

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
July 23, 2024

Present: Jessica Moser, Chair; Thomas Kalamas, Vice-Chair; Vincent Nortz; Josh Leviker; and Barry Lyndaker.

Legislator Moser called the meeting to order at 2:51 p.m.

Legislator Moser moved to approve the June 18, 2024, committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Lyndaker, and carried.

Probation Department Firearms update – Matthew Morrow, Director of Probation

Matt Morrow began by going over the costs to date. Resolution No. 240-2023 established and adopted the county probation firearm policy. The Department then purchased five Glock 45, Gen 5, 9mm handguns for a total of \$2,148.20; initial ammo was \$2,489.36; gun safes for the office was \$499.95; holsters & magazine holsters was \$401.95; eye and ear protection for range was \$289.71 bringing the total investment to \$5,829.17.

Initial firearms training was June 6th and 7th in the classroom and June 10th through the 14th was range training. Classroom training included going over the use of force authority – 4th amendment of the Constitution & Article 35 of the NYS Penal Law; Case Law governing reasonable use of force; firearm safety; fundamentals of shooting; cover and concealment; and stop the bleed. There were a few pictures shown of the stop the bleed portion of training. Then there were several pictures showing the firearms training which included holding the firearm straight and balancing a bullet on the barrel, covering your weapon, and target shooting.

Nutrition Program – Carla Hellinger, Director of Office For the Aging

Carla Hellinger shared a statement made by Acting Director of NYSOFA Greg Olsen that pointed out the importance of accessible nutritious food through local meal programs. Currently OFA serves Home Delivered Meals (HDM) which is the most important for those who are not able to prepare meals for themselves and don't have any help from friends or family. They also have Congregate Meals utilizing 5 sites in Croghan, Copenhagen, Harrisville, Lowville, and Lyons Falls. There are also Restaurant Style Meals in West Leyden seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A new program that was started this year is the Respite Café and there are still special events like the evening meals program.

Looking at the data it shows that in 2025 there were 8,326 meals from January to June; it slowly decreases over the next four years and then in 2020 jumps up to 8,303 meals. Covid hits in 2021 and 2022 and the numbers drop significantly but in 2023 and 2024 they rise significantly to 8,654 meals. The participation in the HDM Program shows that in 2015 there were 15,645 meals served and it stays rather

steady over the next 6 years but then increases to 22,189 meals in 2024. Congregate Meal Program costs were at \$62,059.90 back in 2025 but with increased in food and inflation they have increased all the way up to \$93,127.25. Home Delivered Meals program has also increased in cost from \$116,577.40 in 2015 to \$234,199.50 in 2024.

The Restaurant Style Program is a partnership with the Milk Plant Tavern in West Leyden. The participant is mailed twenty vouchers each month to use to go to the restaurant during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to order off a limited menu of seven meals. Each person can use one voucher per day for a free meal. In June there were 961 vouchers utilized. This program allows them to take their meal to go as well, although the socialization is important. The Evening Meals special events were originated from additional covid funding. There are salads or stews that can be ordered and picked up at Maple Ridge Center. The utilization of this program has consistently rose over the last four years.

Congregate Meals have also increased from 1,260 in 2022 to 1,777 in 2024. The nutrition counseling offered is with a registered dietician who also plans out the menu to make sure it is well balanced. The Respite Café is for a caregiver in need of a break to run errands, go to the doctors, or just have time to yourself. This Respite Café offers a safe environment for your loved one to come and do various activities and socialize to give you a break. It is every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and a meal is provided.

Currently OFA is collaborating with Birne Bus to get rid of van services and making sure the number of vouchers is actually what the person will use instead of sending them too many. The request is for an additional \$75,000.00 in funding to continue at the current pace and/or reduce the # of vouchers for the Restaurant Style Program, restrict take out, or eliminate Fall Evening Meals.

Legislator Kalamas questioned if the number of takeouts is reduced will it encourage people to go to the congregate meal sites, Carla responded that hopefully it will. Carla explained that instead of getting 20 vouchers per month per person perhaps 4 vouchers a month per person would seem more appropriate and require people to pick them up in the OFA office. Legislator Dolhof thought that might be a drastic change for people.

Carla explained that the Milk Plant Tavern has been wonderful to work with. There was discussion on an upward spiral each year if more and more people utilize these programs. Ryan pointed out that there are contingency funds available to cover the \$75,000.00 request. Someone suggested having a higher suggested donation, although it can't be required due to funding rules. Legislator Kalamas pointed out that the Aging over 50 is a growing population in Lewis County. Legislator Leviker was in favor of keeping this program but also planning for the future as growth is inevitable.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Authorizing amendment to the Tyler Technologies contract to provide for the additional program for the Sheriff's Department Civil Division at a cost not to exceed \$61,220.00 with an annual recurring cost of approximately \$2,500.00.

AYE 5 NAY 0

2. Awarding the bid and authorizing agreement with Tower Engineering Professionals to provide tower inspections at eight (8) identified County 911 Tower sites in accordance with the specifications set forth in the RFP, for a not to exceed amount of \$15,500.00 to be completed by December 31, 2024.

AYE 5 NAY 0

3. Authorizing the Sheriff's Department to purchase and distribute radio equipment requested by Lewis County Fire, EMS and Rescue Departments using annual grant funding that is available, and authorizing Memorandums of Understanding between the County and each Fire, EMS and Rescue Department in Lewis County to properly use, maintain and be responsible for each piece of equipment provided during the term of the loan.

AYE 5 NAY 0

4. Authorizing a renewal contract between Social Services and NRCIL to provide facility, amenities, and staffing services for a Warming Center for overnight stays by the homeless during the Code Blue season, on or about October 14, 2024 to April 13, 2025, at a cost of \$140,314.00 for the anticipated six month period, plus a per diem adjustment of \$779 per day in the event the warming center is required beyond the six month period.

AYE 5 NAY 0

5. Authorizing a renewal agreement between Social Services and Han in Hand Early Childhood Center for the period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 at the Day Care Market rate established by Hand in Hand Early Childhood Center as long as such rates do not exceed State rates.

AYE 5 NAY 0

6. Appointing Makensie Freeman as the student representative of Lowville Academy Central School to the Youth Bureau Advisory Board effective and retroactive to July 1, 2024 and shall terminate either on the date of the students High School Graduation or when the student ceases to be a full-time high school student.

AYE 5 NAY 0

7. Re-appointing Michele Ledoux and Ward Dailey as members of the Youth Bureau Advisory Board effective and retroactive to July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

AYE 5 NAY 0

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Moser moved to adjourn at 3:33 p.m., seconded by Legislator Kalamas, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board