

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY & RESIDENTIAL HALL**

DATE: **MARCH 31, 2006**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Haskell
Tessier
Champagne
O'Connor
Barody
Mason
Geraghty

Others Present:

Representing Westmount Health Facility:
Hal Payne, Administrator
Representing CSEA:
Mark A. Stipano, Industrial Hygiene
Specialist
Gary China, Safety Specialist
Jon Premo, Labor Relations Specialist
Joan Parsons, Commissioner of Administrative
and Fiscal Services
Supervisor Stec
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Debra L. Schreiber, Legislative Office Specialist

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order at 11:26 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Geraghty, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2006 Westmount Health Facility Committee Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Payne, Administrator of Westmount Health Facility/Countryside Adult Home, who distributed copies of his agenda packet to members of the committee, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Referring to the Agenda, under Countryside Adult Home, Mr. Payne commenced the meeting by discussing the renovations for the Warrensburg meal site. He commented he had just been informed the Federal Programs Committee intended to forward a letter in conjunction with the waiver he had completed supporting the location of the meal site.

Mr. Barody requested the chairman ask the department head to email the committee agenda to the members of the committee at least one day prior to the meeting.

Continuing on with the second item on the Agenda under Countryside Adult Home, Window Installation, Mr. Payne stated he had received an estimated purchase cost of \$23,000 from Rist-Frost Associates for the windows. The County crew would do the installation, noted Mr. Haskell. Mr. Payne apprised the committee he met with Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. and they discussed rolling the installation cost of the windows into the energy conservation project to keep the project budget neutral. He noted a determination needed to be made whether the County or

Siemens would be bidding the windows. In response to a question by Mr. Haskell concerning the amount owed to Rist-Frost Associates, Mr. Payne replied the total cost was approximately \$5,000. In addition, he said they were responsible for random checks during the installation process that was included in the contract but that would be billed at a later date.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously approving the request as presented and refer same to the Finance Committee for consideration. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes. (Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined only \$2,500 was needed to pay the engineering charge to Rist-Frost Associates. The Finance Committee directed Mr. Payne to transfer the funds from the Countryside Adult Home budget.)

With respect to Item 3 of the Agenda, Laundry, Mr. Payne advised in an effort to conserve water, they closed the laundry facilities at Countryside Adult Home. The employee that was responsible for laundry detail had been reassigned with some cleaning duties, Mr. Payne apprised, since the laborers were now running the laundry back and forth to Westmount everyday instead of three days a week. Mr. O'Connor questioned whether it would have been feasible to reassign the laundry person from Countryside to Westmount. Mr. Payne responded that she still sorted, folded and distributed the laundry, just was not operating the machines. Mr. Haskell suggested continuing that practice after the installation of the new septic system for two reasons: a) lessen the potential to have problems in the future; and b) Westmount Health Facility received free hot water with the co-generation project.

The last item on the Countryside Adult Home Agenda related to Psychological Services as Mr. Payne stated there was a contract at Westmount with C.H.E. Senior Psychological Services and they would like Countryside to contract with them, as well for psychological services at no cost to the facility Adult Home.

Motion was made by Mr. Barody and seconded by Mr. Mason.

Mr. Champagne questioned who paid for the services rendered and Mr. Payne responded they did independent billing to Medicare/Medicaid.

After discussion, Mr. Haskell called the question and the motion was carried by unanimous vote. The necessary resolution was authorized for the April 13, 2006 board meeting and a copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

After the introduction of the town supervisors, Mr. Mark Stipano, Industrial Hygienist for CSEA (Civil Service Employees Association) introduced himself as well as other members of CSEA, Gary China, Safety Specialist for CSEA; Jon Premo, Labor Relations Specialist for CSEA.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Stipano who said he wished to thank the committee and the County for the opportunity to give the Lift Presentation. In addition, Mr. Stipano said he would like to thank the County for the opportunity to come up next month and provide the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) 10-hour training for the County highway department, as well as some of the towns throughout the County. Mr. Stipano noted this training was being provided as a result of a grant award, and he said he would estimate a savings of \$15,000 to the County as a result of not having a consultant come in to provide this training.

Mr. Haskell apprised some supervisors would like to see a trainer program to take back to the towns and villages so they could train their own people. Mr. Stipano suggested forwarding him the contact names and their branch manager would get in touch with them.

Mr. Stipano commenced his presentation which related to the possibility of putting patient movement devices into the Westmount Nursing Home and the potential savings to the County associated with the lifts. He said he had first addressed this issue with the County in 2004 by compiling six years of County loss data and calculating the kind of losses that occur at the Westmount Nursing Home as a result of moving and transferring patients. He compared the total annual worker compensation losses with the total annual worker compensation losses from patient movement, noting the patient movement injuries accounted for 4% of the facilities budget.

Mr. Stipano reported a case study had been done of the Wyandot County Nursing Home. He mentioned the study had been published in the OSHA Nursing Home publication, and he reviewed both the tangible and intangible results of the study.

Mr. Stipano said he calculated the future savings to Westmount Nursing Home with intervention and gave a comparison analysis making the same changes Wyandot Nursing Home made. In addition, Mr. Stipano reported the difference between past lost time analysis as well as future costs of lost time with intervention amounted to an average annual savings of \$81,412.

Mr. Stipano concluded his presentation by apprising the committee of some of the indirect costs not included in the analysis, as well as employee responses to the lift system. A copy of the power point presentation provided by Mr. Stipano is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Stec entered the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Mr. Barody stated he wished to thank Mr. Stipano for a great presentation. Most skilled facilities had already installed the lifts for obvious reasons, he added. Mr. Barody said he would recommend portable lifts as it was hard to decide which room required the lifts. Mr. Champagne queried about the difference between the

portable lift and the Hoyer lift and Mr. Barody replied the Hoyer lifts were the older style and not as adaptable. Mr. Stipano added that was the advantage to the overhead lifts was that they took up less space in the room and in many rooms there was insufficient room to move the portable lifts.

Mr. Haskell added this was welcomed with open arms by the Insurance Committee. Mr. Champagne inquired what local facilities currently had these lifts and Mr. Stipano responded there was one nursing home facility in Clifton Park and one in Scotia, both with overhead tracks. He stated he would be happy to supply the contact information.

Mr. Barody commented one issue that had always been at the heart of any safety program he had come across in the health care facility was light duty job descriptions that were reviewed and approved by the medical director. He noted, part of getting people back to work was having an incentive program within the facility. In his work experience, Mr. Barody said he had safety incentives and awards in place. Mr. Payne commented his department had a light duty job system in place, such as folding clothes and making beds.

Mr. Stipano presented information from the Senate and Assembly that assisted nursing homes in the funding process so they were able to afford to install the lifts. The senate bill appropriated the funds for the program which was followed by the Assembly bill that put the program in place. The bill was signed in October by the Governor and currently the Department of Health (DOH) was working on putting the funding in place. He said he anticipated that sometime later this year they would commence making offers that public and private sector nursing homes could request funds to install lifts in their facility.

Mr. Stipano thanked the committee for allowing him the opportunity to present this information.

The CSEA presentation concluded at 11:10 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously authorizing that the Homes for the Aging Proclamation as requested be prepared and presented at the April 13, 2006 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Continuing with Westmount Health Facility Agenda, Mr. Payne requested a new contract commencing April 17, 2006 with Adelpia Cablevision to provide cable television services to each resident room at a monthly rate of \$6.28 per room.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously approving the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 13, 2006 board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Referring to the third item of the Agenda, Mr. Payne reported the Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) payment had been determined to be at \$36 million for 2005 and Westmount would be receiving \$232,000 within the next four weeks.

With respect to the 2007 and 2008 budgets, Mr. Payne summarized in 2007 of the approximately \$33 million distributed amongst the counties, Warren County would receive \$213,000; in 2008 of the \$66 million Warren County would receive \$427,000; and in 2009, they would receive \$640,000 of the \$100 million distribution.

At the previous committee meeting, Mr. Payne stated they discussed the IDR (Informal Dispute Resolution) and he was advised it would be at least another month. However, he noted the DOH had been back in the building and they were in full compliance.

Referring to Item 6 of the Agenda, Mr. Payne reported the time clock used by the employees was 18 years old and needed to be updated. He apprised there was no cost to upgrade but there was a \$175 per hour labor charge. Mr. Barody queried about the status of the upgrade to the County timekeeping system and Mr. Haskell recommended tabling this particular item for the next committee meeting.

Mr. Payne said the next resolution was a request to contract for transfer agreements between Westmount/Countryside residents and the residents of other area nursing homes. He stated the purpose of the agreement was to transfer them to another facility in the event of an emergency and vice versa.

Motion was made by Mr. Barody, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously approving the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

The last item on the Agenda was the Staffing Report and Mr. Payne informed the committee they were currently running an ad in the Post Star and had received very little response. In March, he said, he attended the Job Fair at Adirondack Community College (ACC) that yielded some good results, including two CNA's (Certified Nursing Assistant) and 2 RN's (Registered Nurse) that were offered and that accepted per diem work. He stated his department received better responses from the job fairs than the newspapers and TV ads.

Although it was not on the Agenda, Mr. Payne commented he received a call stating the septic system at the Countryside Adult Home would have to be pumped every day until the new one was installed.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne and seconded Mr. Mason to approve the septic system replacement at Countryside Adult Home in the amount of \$320,000.

Mrs. Parsons inquired if the \$320,000 included the engineering costs and Mr. Payne replied that it was already funded and a capital project had been established. (Capital Project No. H261.9550 280 - Septic System Replacement at Countryside Adult Home)

After discussion, the motion was carried unanimously and the committee authorized this request be forwarded to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Mr. Payne informed the committee on May 21, 2006 two residents of Westmount Health Facility were getting married. Mr. Haskell asked Mr. Payne to notify all supervisors.

Mr. Champagne commented he continued to struggle with the Department of Public Works (DPW) organizational chart for County Facilities, and in particular, the two projects, windows and sewer. He said it appeared there was a lack of communication. Mr. Haskell stated he could not agree more and he promised to discuss it with them before the next County Facilities meeting. There were a few barriers they had to break down but they needed to be broken down to work together, noted Mr. Haskell. Mr. Champagne said he was talking about repairing roofs, long-term maintenance, scheduled maintenance over a five year period, what needed to be done and what funds should be set aside for those types of projects down the road. Mr. Champagne commented he was not happy.

There being no further business before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Barody and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Mr. Haskell adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Schreiber
Legislative Office Specialist