**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND PARKS AND RECREATION**

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Health and Human Services and Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting was called to order in the Board Conference Room by Vice-Chairperson Byl on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Ms. Meyette, Mr. Walker, Mr. Gustafson, Mr. Byl, Mr. Powers, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Sebolt and Mr. Brown.

Also present were: Mr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. Larry VanSickle, Oceana County Medical Care Facility Board; Mr. Gary Davis, Oceana County Medical Care Facility Board; Mr. Jordan Slate, Controller for the Oceana County Medical Care Facility; Mr. Charles Ritchard, Oceana County Canvass Board Chairman; Ms. Lori Green, Weare Township resident; and Mr. John Cavanaugh, Oceana’s Herald-Journal correspondent.

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting as prepared.

Voice Vote. Motion carried.

No public comment on agenda items at this time.

Mr. Gary Davis, Oceana County Medical Care Facility Administrator, facilitated a discussion regarding the Medical Care Facility’s (MCF) multiple funding sources and their unpredictability. Mr. Davis briefly discussed major sources of revenue such as the millage, Medicaid, and CPE funding; as well as major expenditures such as labor costs.

Staffing and labor related issues are 70% - 75% of the MCF’s spending. The wages of MCF are competitive with other facilities, hospitals, etc. and the benefit package is extremely healthy. However, there has been a constant high turnover rate for new hires and expenditures related to that. Hopefully, with the new Preceptive Program in place as a screening tool for new hires, this will reduce the turnover rate.

With accounts receivable there had been some issues with Medicaid patients not having their resubmission paperwork turned in on time, which can delay payments for residents. The recertification for Medicaid residents is yearly and there have been improvements in that area so as to no lapse payments.

With operational changes, the MCF had hoped to be able to admit more residents clinically. Nurses have attended training/educational classes to be able to administer care for patients with all types of needs. There has also been a growth in caseload for outpatient therapy.

The complete overhaul of clinical records system enables the MCF to have a much more accurate documentation of a patient’s minutes. There are four Registered Nurses (RN’s) that transcribe these minutes (daily patient records) and send them to the state.

Medicaid has had substantial cuts to Medicaid nursing home funding. Along with the funding cuts, some health insurance providers will not pay and some providers are not in the Medicaid network.

The CPE program is a Michigan program for facilities that issues a payment for the cost of care whenever the community makes a payment above and beyond what Medicaid pays for. This allows a facility to invest in higher levels of staffing and care. A facility cannot exist on Medicaid rate payments alone and the CPE program allows a facility to retain Medicaid services.

There is no direct link to the millage, however the millage allows the MCF to invest in the building and staff. Medicaid pays sixty-four cents on the dollar, without the millage there would be a 64% reduction as to what Medicaid pays. Mr. Davis stated that the MCF could operate with a reduction in the millage to 1.5, however with uncertainties of what could happen with Medicaid funding, it would be best to keep the millage request at 2.5.

Mr. Gustafson wondered why there is need for an increase when the county has had to consider budget cuts and why should there be an additional burden on the taxpayers.

Mr. Walker inquired if the ballot does not state 2.5 mills and is lower, will the residents still receive the same quality of care.

Mr. Byl mentioned that the MCF services are above and beyond what other county MCF’s provide, but as a consequence the taxpayers are burdened with a level of taxation that other counties do not impose. He does not support a millage of 2.5, when in three years there could be a ½ mill renewal after the existing one expires. Mr. Davis responded that he thinks that it could be feasible to operate with a millage of 1.5, but due to uncertainties that could change.

Mr. Powers expressed how impressed he is with the way things are being handled at the MCF, but he prefers to leave the millage how it stands as of as now, with the option to renew at a later date as needed.

Ms. Meyette inquired as to the labor costs of the RN’s and how often they needed to transcribe minutes (daily patient records) for each patient. Mr. Davis informed her that it is a state mandated requirement and must be submitted to the state for review and is also tied to reimbursement from state programs.

Mr. Davis expressed that because of the uncertainties in healthcare reimbursement rates, there is the potential to be underfunded.

Mr. VanSickle inquired as to when the ballot wording had to be submitted. Mr. Sobie informed him the ballot language deadline will be May 12th, however the commissioners will have it brought before them at an earlier date.

Mr. Charles Ritchard, Chairman of the Oceana County Board of Canvassers, provided a presentation regarding the creation and duties of the Board of Canvassers. The Board of Canvassers was created in 1963 and consists of four members and the current County Clerk; two from each political party. The current members are Charles Ritchard, Thomas Allison, Jerry Sparbeck, Leona Twiss, and Amy Anderson. Each Board member serves a four-year term. The terms are staggered so that both parties represented have one member’s term expiring on October 31 of each odd-numbered year. New terms commence on November 1. The Board of Canvassers make sure that all voter numbers are accounted for between electronic pollbooks and tabulators. They are then able to certify the results of local elections.

Mr. Byl pondered that with the change in election laws and with the allowance of same day registration did that make any difference. Mr. Ritchard agreed and thought that there would be more issues and/or anomalies than what was found. He believes that because it was a small election, it is not indicative though. The election in November will be the true indicator of how well same day registration works.

Public Comments:

Ms. Lori Green, Weare Township resident, shared concerns and justifications for the actions she has taken towards Weare Township. She also mentioned the concern she has for the voting process.

There being no further business to discuss, Vice-Chairperson Byl adjourned the Health and Human Services and Parks and Recreation Committee meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson

Oceana County Clerk