

JT. HUMAN SERVICES / FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

December 4, 2007

Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Committee Members Absent: Ariana Gillmore (excused)

Staff Present: Dennis Schultz, Frank Matteo, Wayne Krueger, Bob Riedl, Dr. Mary Mainland, Gina Carver, Dave Geertsen, Kenn Yance,

Others Present: Co. Bd. Suprs. Gabe Nudo and Bill Michel

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Judy Rossow, Chairperson.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes - 11/13/07

MOTION to approve minutes by Bill Grady, seconded by Ed Kubicki. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Office of the Medical Examiner: Resolution to Modify the 2008 Budget to Reflect the Addition of a Full-Time Deputy Medical Examiner Position

Judy Rossow stated that we have met on this a few times and would like to bring this to both Finance and Human Services committees tonight.

Dr. Mainland distributed a comparison sheet, stating that at the October Human Services Board meeting, more information was requested. This is a statistical caseload comparison of 2003 to 2007. The workload has grown since she was hired as Medical Examiner. 2003 was the last full year that her predecessor and Human Services took over the Medical Examiner's Office. In 2003, there was Dr. Lavin, her secretary, and 2 full-time DME's (both at levels E and F). They had interns, volunteers and part-time help. This office needs to be staffed around the clock. People don't die just during our office hours. It's reasonable to have a single Medical Examiner and one full-time DME because our workload is so much larger now. The number of deaths has increased. We have to investigate cremation permits as well. We are issuing more death certificates, doing more tissue harvesting on site and have more than doubled the number of autopsies. By year end, we will have performed 162 autopsies. The number of external examinations has doubled and will probably be at 47 by year end. We project that by year end we will have performed a total of 209 autopsies and external exams. We think it's reasonable to have a full-time DME because our workload has doubled from 2003.

We went before the Administration Committee last night and got this position down from a pay grade level of "D" to a "C" to be in sync with other counties. We will be eliminating 2 part-time positions as well as the contracted position. Some of the DME job duties include:

take death reports, investigate deaths over phone and at the scene or hospital, interact with doctors, the deceased's family members and loved ones, law enforcement, and the DA's Office; investigate the death, gather information, write reports, follow-up, obtain medical records, transport body from hospital or scene to our office, do cremation views, go to funeral home, examine the body, take pictures, take fingerprints, look at death certificates, keep supplies stocked, clean examination room, and assist in autopsies. Education required for this position is a high school diploma or GED, supplemented by 60 credits and work experience or training.

The office manager position in 2003 was paid for by Personnel. It was a clerical support-type person paid for out of Personnel's "temporary" budget.

Our office receives revenue from death certificates, removal of bodies from death scenes, signing cremation permits, renting the autopsy room out to harvest tissue, storage fees to funeral homes, and copies fees for reports.

Waukesha County pays \$40,842 - \$51,870 for a DME. Level "C" will pay \$46,177 - \$64,297. This is still higher than other counties. Level "D" was \$49,195 - \$68,498. Anita Faraone said we should look at the "B" level to be more even with Waukesha.

Ms. Faraone said that she has a problem with coming back with something that was denied in the 2008 budget. Our bonding rating has gone up because we have been prudent. We are setting a very bad precedent for other departments. This should have been done at budget time and she will be adhering to the budget process.

Mark Wisniewski agreed with Ms. Faraone. He cannot support this. He doesn't see any new evidence to change his mind. This is just bypassing the budget after it has been passed.

Joe Clark stated that this was discussed at the budget hearing. He will support what the committee's recommendation is.

Bill Grady said that when we met in October, we felt we did not have enough information at that time. We also had no State budget at that time. Three things were requested: (1) New numbers - the exact number of autopsies and exams done. We got those numbers and they did support what the Medical Examiner's Office was saying. (2) The number of hours worked by the Medical Examiner and Assistant. That was provided last month. The ME works 58 hours per week and the DME works 64 hours per week. That is a "lot". These people are going to burn out. (3) Criteria to determine when autopsies are done in Kenosha - what is the protocol. Everyone got a copy of this. It appears as though the statutes were not being followed by Dr. Mainland's predecessor. There is a legitimate case to use the Vacancy Fund for the \$23,496.

John O'Day added that this is a lot different background information than what was brought at budget time. There is no additional levy funded cost. If we approve this, what's the timeframe?

Bob Riedl explained that this will go into the 2008 budget and will be posted in the beginning of the year at the "C" level. We have difficulty retaining part-time people. This will be much better for a full-time person. We will do very well attracting people for this position. The wage is good and the benefits are good. We used the 2002 Carlson evaluation system for this position.

Mr. Clark asked if this position would be at the "B" or "C" level. Mr. Riedl said that we will bring the person in at the entry level of "C". We looked at five counties' salaries when we were determining the level for this position. We went from a "D" to a "C". Years of experience went from 3-5 to "1". This was acceptable to Dr. Mainland. To lower it any further would not be acceptable for Dr. Mainland.

Mr. Wisnefski said there is declining revenue in the ME Office so until they reverse that trend, he cannot support this.

Human Services Committee voted on this item:

MOTION to approve by Ed Kubicki, seconded by Bill Grady. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Finance Committee voted on this item:

MOTION "not" to approve by Mark Wisnefski, seconded by Anita Farone. MOTION FAILED.

MOTION to approve by Joe Clark, seconded by John O'Day. Bob Carbone voted in favor; Mark Wisnefski and Anita Faraone voted against. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None

6. Committee Members Comments

7. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Bill Grady, seconded by Ed Kubicki. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

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