

Minutes – Shields Township Board of Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
Lake County,) } SS.
Town of Shields)

THE TOWN BOARD OF SHIELDS TOWNSHIP met at the Shields Township Office for a Special Meeting to interview applicants for social service grants for the current fiscal year on February 18, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: <u>Gale Strenger Wayne</u>	Supervisor
<u>David Barkhausen</u>	Town Clerk
<u>Lynn Baehr</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Cele Bull</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Laura Carney</u>	Town Trustee
<u>Mary Woodson</u>	Town Trustee

I. Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Strenger Wayne called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A roll call was taken, reflecting those present and absent as noted above.

III. Social Service Grant Applicant Presentations

The Board had previously heard presentations from eight of twelve applicants for social service grants for the current fiscal year. Supervisor Strenger Wayne explained that any funding of agencies would be authorized by the Board at its regular meeting and would be distributed before the end of the fiscal year at the end of the month. The four presentations for this evening were as follows:

1. Career Resource Center

Jan Leahy, the Executive Director of the Career Resource Center (CRC), now marking its 20th anniversary, noted the increase in the demands on her agency as the result of an 11 percent local unemployment rate. They have experienced a 27% increase in clients and a 67% increase in total traffic in the last year. They currently serve 154 individuals from Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Knollwood, and North Chicago. Employer-provided outplacement services have been cut back, Ms. Leahy said, increasing the importance of their services. In addition, CRC and other local social service agencies have experienced reductions in their United Way support, a decline from \$40,000 to \$24,000 in the case of CRC. Board member Nancy Hensel noted that it is taking much longer to find jobs. She is a member of the member of the Board of Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, which was the original backer of the CRC.

Other area townships support CRC in varying amounts. Government support provides about 10 percent of their funding, with 17 percent coming from clients who pay a \$100 annual fee. The total budget is \$269,000, with less than 25% of that accounting for administrative costs. There are two part-time employees in addition to Ms. Leahy.

2. HealthReach

Development Manager Kelly Rentas spoke for HealthReach, an organization that provides medical and vision and dental care to the uninsured and underinsured who do not qualify for either Medicaid for the very poor or Medicare for the elderly. They have clinics in Waukegan and Mundelein and a pharmacy in Libertyville. She said 113,000 residents are medically underserved in a Lake County, out of a population of over 700,000.

They seek to partner with area hospitals and the Lake County Health Department and other health-related agencies and organizations. They have experienced declining in-kind services from area hospitals. They rely on the volunteer services of medical practitioners and have a particular need for more dentists. For their pharmacy, HealthReach has the ability to obtain prescriptions on a wholesale basis.

For Shields Township, there are 172 HealthReach patients, including 22 who are new within the last year. This includes 178 patient visits costing about \$300 per patient per year. Financial support from other townships ranges from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

3. Youthbuild

Executive Director Laurel Tustison of Lake Bluff appeared for Youthbuild along with Board member Jon Hirsch of Lake Bluff, who a business in North Chicago, and Larry Daniels of Zion, a client of the program. Ms. Tustison expressed appreciation for the Township's support for four of the last five years. She said the funding from the government is restricted in its use, and Township money had helped to provide a van. The participants in their program come about one-fourth from North Chicago, one-half from Waukegan, and one-fourth from the rest of Lake County. Other townships provide in-kind and cash donations. Avon Township offers transportation support.

They have their office at VA Medical Center at the south-east corner of Green Bay Road and Route 137 (Buckely Road) in North Chicago. They serve underprivileged young people, ages 16-24, teaching them construction-related vocational skills.

Larry Daniels said he took construction classes through Youthbuild. He learned about the program through his high school. He is the green construction coordinator for the agency now. He earned a scholarship to study construction management in college.

Youthbuild has 37 participants in an August through June program. In addition, a new initiative called their Employment Opportunity Grant Program aims to gain fifteen participants entry into the construction unions.

Board member Jon Hirsch outlined three purposes for the agency: teaching job-related skills and habits, offering education through opportunities to obtain a GED, and rebuilding dilapidated houses in Shields Township with current activity focused in North Chicago.

Youthbuild has a \$1.2 million budget, 50 percent of which comes from the Federal government.

4. I-Plus

Pat Lynch, the Executive Director of I-Plus, appeared for her agency. It serves a population of the homeless, mentally ill, and alcohol and substance abusers, 60 percent of whom are veterans, who qualify for disability and veterans benefits from the government. Their role is to see that the government benefits are not squandered but are used to provide the necessary goods and services for the recipients. Ms. Lynch said the idea is to control behavior by managing money and to save tax dollars in the process.

She mentioned a reduction in United Way support, from \$26,000 down to \$16,000. I-Plus has an annual budget of \$166,000. They are trying to limit their dependence on government funding to no more than 30 percent. They currently have a waiting list of 10-15 potential participants.

In response to a question about the number of program participants from Shields Township, Ms. Lynch said there are 26 individuals from either North Chicago or Lake Bluff, 75 percent of whom are veterans. They have a total 125 participants currently and have served 400 since the program's inception in 1995.

General Discussion

Trustee Baehr suggested giving a percentage of previous amounts for various agencies that have received support from the Township in the past and have budgeted with an expectation of continuing assistance this year. Trustee Woodson similarly recommended continued funding for such agencies but at reduced levels from amounts they may have expected. Trustee Baehr said the agencies need to be on notice that they cannot expect to receive this money in the future. Trustee Carney recommended focusing on the agencies whose activities most complement the role of the Township, and Supervisor Strenger Wayne agreed.

The trustees discussed how to address the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center, which has not received or needed financial assistance for its transportation program as it has in the past. They are instead asking for help in funding a "senior advocate" social service position to keep seniors in their homes. The trustees appeared to agree on direct funding of the Senior Center with the understanding that the Township's grant would be used for this purpose.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with no formal adjournment at approximately 6:30 p.m. in time for the Board's regular monthly meeting set for that hour.

Attest

David N. Barkhausen, Town Clerk