

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

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

Chairman Zierer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman; Rick Klasen; Sandra Salgado; Perry Moy; Blake Hobson; and Dan Shea. Barbara Wheeler was absent. Also in attendance: Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; Tim Wenberg, Valley Hi Administrator; Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; John Hadley, Facilities Management Manager; Barry Valentine, ESDA; and Cathy Link, Purchasing.

Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman	
Blake Hobson	Richard Klasen
Perry Moy	Sandra Salgado
Dan Shea	Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes of April 6, 2006. Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klasen, to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved as submitted, with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of headstones at the Valley-Hi Cemetery: Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klasen, to recommend the County Board approve a Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of headstones at the Valley-Hi Cemetery. It was noted that the Cemetery Board had approved the size and shape of the headstones. It will be possible to mow over the headstones allowing for more efficient lawn maintenance. Chairman Zierer reported that she has been informed by State Representative Althoff that current statutes allow for the cremation of indigents. Mr. Wenberg stated that some headstones in the cemetery appear to be sinking. Chairman Zierer asked that Mr. Wenberg contact Hartland Township as they would be able to provide services to raise these up and resolve this problem. All graves will be properly marked once the proposed headstones are in place. After the discussion, a voice vote was called. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Employee Incentive Program: Mr. Sarbaugh provided an overview to the current incentive program. The goal of the incentive program was to save money. The savings to date has been substantial with gross savings of \$234,075.42 and a net savings of \$146,260.58. The nursing staff team has raised some concerns with the program in that all nursing staff employees are currently rewarded equally. Mr. Sarbaugh noted that after meeting with Valley-Hi staff and discussing these concerns, it was felt a change as to how the bonus earnings are distributed should be considered. He reviewed how the current distributions are calculated, noting that all are given the same bonus – whether they have worked their regular hours or not. It is felt that all should be required to work at least their regular hours in each quarter. If they work at least 403 hours, but less than 503.75 hours in a quarter, they will get a \$1.00 per hour worked reward. If they work less than 403 hours the reward will be \$.50 per hour. If they work 503.75 hours in the quarter, the bonus reward will be \$2.00 per hour. To be eligible for the incentive program, the person must work at least 40 hours per week. With this revised program, all nursing staff will still be rewarded. Mr. Sarbaugh also noted that to get Incentive Program pay, there must be a reduction in agency costs by 25%. Members question if the percentage would be realistic at this time. After a discussion, members asked that the reduction in agency costs be changed to 15% through November of 2006. Mr. Sarbaugh asked for authorization to take the revised incentive program to the State's Attorney. Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moy, to request a State's Attorney's opinion on the revised incentive program. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Discussion of 127 TV's for resident rooms and Satellite TV service for Valley-Hi: Mr. Hadley reported that Valley-Hi residents currently provide their own televisions if they wish one in their rooms. Each resident room in the new facility will have two television wall racks. Each rack will hold up to a 24" television. The Foundation also has two larger televisions which are hooked to a satellite dish. Resident's televisions currently have reception only through antennas. It was noted that only satellite reception is available at the Valley-Hi located. Mr. Hadley stated in reviewing options for resident televisions in the new facility the following would be possible: (1) purchase 127 televisions which will be connected to a satellite dish (cost for installation/hardware would be

\$7,000; cost for the sets would be \$252.57 monthly). Members questioned if it was necessary to provide each room with two television sets and noted that in three years those sets would begin to go bad and would need repair or replacement. Mr. Austin stated at this time staff needs direction from the Committee regarding if television sets should be purchased for all rooms and what kind of reception service should be installed. Mr. Moy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Zierer, to have staff move forward with the concept of buying the installation/hardware for television reception in each room and to create options for either purchasing or leasing televisions for each room so the Committee will have a clearer understanding of this issue prior to making a final decision. Mr. Klasen raised concern that in addition to televisions, VCR/DVD, CD, etc. will become requests. He went on to state that this will be a state of the arts facility and each room should at least be wired for reception services. A vote was called on the motion. The motion carried with three ayes (Moy, Klasen and Zierer) and two nays (Shea and Hobson).

OLD BUSINESS

Valley-Hi relocation to new Facility: Mr. Labaj reported that he is still waiting for additional information on liability issues, noting that bids are due on Friday. Mr. Austin stated that more time is needed to put options together for Committee consideration, noting that current options that are being researched are (1) hiring a private firm or (2) coordinating with local fire protection districts. Chairman Zierer noted that Marengo Rescue Squad is willing to provide services and have liability insurance coverage for such work. She noted that Wonder Lake has also agreed to assist in moving patients. Mr. Klasen felt that the move of the patients could be a "win/win situation" if this operation could be used as an evacuation procedure for the Fire Protection Districts. It would provide an opportunity for those entities to use their emergency squad and would be a cost savings for the County. Mr. Austin stated he understood the motivation, but liability issues and costs must be determined prior to making a decision. He added that the move must be done as a coordinated effort and all issues must be resolved before a final plan is implemented. Mr. Labaj noted that medical transportation is not covered under the County's current liability coverage. He went on to state that it may not be possible to get all fire protection districts together on the same day at the same time to conduct this move. It was noted that currently 48 residents will need added assistance to move to the new facility. A one-day "mass" move of all patients may be impracticable; the goal is to make the move in a method that is the least stressful to all patients. Chairman Zierer questioned why it was necessary to go out for bids and why we do not have the price available from Market Financial. Mr. Labaj stated before we obtain a price from Market Financial we must provide the costs received from the rescue squads. It was agreed that staff would provide options for Committee consideration at the next scheduled meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Valley Hi Administrator's Report: The Administrator's report was presented by Mr. Wenberg. He noted that he has been meeting with those families that have outstanding balances and after discussing concerns with each family, they have been able to secure payments of these outstanding debts through better understanding. He reported that during a recent inspection, several conditions were reported. He is currently writing letters requesting a waiver of most concerns (48 waivers in total). Mr. Hadley reported that he is working with construction on the use of native plants for landscaping and plant material for Valley-Hi. In weekly meetings with the contractor, the goal continues to be that the facility will be substantially completed by September. Chairman Zierer commented that the delays have been inexcusable and emphasized the importance of being able to move the residents to the new facility before inclement weather. Mr. Hadley also reported that he is checking on liability insurance to see if a walk through of the facility by the Committee would be possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Klasen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moy to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of headstones at the Valley-Hi Cemetery

:bjt