

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

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2006

Chairman Zierer called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman; Mary Donner; James Kennedy and Dan Shea. Ms. Wheeler arrived at 9:29a.m. and left at 9:32a.m. Randy Donley arrived at 9:32a.m. Sandra Salgado was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator – Finance; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; John Hadley, Facilities Management; Tim Wenberg, Valley Hi Administrator; and Tom Sullivan, IT Department.

Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman	
Randy Donley	Mary Donner
James Kennedy	Sandra Salgado
Dan Shea	Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Zierer, to approve the minutes of November 2, 2006. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Wireless Access Points in New Facility – Information Technology: Mr. Sullivan joined committee members regarding the wireless access points to the new facility. Mr. Sullivan reminded committee members that the new facility has wireless access points at the new facility. After beginning the installation it was discovered that the system needed to be upgraded. He noted a decision was needed to go ahead with the upgrade at the time of the installation using Information Technology budget. Mr. Sullivan requested the system be paid for by Valley Hi. He noted the system costs just under \$20,000. Committee members questioned whether the construction project fund still has funding available to pay for this project. Mr. Sarbaugh noted he had not looked at the fund and could not answer that but noted there should be some funds available. He noted that additional funds were placed in the Valley Hi Contingency Fund to handle excess expenses caused from the move and construction. Chairman Zierer noted that Valley Hi may have additional expenses that need to be taken into account for possible security costs. Discussion has taken place regarding the possibility of hiring Andy Frain Security Services for Valley Hi from 4:00p.m.-8:00p.m. and on weekends. It was noted that Administration is looking at a cost effective way to handle access and exit issues at Valley Hi. Committee members stated they were concerned that there would not be enough Andy Frain personnel to handle the less than full time hours. Mr. Labaj noted that we have requested Andy Frain hire additional personnel to handle absent employee issues and this third person could be offered an expanded schedule. It was noted that there are also secretaries who work after normal Government Center hours that could be placed at the entrance to handle these access issues as well. Since Valley Hi is a 24 hour service facility, this would allow for needed scheduling of hours. After discussion, Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to recommend the Building Construction Fund pay for the Wireless Access Points System, not to exceed \$20,000 for the new Valley Hi facility. The motion carried with all members present voting aye. Mr. Austin noted that he would be bringing forward a cost analysis with corresponding costs regarding the additional costs for security. Mr. Austin noted that cost is not the only issue that needs to be looked at. It was noted that the security issues will be discussed at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Ms. Wheeler arrived at 9:29a.m.

Mr. Donley arrived at 9:32a.m.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Transition Team Update: Mr. Labaj reported that the transition team is still meeting on a weekly basis. He stated that they are hopeful to schedule the move for January 7th. The architect inspection has now passed which now allows for the Nursing Division to come in for their inspection. Once this policy and procedures inspection has passed the facility can be moved into. No date has been provided for this inspection. As soon as this inspection has been completed the movers will be notified to firm the moving schedule.

Administrators Report: Mr. Wenberg provided committee members with his administrators report. He noted future reports will include an anecdote of issues that go on at Valley Hi. He stated that the Dietary Director has given her resignation. They are working with Human Resources to get this position filled. Mr. Wenberg noted that he would like to thank three individuals who have worked diligently to get the new facility completed. He stated that Mr. Labaj has worked very well as the leader for the Transition Team and has done a fabulous job. He stated that Mr. Hadley has done a fantastic job to keep the current facility up and running as well as helped with issues at the new facility and help with removing construction debris from inside the new facility. Lastly, he thanked Ms. Link for her help with purchasing the required items for the new facility. He noted that she has helped guide them through the purchasing process. He stated it has been a pleasure to be a part of this team.

Construction Update: Mr. Hadley noted that the Valley Hi facility is now near completion from a project that was started in October of 2004. He noted they are working to have the punch list of additional repairs completed. The housekeeping staff will wax and buff the floors in anticipation of the next inspection. He noted that the move of the equipment and personnel will be very hectic but, the County Board should be very proud of their new facility. The Valley Hi facility will be given an award for the building from the Brick Association and another award will be received next year for the design of the building. The washers and dryers are to be moved in the near future. During the day of the move, some medical equipment and the medical charts will be moved, prior to the move of the residents.

Volunteer Update: Chairman Zierer requested help from committee members Ms. Donner with the volunteer program at Valley Hi. She noted that Ms. Donners' extensive network should help with this process. Chairman Zierer noted that volunteer help will be needed in the ice cream parlor as well as other areas of the facility. Mr. Wenberg noted that he and some of the staff will be requesting volunteer help from area churches as well. It was noted that they would like to have the ice cream parlor open at least three times per week.

Incentive Program Update: Mr. Sarbaugh provided an explanation of the incentive program to the new members of the committee. He reported that staff did not reach the goals for the incentive program for the previous two quarters. He noted he has meet with the Director and Assistant Director of Nursing and Mr. Wenberg to come up with ways to enhance this program. It is hopeful that the new facility will attract and keep employees. Mr. Wenberg noted that this is the first time since 1884 that the facility has funds in the bank, a full census of residents, a great staff, are able to pay bills on time and the facility is running very well.

Mr. Sarbaugh informed committee members that back in 2004 the Chairman worked with the State to bring forward a alternative reimbursement method. This program ended November 30th. The Federal Government did not like the way the State handled the program. Before a County Nursing Home could chose whether or not they wanted to use this method. Now it is mandatory that all of the County Nursing homes in the States have to be a part of this program. We are now required to pay a flat fee to the State, up front, and they then reimburse us for any costs for care for Medicaid patients. We have budgeted \$1,699,354.14 per quarter. This now allows the State to be in line with the Federal Program. He noted that there are no guarantees that we will get the funding back in a timely manner. The amounts could change on a yearly basis, based upon the resident census. Committee members questioned how many private pay beds are available at the facility. It was noted that the County Board has requested that as many beds as possible be for Public Aid persons. It was stated that a lot of the private pay persons become a Public Aid patient within a short time of entering the facility. The facility does not have many long term private pay residents. Mr. Sarbaugh noted that the facility has the most problems, collecting debt, from the private pay residents. It was noted that the current private pay residents pay \$155 per day. It was noted that area nursing homes will be checked to see what is charged for private pay residents in the area. Committee members questioned if the per day rate could be adjusted yearly based upon the cost of living. It was noted this might be a good idea and will be looked into.

Chairman Zierer noted she has been approached by an area boy scout troop wanting to help with a project at the new facility. She requested committee members to think of a project for this troop.

The Christmas party has been scheduled for the 21st and 22nd to allow for a party for the Alzheimer's patients. The parties have been scheduled for 1:30p.m. for those interested in attending. Chairman Zierer noted they are looking for calendars to present to the residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Donley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

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