

**Senior Millage Allocation Committee**  
**Friday, October 5, 2018 8:00 am – 9:30 am**  
**County Building, Garden Level Conference Room**  
**315 W. Green Street, Marshall MI 49068**

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**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call: Chair Vic Potter at 8:00 am. Roll called.**

Attending: Rod Auton, Jill Booth, Tom Hunsdorfer, Michelle Hill, Art Kale, Dianne (Willy) Kalnins, Vic Potter, Jim Powers, Richard Lindsey, Gary Tompkins, and Willie Tabb

Absent Excused: Jason Rapelje and Teresa Schell

County Personnel: Helen Guzzo, Senior Service Manager; Lora Stevens, Senior Services staff; Jen Bomba, Community Development Director

Visitors: Luann Sommers, Director, Forks Senior Center; Beverly Kelley, Ex. Director, Habitat for Humanity; Courtney Lobe & Abby Lumbar, Community Action; Greg Allan, Talons Out Honor Flight; Ronald Hawkins, Libertarian Candidate for State Representative, 63<sup>rd</sup> District

**2. Approval of Agenda for October 5, 2018:**

Motion to accept agenda - Powers & Lindsey: Motion, Second and Approved. ***Motion Carried.***

**3. Approval of Minutes for September 7, 2018:**

Motion to accept minutes – Lindsey & Tompkins: Motion, Second and Approved. ***Motion Carried.***

**4. Introductions and Citizens Comment:** Everyone introduced themselves, no comments

**5. Vendor Presentation**

Habitat for Humanity – Ramps Program: Beverly Kelley, Executive Director.

Kelley stated that they have completed 37 ramps this year and 14 more requests are in the office for which they have not identified funding. Calhoun County Senior Millage funded 11 of the ramps (7 in Battle Creek, and one each in Albion, Athens, Springfield and Sheridan townships). In the winter months Habitat doesn't get the requests they do in the warmer months. Habitat is fiscally responsible and has found other funders to help cover the costs such as Disability Network, Rotary, local churches and Veterans Affairs. Habitat asks each person to cost-share \$100 for their ramps to have ownership in it. They also ask them to partner with building their ramp and ask family members help or provide water and/or lunch for the volunteers doing the work to construct the ramp. If someone doesn't meet their criteria they do refer them to RAMP-IT. Guzzo talked about a possible partnership with Habitat and RAMP-IT so that ramps could be built during the winter months.

**6. 2018 Contract Spending:** Monthly Financial Reports were presented.

Guzzo requested that SMAC approve moving \$20,000 from the Program Grants line item to the Mini-Grants line item.

Motion to move \$20,000 from Program Grants to Mini-Grants – Booth & Powers: Motion, Second with Roll Call Vote-11 Yes, Approved. ***Motion Carried.***

## 7. Managers' Report:

- a. The State of Michigan is changing how it administers the Michigan Energy Assistance Program, it is not using community-based organizations to determine eligibility but using assistance through State Emergency Relief and MDHHS office staff. This means that Home Heating Assistance through Community Action will have less access to Federal and State energy assistance. In the past Community Action has not required denial notices from DHHS, but may in the future. Senior Millage funds will no longer be gap filling funds because Community Action only has access to Senior Millage, United Way and its own Walk for Warmth funds. For past due bills over \$300 when the senior's income is 135% of poverty or less, Community Action will assist seniors to apply for State energy assistance. Utility assistance will continue to be monitored and might require some advocacy in the future.
- b. **Bed Bugs presentation** on October 24, 2018 from 3:00 to 4:30pm in partnership with CareWell Services. Guzzo had a meeting with different agencies about developing an RFP to fund bedbug remediation in the future. Health Department will take the lead and come up with a service standard. Kevin Green, Environmental Health Director has scheduled a second meeting on Nov 14.
- c. **SMAC Member Jason Rapelje** is resigning at the November meeting because of competing priorities. This will leave an open seat and we will need to recruit a new SMAC member. In February, SMAC will be electing new a chair and vice-chair. Senior Services will post the open position in the newspaper and social media. Anyone can apply and come in for an interview in front of the SMAC board as we have in the past.

## 8. New Business:

- a. Five Year RFP Contract Recommendations – (2019 – 2023)
  - i. **Adult Day Care** - Marian E. Burch Adult Day Care - \$90,000 annually
  - ii. **Hearing – Rejected** and will be rebid RFP
  - iii. **Vision** – Calhoun County Public Health Department- \$15,000  
(SMAC recommended a one year contract for vision)
  - iv. **Minor Home Repair** – Community Action – \$150,000 annually
  - v. **Transportation** – Community Action - \$500,000 annually

**Discussion:** Lindsey & Kale Motion and Seconded to approve i. through v. with one motion. Discussion about the Vision program and accountability for program. SMAC is looking for vendor that CCPHD will use county wide. Tompkins suggested that we make the contract for one year. Motion was withdrawn by Lindsey and Kale. Lindsey and Kale made a 2nd Motion and Seconded to approve i through v, but iii. Vision was limited to a one year contract, not 5 year contract as in the RFP.

Roll Call Vote - 11 Yes, Approved. **Motion Carried**

- b. Two Year RFP Recommendations;
  - i. **Senior Center Support**, (Heritage Commons) Marshall area – CareWell Services – \$50,000 annually for 2019 & 2020
  - ii. **Habitat for Humanity** – \$30,000 annual for 2019 & 2020  
Discussion: Both programs were originally placed on a one year contract because they were new RFPs. There was discussion about Heritage Commons outgrowing its current building and whether it was going to incorporate as an independent nonprofit.

It was commented that Habitat must to do income verifications. RAMP-IT had a very impressive presentation. Habitat might partner with RAMP IT for winter and removable ramps when needed.

Booth & Kalnins: Motion, Second with Roll Call Vote - 10 Yes, Approved. **Motion Carried.** (Lindsey abstained because of the potential for a conflict of interest as he is an Oaklawn employee & Oaklawn owns the building the senior center is renting in Marshall.)

- c. **Talons Out Honor Flight** requesting \$5,000 mini-grant - Greg Allen explained the Talons Out Program and how they take local veterans to DC to visit all the war memorials. The flights in April and September took 12 Calhoun County resident veterans. It is 100% free to the veterans and they have a meet and greet the night before and then they stay in hotels close to the airport. They must be at the airport by 4:30am and the flight is chartered. When they arrive buses pick them up and they have a full police escort where ever they go in DC. When they come home they have mail call on the plane and Kalamazoo greets them back with full escort of police, firefighters, ambulances, 50 plus motorcycles and 2 to 4 thousand people attending. 99cents of every dollar raised goes to the flight for the veterans.

Kale & Kalnins: Motion, Second with Roll Call Vote – 10 Yes, Approved. **Motion Carried.**

- d. **Lions Club of Marshall** requesting \$3,000 to match their \$3,000 to provide free Wednesday rides on Dial-A-Ride in Marshall only. This has been a matching mini-grant since 2015 with an average for 2018 from 283 to 358 rides a month. The 4th & 5th Wednesday is sponsored by Marshall United Methodist Church & There’s Enough: A Community Exchange store.

Tabb & Kalnins: Motion, Second with Roll Call Vote – 10 Yes, Approved. **Motion Carried.**

- e. **Home Heating Assistance** requesting an additional \$11,500 from Community Action (CA). Courtney Lobe from CA (8 yrs.) gave a brief background description about their funding. Changes at the state and federal level have made it so all applications must go through DHHS. CA does have a utility assistance funding from United Way and their walk fundraiser in addition to Senior Millage.

Powers & Tompkins: Motion, Second. Roll Call Vote – 10 Yes, Approved. **Motion Carried.**

9. Next SMAC Meeting: **Friday, November 2**, Senior Health Partners (SHP) at Family Y Center 182 Capital Avenue NE, Battle Creek on Penn Street past YMCA. SMAC requested maps to be sent before meeting.

#### 10. Upcoming Events:

- **Medicare Open Enrollment, October 15 - December 7 for 2019 Part D plans**
- **Homeless Health Fair & VA Stand Down**, Full Blast, Battle Creek, Fri., Oct. 19, 9am-1pm
- **Bed Bug Presentation**, Kool Family Community Center, Battle Creek, **Wed, Oct. 24**, 3:00pm to 4:30pm, Erik Foster, State of Michigan Entomologist

11. Adjournment called by Chairman, Vic Potter, 9:45am

Respectfully submitted, Lora Stevens