

# *Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board*

## **Minutes**

**Meeting Monday September 25, 2023**

Chuck Marinec, Chairman, called a meeting of the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board to order on September 25, 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, Mike Jungers, Judith Billings, Robert Thurman and Stephen Short

**Board Members Absent:** Joyce Munden (Excused)

**Others Present:** Deborah Allen, Cindy Stein, and Allen Criger (Auditor's Office), Sharon Alexander (LSSM), Bill Bell and Keith Mullins (OACAC).

**Meeting Minutes:** August 21, 2023. Motion to approve Minutes made by Mike Jungers. Seconded by Denny Pilant. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report for August 31, 2023 was presented by Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor. Total Cash Balance as of the end of August is Cash Balance \$1,891,834.73 YTD \$1,313,262.01. Property Tax Revenue is \$9,242.61, Bank/Investment \$1,323.03, with a Total Revenue of \$10,565.64 the YTD Revenue is \$3,034,293.46. Total Expenditures \$561,137.12 the YTD Expenditures is \$2,506,292.22 with Checks issued: Debbie Allen (2), MoAlso Registration, Jordan Valley Health Center (2), Legal Services of Southern Missouri. Total Ending Balance \$1,841,263.25. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Mike Jungers. Seconded by Judith Billings. Motion carried.

**Presentation: Legal Services of Southern Missouri – Sharon Alexander**

Requesting funds in the amount of \$40,000.00. 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 incomes, and other factors make the elderly a vulnerable population ripe for victimization. Legal Services of Southern Missouri will utilize the funds provided for legal problem.

The funds would also be used to provide extensive education. Our challenge is to make legal information readily available to senior citizens and their advocates in Greene County. This project will build upon existing organizational resources and strengths to educate senior citizens on key legal issues affecting senior citizens. The proposal seeks funding to support educational programs focused on emerging issues for the growing senior citizen population. These programs will focus on health care planning issues including advanced directive, health care benefit issues, nursing home care issues, financial exploitation and abuse, and issues related to estate planning.

The request for additional funds will be to cover the work that they have done and will continue to do until the end of the year. The original request was for \$60,000.00 and as of the end of August they have overspend by \$23,000.00. Part of this is due that they excepted more applications and have had more extended representation which means more hours, which ultimately means more hours. Denny Pilant feels that by bailing them out it

would set a precedent that the board, at this time, is unwilling to accept. He offered an amended amount of \$17,000.00 to carry them forward from now until the end of the year.

Motion to approve an amended amount of \$17,000.00 by Denny Pilant. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion carried in the amount of \$17,000.00

***Presentation: Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation***

Requesting additional funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 Rental Assistance Home Card. The funds will provide assistance to individuals and families living at or below 125% of poverty. It is not uncommon for the Greene County Center to received 100+ calls per week from people requesting assistance with rent, utilities and other services. While the center is able to provide help to many, funds for assistance with basic needs are dependent upon donations, fundraisers and grants such at the Senior Board. When the center cannot provide assistance, referrals are made to other community agencies that may be able to help.

This project will work locally to assist Greene County seniors in meeting their immediate needs, as related to home care. Based on the amount requested, it is estimated that 40-60 seniors residing in Greene County will receive financial assistance during the grant cycle. Many of those seniors may also benefit from other OACAC services, such as case management or application to another OACAC service.

Motion to approve made Denny Pilant. Seconded by Steve Short. Motion was carried.

***Presentation: Greene County Auditor – Cindy Stein and Allen Criger***

Cindy took this opportunity to introduce Allen Criger to the Board. Allen will be in charge of the Website information getting all the postings updated. Cindy proposed that we reach out to several of the grantees that might be requesting additional funds for special projects and/or Senior Centers to provide us with the following:

- Story lines on the project and or Senior Center. We would like to come and visit
- Pictures showing the positive change the additional funds made possible
- General information pertaining to the Senior Centers

At which Allen can post the pictures and stories to the website showing some of the positive effects the Senior Board is currently making. It will help in communications to education more seniors and make them aware of the services that are at their disposal. We could also do some postings to the Greene County Facebook site, there are several other things that we can be done, however, we need everyone's help.

Mike Jungers commented that the website could educate Seniors but also educates the public in general. This could show the portion of the property tax that's included in the Levy. Would it be possible to move the Levy from 5% to 10%, this however, would take a vote and the Commission would then need to add it to the ballot. One of the things that could be done is Allen could take property tax snapshot of a typical homeowner in Greene County and show what percentage of that taxes goes to Schools, Greene County and Senior Board (which is just slightly under 5-cents with the rollback). The Board is the second lowest levy agency at 4.9-cents. We might be able to do some visual's; Chuck if could provide some comparatives of other first-class Counties and what their rate is we could do a comparison that would make a great bar chart and then the other in a pie chart.

We are looking at how many Seniors are actually in Greene County and what percentage is considered low-income. That is information that is provided on the Chamber website, but can add to the Senior website. The questions were raised as to the number of seniors being served and denied because the funds are not available. This information is supplied on the prior year's Progress Report and can be included on the Master Spreadsheet.

It was also suggested that the Board get back to scheduling monthly visits to the Senior Centers to have a more hands on interaction. Cindy did mention that she would like to attend when she could.

**Communication:**

Chuck Marinec, Stephen Short and Mike Jungers attended the MoAlso Senior Levy Annual Meeting. Show Me Summit on Aging and Health 2023. A copy of the Agenda is attached. Here is a brief take-away from the attendees.

- ✓ **Chuck Marinec** -- We are basically in line with how we handle the Sunshine Laws. One thing that we do need to improve upon is we routinely get requests at fiscal year-end for budget adjustments within line items. It is pretty standard request; the Agency tell us how they can better spend the funds and we give our approval. We need to get back to those agencies really quickly and we have done most of that by email. In the future we need to ask for ratification and add to the agenda for the next meeting.
- ✓ **Stephen Short** – Since this was his first meeting he enjoyed the information that was shared and considered it a great learning experience. His take on Clay County, he was very impressed with their organization skills and all that they contribute. Chuck mentioned they are the driving force behind the agency.
- ✓ **Mike Jungers** – First it was very energizing. It was informative to be able to look beyond what we are doing and see what others are doing and how they are doing it. His conclusion was that we are relatively healthy and heard how some of the other Boards are struggling. He did encourage everyone to go if opportunity provided itself. A couple of things that were of interest was the thought that they will examine/explore how many of the other Boards rely on Property Tax. Would it be a positive or a negative to shift to Income Tax. The conclusion of most is to tread carefully and examine all aspects prior to making any suggestions on change. Also, they discussed that 47 counties are not under Senior Board, either regional or individual and what leadership is doing to expand the number of counties to have Senior Boards. They will be going to Legislature to educate them and they are looking to have an Advocacy Day where it would be beneficial to have as many seniors as possible attend. He was very impressed with the staff and how they are leading in a positive direction.

10:00 A.M. moved to adjourn by Mike Jungers. Judith Billings seconded. Motion Carried.

Next meeting October 23, 2023 – 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