

COUNTY OF OSWEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 3, 2008

PRESENT:

Jack Proud, Chair
Barbara Brown, Vice Chair
Art Gearsbeck
Margaret Kastler
Morris Sorbello

STAFF/GUESTS:

Phil Church, County Administrator
Frances Lanigan, Commissioner of Social Services
Louella LeClair, Legislator
Barry Leemann, Chairman of Legislature
Larry Schmidt, Director, Office for the Aging
Lee Walker, Legislator
Evan Walsh, Associate Public Health Sanitarian
Jeanette Woodland, Administrative Secretary

EXCUSED:

Daniel Chalifoux

MEDIA:

Christopher Gosek, Palladium Times
Charles McChesney, Post Standard

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Attendance:

Committee Chair Proud called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Old Business:

Committee Chair Proud asked for a motion to approve the January 23, 2008, minutes.

Motion: Legislator Sorbello

Second: Legislator Brown

Minutes were approved, with all in favor.

Committee Business:

1. Social Services

a. Resolution

RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED SHIFT OF THE STATE'S HISTORIC SHARE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES. County Administrator Church introduced this resolution opposing the increase in local share of public assistance. The State, which has historically shared costs for public assistance in the TANF and Safety Net programs, is proposing to shift a portion of its cost, requiring counties to pay two percent more decreasing their cost by the same amount. The extra cost for Oswego County in 2008-2009 would be \$175,602. Leg. Malone said that he would not support this resolution as it would increase his state sales tax and that it should have been done years ago. Legislator Brown said that she had lobbied a motion on the floor to cap Medicaid, as we were 34.5 percent, the highest in New York State.

Motion: Legislator Brown made a motion to approve the proposed resolution.

Second: Legislator Gearsbeck

Chairman Proud asked for a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Brown, Sorbello, Gearsbeck, Proud, Kastler

No: Malone

Motion carried.

b. Resolution

RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED SHIFT OF 100 PERCENT OF THE COST OF JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES TO COUNTIES.

County Administrator Church introduced this resolution, which would oppose the State's requirement of counties to assume the full cost of youth placed by the Family Court in secure and non-secure detention facilities. He added that this resolution would have to be amended estimating cost to the county to be \$222,000, instead of \$240,000. This is a cost split between DSS and Probation. DSS cost for 2008 would be \$45,000 and in 2009 increase to \$60,000. Probation cost for 2008 would be \$50,000 and 2009 increase to \$57,000. In discussion Legislator Proud added that if this becomes a trend of the State in trying to shift their share back to the counties, it could cause a financial problem.

Motion: Legislator Brown made a motion to approve the amended proposed resolution.

Second: Legislator Sorbello

Vote: All in favor except Legislator Malone, who opposed.

Motion carried.

When asked if this other counties were also supporting this resolution, Mr. Church said that he thought it was a state-wide effort and that copies of the resolutions would be forwarded to all state representatives and the Governor's representative in Syracuse.

2. Traffic Safety Board Appointments

a. Resolution

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OSWEGO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD.

A resolution to appoint/reappoint members to the Traffic Safety Board was presented. Members serve 3-year, terms, which are staggered. Proposed appointed and reappointed members and the date in which their term expires is as follows:

Sgt. Brian Woodard	New York State Police	12/31/09
Tom Gunn	Oswego City Schools Transportation	12/31/09
Chris Sharkey	Oswego City Schools Transportation	12/31/09
Raymond Haynes	State Farm Insurance	12/31/10
Margaret Beers	Oswego Hospital	12/31/10
Joanne Hutchinson	M.A.D.D.	12/31/10
Diane Oldenburg	Oswego County Health Department	12/31/10
Paul Stoner	Oswego County STOP-DWI	12/31/10
Dave Martin	Crouse Hospital	12/31/09
Robert Lighthall	Oswego County Undersheriff	12/31/09
Kevin Velzy	SUNY Oswego Police	12/31/09
Joe Pappalardo	Fulton Police	12/31/10
Beth Kazel	OCO Head Start	12/31/09
Capt. Mike Beckwith	Oswego City Police	12/31/09

Motion: Legislator Brown made a motion to approve the resolution.
Second: Legislator Sorbello

In a response to Legislator Walker's question as to whether you need to be a resident of Oswego County to serve on this committee, County Administrator Church advised that he would find out what the required membership is and get back to him with an answer.

Vote: All in favor
Motion carried.

3. Health

a. Resolution

RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO REMOVE COUNTIES FROM THE FISCAL AND PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. County Administrator Church introduced this resolution that addresses the preschool special education program. The State proposes to limit the growth of county expenditures for the preschool special education program capping it, by 4 percent in 2008, 3.5 percent in 2009 and 3 percent the next year and every year thereafter. The costs should be the responsibility of the school districts, as they have a say in all administrative decisions, the county does not. Therefore the county should not have to carry the financial burden.

Motion: Legislator Brown made a motion to approve the proposed resolution.
Second: Legislator Gearsbeck
Vote: All in favor
Motion carried.

- b. Jack Proud, Committee Chair, read a letter (attached) written by Legislator Fred Beardsley that was sent to NYS Health Commissioner Richard Daines concerning the closing of the Health Center in Central Square. Discussion followed with Legislator Gearsbeck stating that he went to Albany and talked to the Assistant Director who said that they were just talking and that it will be open for another 90 days, maybe longer. Some doctors are interested in taking it over as well as the Oswego Hospital maybe being interested. Leg. Chairman Barry Leemann said that he had an update, as he talked to Assemblymen Barkley and Townsend and that three groups may be looking at the facility, OCO, doctors, and Oswego Hospital. They are trying to negotiate and confirmed Legislator Gearsbeck's timeframe regarding how long the facility may remain open. Legislator Walker suggested making a call to newly elected Senator Aubertine. Chairman Leemann added that a letter was sent this day to invite the Senator to meet with Oswego County representatives. After much discussion Leg. Proud asked if a report should be prepared to go to the Legislature. After discussing further it was determined that Leg. Proud would mention this situation to the members of the Board of Health who are meeting on March 6. Another meeting could be scheduled prior to the regularly scheduled March meeting regarding this one issue.

4. Veterans

Legislator Proud advised that there would not be a report from Donna Kestner as she would not be able to attend due to illness.

As requested at the January Committee meeting, Fran Lanigan, Commissioner of Social Services, provided Committee members with a listing of Social Services' acronyms.

A copy of the 2008 Rabies Clinic schedule was given to Committee members.

Motion: Legislator Brown made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter.

Second: Legislator Gearsbeck

Vote: All in favor

Motion carried.

The Committee moved into Executive Session at 1:40 p.m.

Adjournment

Upon returning from Executive Session no further action was taken and the meeting was adjourned.