was moved to adjourn by Joe Clark, seconded by John O'Day. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee: It was moved to adjourn by Bill Grady, seconded by Ruth Booth. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

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