

BOARD MINUTES October 10, 2023 – 10:00 AM

Oconto County Commission on Aging, Inc.
1210 Main Street, Oconto, WI 54153

1. Call to Order

Time meeting was called to order: 10:00 am .

2. Roll Call

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Wranosky, Meier, Blahnik, Lavarda, Schindel, Gillis, Ballestad

COMMITTEE ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Schersing, Exec. Director; ,

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion & second by Wranosky/Blahnik to approve the agenda

Vote Results Unanimous

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion & second by Gillis/Meyer to approve the September 12, 2023, minutes.

Vote Results Unanimous

5. Correspondence:

There will be a public hearing on the Transportation Programs in the County on November 1 at 9:00 am in the County Board meeting room.

Melissa Even withdrew her application for the Executive Director position on 10/9 at 12:27pm. So she will not be at todays interviews.

There was also correspondence from Bonnie at the Senior Center which was mysterious. The best I could conclude was that she was looking for August and September rent monies. I replied to her request showing all checks that were written to the Senior Center including check numbers, amount, what they were for, and the dates they were cashed. This included the August check, they cashed on August 21, 2023. I noted that we still owed the September rent.

6. Reports:

- A. Personnel: Gerald has retired, and we have replaced him with Angela Phillips. Bob Webster has also retired, and we are looking at a new driver from the Oconto Falls area, Robert Kulhanek.

There was also a preliminary chart for possible pay raises for next year handed out last month. I do not want to talk about it until we receive word on what the County can do for us next year, so that discussion will not happen until November after the County the budget for next year.

- B. Nutrition: The Gillett meal site is now open at Tabor Methodist Church. It is slowly growing. Currently open two days a week. We are looking at expanding most of the meal sites to three days after the first of the year.

We still have not had the opportunity to re-evaluate our home delivered people to see if they still qualify for Home Delivered Meals. I hope to complete it by mid-November. Being short staffed has not helped the situation.

GWAAR is also going to do our Nutrition Evaluation during the next month. They do it once every three years and our time has come. They want to do it while I am still here, because it should be easier than with a new person.

There were summary service pages for services from January through September. We have served over 25,000 meals to date and are getting more requests for meals daily. A lot of the new requests are for people under the age of 60. This can create additional dilemmas. Our Title III funding is only for individuals 60 and older. Some counties are starting to wait list now.

The Title III funding is going back to the pre-COVID rules. The ARPA funds will stop, and we can only transfer maximum percentages into our Home Delivered Program to help pay those expenses.

- C. Human Services: Bobbi has given you multiple reports to look at for her services comparing this year to last year. What a difference a year can make. Comparing the third quarter of 2022, she had 47 calls compared to 365 in the third quarter of 2023. You can say that people know we have a benefit specialist, and they are looking for help. Just comparing September 2022 to 2023 she had 100 more calls to deal with this year. Funding for the Benefit Specialist has been Static for over 20 years. It was \$28,215 back in 1997 when I was the Director the first time with Sandi as our Benefit Specialist and it's still \$28,215 in 2023 with Bobbi. The only difference is the addition of

about \$5,000 to help with State Insurance and Medicare funding. Not much of an increase in 26 years.

The same can be said for caregiving, for the last 20 years we have received about \$18,000 in the National Family Caregiver Support Program and \$19,000 in Alzheimer's for the year with caps of \$4,000 per family for people diagnosed with dementia and 122 hours at \$20 per hour per family in NFCSP. The need is greater, but the funds are just not out there to help. We are helping about 20 families with these two programs.

D. Transportation:

Linda Siegfried has retained a new lawyer. We'll see what transpires with this one. Have not heard anything new.

The Quarterly reports are due by the end of next month. I'll have the numbers at the next meeting. The county is holding a public hearing on November 1 at 9:00 in the Council Chambers. It is a requirement of the grant with the State. Angela Phillips is Gerald's replacement. His health was becoming a concern. Shelley mentioned contacting Kobussen or the school bus drivers to see if they would be interested in filling in. The huge pay cut from what they were getting paid was an issue.

E. Finance: We have just received the July reimbursement from GWAAR on Thursday for \$45,285. I have just sent off the August reimbursement request for \$42,627.

Looking at the Bank Statement, we currently have \$97,000 in the account. The debit card portion shows all the payments made to the vendors. There was a string of them payable to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. We pay for those on a quarterly basis. The insurance payments and utilities also show up there. This was also the end of a quarter, so the Savings account also shows up which contains all the Nutrition Site donations, which is up to \$12,000. These may be used to transfer funds at the beginning of next year if our Area Agency reimbursements are delayed.

There was also a print out of the checks issued for September for the Board to review.

F. Senior Center: Johanna and Fran attended the monthly Senior Center meeting on October 2. Senior Center mtg was rather uneventful. Doesn't sound like they have received much in the way of donations yet. Not

sure what they are hoping for but \$1k is about what they have at this point. Better than nothing so that's good.

Building usage was discussed. Mainly talking about how they are going to "word" the usage contract to make it more non-profit friendly. They are working with the UW extension office to get more activities there. Think since they had their hand slapped with saying no to them the first time. Nothing concrete to worry about just yet though.

The loan closet came up and it was suggested that we use the closet off the back door by the kitchen to store some of that stuff. We might be able to use the space for boxes of pads, but more shelving will be necessary to do that. We are not going to get the other part of the original room size back as they are using that for storage. The closet off the main space with the electrical panel might work for pads and fold up wheelchairs but again, I think the shelving might need to be "beefed" up to hold the boxes. Nothing substantial in size is available just yet. IF they do have a closet that opens up in the basement the question was asked if we would then pay rent on that space as well, on top of what we pay for rent. I simply said that would be something to be discussed. No price was given for the potential closet in the basement.

Lastly, the bill from Magnin's landscaping was about \$1300 (+/-) and the lifting of our kitchen AC was not itemized. The bill was already just over \$800 lower than the original estimate, so they didn't seem to be too worked up over it.

There was an upcoming Free Tech Class with the High School scheduled for October 10th over the lunch hour. This was not originally coordinated with the Commission.

There was also discussion on putting together a usage policy for the building now that the grant work is all finished on it. They were looking at coming up with a policy so our representatives were asked to leave since they were not voting members. The other non-voting member was not asked to leave.

The meeting was adjourned to break for lunch and to reconvene in the council chambers after lunch at 12:45pm for interviews.

7. Closed Session: The Board may convene into closed session, pursuant to Wis Stats Sec 19.85(1)(c), for the purpose of discussing and interviewing the Executive Director Applicants. Erik Pritzl, the County Administrator joined the Board for the interviews.

Lavarda moved to go to Closed Session with a second from Schindel.
Roll Call vote to go into closed session with guests was unanimous.

8. Return to Open Session: To conduct legal business, as allowed by Wisconsin Stats Sec 19.85(2) Motion made by Gillis with second by Wranosky to return to open session, vote was unanimous.

Motion made by Lavarda with second by Gillis to offer Tricia Hurley the position of Executive Director.

Vote was unanimous.

9. Set Next Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will be set for November 14th at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjourn

Motion made & second by Blahnik/Wranosky to adjourn.

Vote Results: Unanimous

Time of adjournment: 3:50 pm.

Frank A Schersing
(Recording Clerk)