

## *Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board*

### *Minutes*

***Meeting Monday January 29, 2024 rescheduled from January 22, 2024***

Chuck Marinec, Chairman, called a meeting of the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board to order on January 29, 2024 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.

***Board Members Absent:*** None

***Others Present:*** Deborah Allen, Greg Burris, Jeff Robinson, Rene Frazier, Lisa Bailey and Sharon Alexander

***Meeting Minutes:*** December 11, 2023. Motion to approve Minutes made by Denny Pilant. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion carried.

***Treasurer's Report:*** Treasurer's report for December 31, 2023 was presented by Denny Pilant. Total Cash Balance as of the end of December is \$1,313,262.01. Property Tax Revenue is \$388,208.95 Bank/Investment \$5,102.08, with a Total Revenue of \$393,311.03 the YTD Revenue is \$3,468,235.33 Total Expenditures \$149,918.09 the YTD Expenditures is \$3,181,011.23 with Checks issued: Debbie Allen (3), OATS and Jordan Valley Health Center (3) a Total Ending Balance \$1,600,486.11. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Joyce Munden. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion carried.

***Old Business:*** None

***New Business Presentation: United Way Give 5 Program – Greg Burris***

Requesting funds in the amount of \$40,840.00. The funding request for FY2024 was \$3,750.00 more than last years. The funds requested will cover a portion of the expenses associated with delivery of the Give 5 program in 2024, including the program coordinator, participant recruitment, transportation, graduations with tumblers and lapel pins, web site hosting/maintenance, classroom rental, office supplies and data collection/analysis.

They believe no other organization is providing a service similar to Give 5 in Greene County. Give 5 addresses both the need for activities for seniors and the challenges of isolation, while providing "talent fuel" for their nonprofit community during a labor shortage.

Give 5 is an innovative, community-based program designed to ensure the community's retirees and seniors have purpose and relevance in their lives, while applying their talents and passions to the community's primary areas of need. This is being done via a first-of-its-kind program that offers an opportunity for class participants to experience a "taste testing" of the many and varied volunteer opportunities within the community.

The give 5 program celebrates the seniors and their many contributions to the community and does so in a very public manner. The more visible our seniors' contributions are celebrated, the more seniors will want to participate in Give 5 and become more engaged in their community. The Give 5 program has received an extraordinary level of media attention, which reflects well on the funding organizations (including the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund and Board), partner nonprofits and the participants.

Motion to approve made Denny Pilant. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion was carried.

**Presentation: Strafford Senior Center – no presenter**

Requesting funds in the amount of \$9,500.00. The Senior Center was originally formed to help seniors in the area receive a nutritious meal while talking with family and friends as well as educational information. They provide an in-center meal and frozen meals to in-home diners Monday through Friday to seniors in the Strafford area. They provide educational presentations on preventing falls and nutritional information, monthly foot care clinics, weekly music jams and inspirational hour.

They are striving to make a big difference in the lives of the seniors! They want to make the meals they serve great by adding special touches, preparing a special menu for the day or vegetables and fruits for the salad bar. Therefore, they are requesting an additional \$1,500.00 for 2024. Prices continue to rise every day and because of this they are hoping to have more seniors find their way to the center.

Motion to approve made Joyce Munden. Seconded by Steve Short. Motion was carried.

**Presentation: Legal Services of Southern Missouri (LSSM) – Sharon Alexander**

Requesting funds in the amount of \$70,000.00. The funds requesting \$10,000.00 more than FY2023. The funds requested for this project will provide for three components: community education, individual assistance and systemic advocacy to protect senior citizens.

The funds requested would address legal issues related to vulnerable adults 60 years of age or older whose financial situations do not allow them to resolve their legal problems. These senior citizens generally have multiple problems related to poverty, poor physical and/or mental health, lack of education, domestic violence or disabilities. Aging, lower-limited income, and other factors make the elderly a vulnerable population ripe for victimization. LSSM will utilize the funds provided for legal guidance and direct legal representation to qualified senior citizens. The nature of the legal guidance and representation will vary depending upon the type of legal problem.

The funds would also be used to provide extensive education. The challenge is to make legal information readily available to senior citizens and their advocates in the Greene County area. This project will build upon existing organizational resources and strengths to educate senior citizens on key legal issues affecting senior citizens. This proposal seeks funding to support education programs focused on emerging issues for the growing senior citizen population. These programs will focus on health care planning issues including advance directives, health care benefits issues, nursing home care issues, financial exploitation and abuse, and issues related to estate planning. LSSM will also look to address exploitation issues such as predatory lending and will focus on elder abuse issues such as physical, sexual, emotional, psychological neglect and financial. This grant will allow LSSM to conduct at least three training events on elder rights.

These funds will provide approximately 935 hours of legal guidance and direct legal representation to qualified senior citizens.

Motion to approve made Mike Jungers. Seconded by Judith Billings. Motion was carried.

**Presentation: The Ash Grove Sunshine Center, Inc. – no presenter**

Requesting funds in the amount of \$8,000.00. The requesting funds will be used for the Food Enhancement Program designed to add some nutritious selections to the lunch menus, as well as funding a volunteer-run salad bar to provide fresh vegetables and healthy options. By doing this, they hope to attract more of the area seniors to participate in the noon lunch program, where they can enjoy an affordable meal while visiting with friends. It has been proven that food insecurity and social isolation contribute to mental and physical decline in the elderly population. The side the Center, there is no other origination in the area that provides programs to help combat the problem.

Motion to approve made Joyce Munden. Seconded by Judith Billings. Motion was carried.

**Presentation: OATS – Lisa Bailey, Rene Frazier and Jeff Robinson**

Requesting funds in the amount of \$1,036,723.00. This is a substantial increase from the FY2023 which they requested \$502,498.00. Jeff detailed the items that have increased for operational costs over the year to help justify the increase. It was recommended by Denny Pilant to table this request until a revised amount could be presented.

Motion to table made by Denny Pilant. Seconded by Bob Thurman. Motion was carried. Jeff will let the Board know when he has finalized the revised request.

**Communication:**

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks check was mailed instead of presented due to the rescheduling of the monthly meeting.

The luncheon for the Board members to attend at the Strafford Senior Center was discussed and finalized.

Jeff Robinson from OATS will contact the Board to set up their next meeting.

10:15 A.M. moved to adjourn by Robert Thurman. Joyce Munden seconded. Motion Carried.

Next meeting February 26, 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