

COUNTY HOME ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

Members Present:

Jo Becks	Ken Miller	Cheryl Scheck	Phebe Simpson
Brian Feron	Emily Muscatello	Randy Schmidt	

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Sharon Ray	Lynn Remington
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Excused:

Randy Bing	Craig Enoch	Skip Sipos
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► **Call to Order**

Chair Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. at the Medina County Home. He noted that the agenda would be amended to move the approval of the minutes to the end of the meeting.

► **Committee Reports**

• Finance

Brian Feron reported that members had made two recommendations to the Commissioners, one for the daily rate and one for the replacement levy (.2 mills). He asked if Commissioner Ray had further information regarding this.

Sharon Ray noted that there was a compromise by the Commissioners regarding the rate increase. The Advisory Council had recommended a 3% rate increase effective July 1. After discussion and public comment, the Commissioners approved a 4% increase. Regarding the levy, one of the Commissioners is uncomfortable with a replacement levy instead of a renewal levy and that the seven residents able to pay the full rate, aren't paying the full rate. She distributed a sheet containing estimated budget figures (including the adult daycare) for July 2007 through June 2012 that was prepared by the Finance Department; the figures are conservative. The replacement and renewal figures are very close.

Brian Feron noted that everyone is assuming that property values will continue to increase; however, contrary reports are being published. He is concerned with "hanging his hat" that property values will continue to increase. Sharon replied that this is a valid concern and that Chris Jakab likely used very conservative figures in assessing property values. Brian stated that the difference between a replacement and renewal is about \$34,000 annually. There are unknown expenses such as fuel and utilities and that was one justification for the replacement. Another unknown expense is capital costs. Although they appear to be under control for now, the building is old and it wouldn't take long to spend \$25,000 a year. It was noted that the capacity for the County Home is 60 residents and full capacity has never been reached. For the property owner, the difference between the replacement (\$6.30) and the renewal (\$5.80) is only 50¢. He expressed his concern that if the commissioners' vote regarding a replacement or renewal isn't unanimous, it would generate negative publicity. It is imperative that the issue be placed on the November ballot. Brian stated that they worked very hard to make the correct decision, that Chris and Lynn have done a great job of managing the budget, they are using volunteer hours appropriately, and the taxpayers' value is extremely high at the County Home.

Jo Becks mentioned that there might be a difference in the public's perception between a "renewal" and a "replacement." People tend to think that a renewal won't increase the tax rate they currently pay; they may question a "replacement". Brian said that if the difference in the amounts were greater, he could better understand an argument. Due to the uncertainty of the client mix and other subsidized funding, the annual budget is very close.

Sharon Ray stated she would ask Chris Jakab if the millage could be reduced if the adult daycare program generates more revenue than expected. Emily Muscatello stated that very few daycares make money. Currently, in-home providers receive state-subsidized funding called "Stay Home Instead" and many families choose to keep the person home as long as possible and have a relative, friend, or neighbor receive payment. Changes are

being proposed so that the caregivers must be screened; therefore, more people may be attending daycare centers because those employees are already screened.

Randy Schmidt stated that the Council has always considered taxpayers **and** residents in all of their decisions. Cheryl Scheck expressed the need to not lose sight of required and unexpected capital improvements and that a replacement levy will give a little cushion. Brian Feron noted that with adjusted daily rates, invaluable community support, and the new daycare program, the County Home is self-sufficient. He doesn't understand the resistance.

Emily Muscatello suggested that there must be a misunderstanding regarding those residents who have resources. Cheryl Scheck stated that each resident's resources is investigated carefully and those with resources pay the full amount. The resources are verified by Job & Family Services. There may have been instances when a resident didn't remember, or their family didn't know about, some resources (CDs, IRAs, etc.), but eventually it is discovered and the money is recovered.

Brian Feron stated that a fact sheet will be utilized for the levy campaign so that everyone is comfortable with relaying correct information. Everyone needs to understand that if the County Home doesn't exist, their loved one will need to be placed somewhere that will be more expensive.

It was consensus that Chair Ken Miller should send a letter of clarification/information to the Commissioners that the County Home Advisory Council continues to stand behind its April 26 recommendation to place a .2 mill replacement levy on the November 2006 ballot. Notations will be made that members have reviewed all of the available information and anticipated expenses so that taxpayers are treated fairly. Every incoming resident has an asset review so that they pay the full amount as long as possible. Due to the uncertainty of the price of gas, utilities, medical, and capital improvements, they feel it is a much more responsible decision to place a replacement levy on the November 2006 ballot. The committee is united and are asking that the Commissioners consider their recommendation.

Some members stated they didn't know that a Public Hearing was scheduled regarding the rate increase. Others stated that they had seen the notice in the newspaper(s). It was suggested that the Clerk to the Commissioners notify that Chairman of the County Home Advisory Council whenever there is a Public Hearing concerning the Council. The Chairman can then notify members of the Council.

- Policies and Procedures

Emily Muscatello stated that they didn't hold a meeting because of member unavailability. Policies and procedures were reviewed and forwarded to Carol Shockley for review.

- Marketing & Technology

Cheryl Scheck reported that the committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. before the June 28 meeting.

► **Finance Report**

There were no questions or concerns.

► **Administrator's Report**

Lynn Remington asked if anyone noticed a big change when they came to the building. After many incorrect answers, Lynn reported that someone donated the time and equipment to remove the two large pine trees at the front of the property.

There were 53 residents at the beginning of April, 2 admissions, and 3 releases; therefore, the count was 52 at the end of the month. There were 3 inquiries. Projects included preparing the lawn equipment and cleaning the barns. Repairs included a new pump in the whirlpool, relays for the pump house to the sprinkler system, and updating the elevator. There were critical and food inspections with no violations. Fire extinguishers were updated and a quality assurance inspection by Safety Coordinator Keith Blair was held. The backflow was checked, showing repairs need to be done. Lynn attended the OCHA meeting on April 27 in Columbus and has been participating in several public relations activities to promote the County Home.

Activities included bowling, an Easter egg hunt, Senior Day, and a Mothers' Day program. Donations were received from Medina Moose, Crosspointe Church, a computer desk, and a case of eyeglass cleaner. There were

30 volunteers who worked 145 hours in April. She noted that to-date in May, there were 94 volunteers working 444 hours.

Lynn received a telephone call from Mayor Jane Leaver who referred Microsoft to her. Meals are purchased by Microsoft for training sessions (gourmet sandwiches, dessert, etc.) and those not used are donated to the County Home. Microsoft is looking for a computer and a color printer that will then be donated. Ralph Berry donated a desk, computer desk, table, and two guest chairs (for Chris). The Cloverleaf Key Club will be visiting on Saturday.

Emily Muscatello stated that her facility is receiving 24 new beds and will donate as many beds as Lynn would like. They are in good shape and have cherry headboards.

▶ **New Business**

Sharon Ray reported that Lynn will be making a report at Monday's Commissioners meeting regarding the adult daycare program. Sharon and Lynn taped for "Your Medina County", talking about the adult daycare program and touring the facility inside and outside. Lynn commended the residents for helping to prepare the facility for the taping. "Your Medina County" airs on the Brunswick, Medina, and Wadsworth cable television stations and the County Home will be featured in June.

Ken Miller noted that Debbie from Metropolitan Housing will be contacted to inquire about her availability for next month's meeting.

▶ **Public Comments**

None

▶ **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Emily Muscatello moved to approve the minutes of April 26, 2006; the motion was seconded by Cheryl Scheck. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

▶ **Announcements**

Brian Feron noted that there will be a benefit fundraiser for the Society for the Handicapped in memory of his brother Tim who passed away last year. The event will be held at Camp Paradise on Sunday, June 25. There will be food, indoor swimming for children, and raffles.

▶ **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

▶ **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at the County Home and will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. with a tour of the County Home.

▶ **Future 2006 Meetings**

June 28	August 30	October 25
July 26	September 27	November 29

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Folk CPS, Secretary