

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Janet Sutherland, Chairwoman
Glenn R. Ehlers, Genesis Ramos, Laurie R. Tautel, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Lisa M. James, Assistant County Attorney
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health
Todd Craner, Fiscal Director, Department of Social Services
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center
Christian Farrell, Director, Veterans Service Agency
Ann Marie Maglione, Director, Office for the Aging
Liz Matis, Budget Analyst

Ms. Sutherland opened the committee meeting at 3:32 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Anagnostakis and Amo, who were absent.

Ms. Tautel moved to request to accept and appropriate Notification of Grant Award (NGA) for the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Volunteer Stipend Program from the New York State Office for the Aging for the period 4/1/22 – 3/31/23, \$1,200.00, seconded by Ms. Ramos.

Ms. Maglione explained that the four volunteers in the program will receive a stipend of \$300.00 each which they have never received before as the program is severely underfunded.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to request supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget to purchase two (2) John Deere Gators (#TH 6x4) currently on State Bid. This is not in the 2023 Capital Plan. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$30,000.00, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Mr. Farrell explained that the current utility vehicles are from 2007 and 2014 and have reached their useful life. They are used continuously for landscaping, graves and various other projects at the cemetery.

Ms. Tautel asked where the funds would come from. Ms. Matis replied that they would come from the Capital Expense Account.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland congratulated Mr. Farrell on the successful Annual Spring Picnic and Resource Fair that was held on Saturday, May 6th.

Mr. Farrell agreed that it was a huge success.

Mr. Tuohy asked about upcoming events. Mr. Farrell replied that the flags would be placed on the graves for Memorial Day, the Covenant movie will be held tomorrow at the Flagship Premium Cinemas in the village of Monroe and in the city of Newburgh on Monday, May 22, 2023 they will read the names of all the Orange County residents that were killed in action since WWI.

On the agenda were highlighted important issues from the Department of Social Services monthly report from March.

Ms. Miller explained that they have seen a decrease in family assistance and is something they are seeing with other counties in New York State. SNAP applications continue to increase but they are processing applications within the regulated 45 days. The HEAP season has closed, and this was one of their highest payment years at \$22,624.00. Emergency Housing placement continues to be a struggle with 55 families and 22 singles currently being housed. Child Protective Services and FAR have seen an increase. The JD arrests in January were higher than normal and are due to events in the cities of Newburgh and Port Jervis and Foster Care numbers have decreased.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.