

BENZIE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
The Gathering Place, Honor MI 1:30 pm

Members present: Carol Hynes, Bob McQuilkin, Bill Huhnke, Mary Robling, Theresa Kerry, Bruce Andersen and Denise Strom. **Also present:** Chris Olsen, County Administrator and Frank Walterhouse, Benzie County Commissioner. **Members excused:** Gordon Kells (will be late). Debbie Sever, Exec. Dir COA was also excused. **Senior Guests present:** Sue Sheffield, Gary Huddleston and Betty Cramer.

Chairperson Hynes called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Mary gave the prayer of invocation, and all board members and guests said the Pledge of Allegiance. Carol asked to amend the agenda by including a Closed Session after the final public comment to discuss personnel issues. Motion made by Bill, seconded by Mary to go into closed session after the final public comment section. Motion by Mary, seconded by Bruce to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes, motion carried. Motion by Theresa, seconded by Mary to approve the minutes of the December meeting. All ayes, motion carried. Motion by Mary, seconded by Bob to approve the minutes of the December Closed session. All ayes, motion carried.

Prior to the public input session, Carol mentioned the rules regarding the public input session and asked that the audience please follow said rules.

Public input: None

There was discussion regarding the millage proposal coming up in August. After discussing this issue, motion by Bruce, seconded by Bill to take the millage out for 5 years. All ayes, motion carried.

The members of the board interviewed Carol Salerno as a potential board member. After some discussion, Carol informed Mrs. Salerno that the board would contact her within two weeks for a final decision.

Benzie Home Health Care Discussion-In order for us to take Benzie Home Health Care (BHHC) under contract, we must get approval from the Benzie County Board of Commissioners (BCBC). Randy Gilbert, Board President for BHHC went before the BCBC asking for a \$46,000 increase to attach to the current COA budget when COA asks for the millage. Randy stated that if BHHC were to go on there own, \$46,000 is not enough to go for a millage. He reported that 20% of the population of Benzie County is over 65 yrs old. Bruce was concerned about asking the "seniors" for the \$46,000 increase in the millage.

Action items: Due to the fact that a board meeting will take place in 2 weeks, there was a question in regards to changing the date of the meeting to February 22nd. Motion by Bruce, seconded by Bill to keep the meeting date on February 15th. All ayes, motion carried.

Information items:

- (A) **Chairman's Report-** Carol's report was read and so noted. She reports that the freezer unit is back up and running and we are in the process of getting three bids to do the repair work that needs to be done. She also presented the members with a letter she received from Linda Saffron telling the board how others see what is happening. Also, she and Debbie have been interviewing prospective applicants to fill the senior coordinator/supervisor position. She asks that the seniors and staff be patient with this process, so we can make sure the best possible person has filled this position, one that all can relate to, like and work with.
- (B) **Director's Report-** Debbie's report showed that 192 Dining Out certificates and 122 Benzie Bus passes were issued from 12/28/11 through 1/23/12. James and Debbie worked Saturday 1/31/11 for the New Years Eve Party held at TGP from 7pm-10pm. There were approximately 70-75 people in attendance. James did a great job with the food and everyone seemed to have a nice time.
- (C) **Board of Commissioners Update-** Frank Walterhouse sat in for Tom Kelley. He had nothing further to report. He did say BCBC is looking for a presentation from COA regarding services that are provided for the seniors.

Old/New Business: (Old)- We responded to the letter received from Linda Saffron expressing discontent with the way TGP is being managed. She stated that the Board members should have a say in employee hiring. She suggested a clear job description of the assigned duties would eliminate some of the disruption that is occurring. Linda also pointed out a problem with the reception area of TGP being left unattended for much of the morning. She suggested hiring someone from 9:30 am to 1 or 2 pm and having the COA Admin office take a 5% pay cut. Linda also wrote asking why the job for the walk-in freezer wasn't put out for bids in the newspaper, maybe making an attempt to keep the work local? She stated that these are the type of concerns the local citizens directly see, and "will remember when a request for millage comes up again for approval". Carol responded by saying that she AND Debbie are currently conducting interviews for the senior coordinator position; there are currently clear job descriptions of each position at both the COA Admin building and TGP. Also in old business, motion by Bruce, seconded by Denise to adopt the 2011 Bylaws as amended. All ayes, motion carried. Amended By-Laws of 2011 adopted 1/25/2012.

Public Comment: Gary Huddleston commented that he heard that Cindy Dutton offered to come back to TGP but was refused. He doesn't understand why we won't take her back. Carol stated that when Cindy turned in her resignation, she was asked if she would take a leave of absence to think about it, but she refused to do that. Carol said we have moved on and are in the process of interviewing for her position.

Motion by Bruce, seconded by Mary to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues. All ayes, motion carried. Closed session called to order at 2:50 pm.

Motion by Gordon, seconded by Bob to end closed session and return to open meeting. All ayes, motion carried. Return to open meeting at 3:45 pm.

Meeting Evaluation: Very well, we clipped right along and got business done. There being no further business to discuss, motion by Mary, seconded by Bill to adjourn meeting. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 3:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Strom
Secretary/Treasurer interim

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, February 15, 2012
1:30 pm, The Gathering Place, Honor, MI