

Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board

Minutes

Meeting Monday December 11, 2023

Chuck Marinec, Chairman, called a meeting of the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board to order on December 11, 2023 at 9:00 am. Self-Intros made for recording purposes. Meeting held at the Historic Courthouse Room 309, 840 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri.

Board Members Present: Chuck Marinec, Denny Pilant, Joyce Munden, Mike Jungers, Judith Billings, Robert Thurman and Stephen Short

Others Present: Deborah Allen, Liz Johnston (Rogersville Senior), Jeff Robertson (OAT's), Jennifer Cotner-Jones (Springfield Orchestra), Becca Fields, Liz McClellan, Janice Piper and Dana Bockman (SeniorAge)

Meeting Minutes: September 25, 2023. Motion to approve Minutes made by Joyce Munden. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for November 31, 2023 was presented by Denny Pilant. Total Cash Balance as of the end of November is \$1,313,262.01. Property Tax Revenue is \$4,528.73, Bank/Investment \$1,006.34, with a Total Revenue of \$5,535.07 the YTD Revenue is \$3,074,924.30. Total Expenditures \$61,254.79 the YTD Expenditures is \$3,031,093.14 with Checks issued: Debbie Allen (2), Jordan Valley Community Health Center (2) and Legal Services of Southwest MO. With a Total Ending Balance \$1,357,093.17. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Bob Thurman. Seconded by Joyce Munden. Motion carried.

Old Business: Rogersville Area Senior Center – Liz Johnson

Requesting \$61,608.00 for replacement of the Roof for FY2024. This item was put on hold in order to received three bids for matching items. Rogersville chose to have Garrison Roofing which was not the lowest bid, they felt that they would do the best job. The Board countered with the lowest bid of 67,900.00 from Delta Roofing, Inc. along with deducting the payment of \$14,522.00 from the insurance company. The revised amount was \$53,378.00

Motion to approve made by Denny Pilant. Seconded by Steve Short. Motion carried for the revised amount of \$53,378.00

New Business Presentation: Springfield Symphony Orchestra – Jennifer Cotner-Jones

Requesting funds in the amount of \$16,674.00 for FY2023. The funds being requested are for September, October, November and December of 2023. Robert Thurman excused himself from this presentation/vote due to a prior affiliation with the Symphony. The Symphony's primary audience demographics (both in-house and streaming) are made up of Greene County citizens 55+. For the 2022-2023 season, over 20,000 individuals (about the seating capacity of Madison Square Garden) attended our concerts with close to 1,500 taking advantage of their streaming service. This season premiered the Seniors at the Symphony program. For the September, October and November concerts a total of 291 seniors participated in the program from 10 area Assisted Living facilities.

The Seniors at the Symphony's primary goal is to enhance the quality of life for our seniors within Greene County. Our Leadership is extremely proud of the progress this program has made and the number Greene County senior citizens who have already participate with only 4 concerts into the 2023-2024 season.

Music can have a profound and multifaceted impact on the well-being of senior citizens. It provides a source of comfort, nostalgia and emotional expression, offering a way for older individuals to connect with cherished memories and emotions. Music has been shown to reduce feelings of loneliness and depression in seniors, offering a sense of community and belonging. Additionally, participating in music, whether through listening, singing or playing an instrument encourages physical activity and social interaction, fostering a more active and engaged lifestyle. In essence, music becomes a therapeutic tool that enhances the overall quality of life for senior citizens, promoting their emotional, mental and physical well-being.

Motion to approve made Joyce Munden. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion was carried.

Presentation: SeniorAge Area Agency on Aging – Janice Piper, Liz McClelland and Becca Fields

Requesting funds in the amount of \$1,241,241.00 (same amount as last year) for FY2024. The purpose of this request is to continue providing expanded SeniorAge services for Greene County seniors.

The menu of Greene County senior services made possible by SeniorAge, in partnership with the Greene county Senior Services Board of Directors includes:

- Food Security
- Direct operation of Seven (7) Greene County Senior Centers
- Direct operation of a customer service hub office
- Scam alerts
- Information and Care planning
- Caregiver encouragement and support
- Home Help
- Assistance with Safety
- Technology assistance, education and troubleshooting
- Coordination with partner not-for-profit organizations
- One-time discretionary assistance
- Health Aid Assistance
- Insurance Guidance and Advocacy
- Assistance Accommodating Hospital-to-home transitions.
- Transportation
- Mandated abuse reporting, prevention and follow-up
- Tax Counseling for the Elderly
- Telephone Reassurance Program
- Advocacy support for senior rights
- Veteran outreach
- Senior Nutrition Farmers' Market
- Evidence-based physical and mental wellness programs
- Legal aid services
- Ombudsman services
- Pension rights advocacy and aid
- Cultural Sensitivity to Diversity
- Disaster preparedness
- Holiday celebrations
- VISTA program management

SeniorAge is constantly looking and implementing new programs to better serve the Senior Community.

Motion to approve made Bob Thurman. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion was carried.

Communication: Jeff Robinson, OATS

OATS is very appreciative to the Federal Government for the rural general public transit funds that they utilize to subsidize most of their service. The problem is that they don't get a federal subsidy to do transportation in urban areas. OATS have eight (8) regions around the state. One (1) of those is almost strictly urban and the rest are mostly rural except for here in Springfield. Here in the southwest we have Springfield which is the third largest in the state. They do not have a region that services Kansas City area but they do have a region that services the St. Louis area. The Federal government has said for the entire country that they must now honor the FY20 Census which establishes new urban zones. What does that mean for here in Missouri – it will almost double the size of the urban area for Springfield. Springfield urban area will now include Nixa, Ozark, Fremont Hills and a small section down there. What does that mean for OATS – they normally have approximately thirty (30) runs a day in our region operating in the new urban area. But now not only must they honor the new urban areas which means we get even less federal funding to subsidize our rural service, but now they say OATS does too much urban service in the state so we are now considering moving you from a rural transportation company to an urban reporter. Most likely it is going to negatively impact OATS service in the urban area throughout the state, here in our region specifically it is going to hurt. Right now, they operate anywhere between nine (9) and twelve (12) runs a day (weekdays) that is in the Springfield area not adding on the new zones. The government says that OATS must reduce the urban runs to only 30 a day to continue to be classified as a rural service provider and continue as they have been. Right now, where they stand is, hopefully, within the next twenty (20) to thirty (30) days they should get an answer from FTA. They have asked FTA what service is OATS currently doing in the urban area can they exempt from their thirty (30) runs. At this point they do a lot of DMH (Department of Mental Health) service and a lot of senior service. This means that the cost of their service has gone up. Number one -- the economy just continues to tank in so far as inflation, fuel right now has gone down a couple of cents, of course we don't know how long that last. The pandemic didn't help, they have not received a new bus, with the exception of a couple buses they received that had been approved six years ago through the OTO (Ozark Transportation Organization) grant but nothing else since the pandemic. That means that their current fleet some of the buses have 230, 250 up to 400 thousand miles on them. Trying to keep up with the maintenance is near impossible so they must be very careful on what is being replaced and maintained for the safety of all concerned. So, when they come before the board next month with the cost of service not too many years ago was \$32.00 per hour and is now \$57.00 per hour which is all economy driven. With all these factors being taken into consideration this is what will impact what will be presented next month.

10:20 A.M. moved to adjourn by Mike Jungers. Joyce Munden seconded. Motion Carried.

Next meeting January 22, 2024 – Location: Historic Courthouse, Room 309. If, additional people are in attendance, a waiting area with appropriate social distancing will be available.

Minutes submitted by: Deborah Allen