

**COMMITTEE DAY
MONDAY
JANUARY 24, 2011**

Members present:

Bill Farber, Barry Hutchins, Brian Towers, John Frey, Rick Wilt, Bob Edwards, Clark Seaman and Neil McGovern

**SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE
10:00 AM**

Also present: Tracy Eldridge, Ed Becker of Empire Recycling

Tracy introduced Ed Becker of Empire Recycling out of Utica.

Ed had handouts for everyone. Ed explained that there are three divisions that go along with Empire Recycling, metal, paper plastic and shredding. They are a 4th generation company and expanding out as they speak.

What they do for us now is cardboard, plastics and some newspaper. They feel that they can do more for us, such as white paper from households. They can do equipment such as bailers, boxes etc. They would do a two stop pickup, Inlet and Lake Pleasant which would knock the price down just by doing that. They pretty much cover everything except C & D and garbage.

White paper was discussed, Ed stated they could drop a trailer for us and the material could be placed in the trailer either loose or bailed.

The Town of Indian Lake passed in their budget to build a similar shed as they have in Lake Pleasant so they can stream line their recyclables better. Tracy stated it is up to the Board how much we take out of the waste stream and put it to market, bailed, unbailed and he feels there are some opportunities there. Single sorted, bailed, high quality stuff is worth the most money. If we choose to do this that means more storage because we don't produce that much to make truck loads.

Neil asked if we would need to add more manpower. Tracy doesn't want to do that, he is looking more at containers. He is sure that schools have paper that can be recycled. They could put it loosely in a roll-off container and then we come and haul it to Glens Falls, but it will take some investment on the County's part.

Tracy discussed what the County is doing new and how we can take more recycling out of the waste stream. Tracy feels we can do it better with bins & storage without adding additional manpower.

Brian stated that we aren't getting all the recyclables now; the Town of Hope does their own.

Tracy feels we are going a doing a pretty good job, but there is more we can do without a huge investment.

Discussion continued on ideas, suggestions on e-waste. Tracy stated that is why they need someone to do a Solid Waste Management Plan. Part of this plan is for education for our residents.

Ed will put together some options for recycling the paper and how to divide then get together with Tracy to present to the Board for review.

Neil left at this time.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE
10:50 AM**

Also present: Beth Ryan and Bob Kleppang

Beth has been in her new position for two weeks and two days. She is just trying to figure out where they are as an agency. Some of the strengths and some of the challenges they are going to face.

Beth reported the staff is doing well, reports are getting submitted. Daily duties are being completed as normal.

The deficiency that Public Health received has been corrected.

Policies are in place and that is good.

Beth reported on adjusting to the change in focus, coming from a place of being Director of Public Health/Patient Services ten years ago and she has been looking at the changes to get a sense of where the agency is and where they need to go.

Something very obvious to Beth is that the State Health Department has changed their focus. Back in the 90's there were programs that went under their Disease category and Health Education and Community Health Assessment. Now they have changed to 10 essential public health services and the local Health Department now has to monitor health issues, investigate health issues and they what us to partner with providers in our area. She feels there has been a push for the Public Health Agency to do the oversight and make sure that there is a quality product being provided for our area. That means less and less services are being provided directly by your Public Health.

What concerns Beth is that Public Health is the one essential service that links people to what is available. There's no hospitals, there is not a lot of providers within Hamilton County and that means your local Health Department needs to step up to the plate and provide those services. Beth continued to review her vision of where the Department needs to go.

Brian asked what is it going to take to get to where you want to be. Beth stated she would need more time than two weeks and two days to review everything. But she feels they could shift gears and start providing some services. Beth feels that the Registered Nurses could shift over to Public Health duties when the patient count is down and they are slow. She feels the nursing staff needs to learn to shift from Public Health to Patient Services and vice a versa.

Bill stated our history of late has proved that when we don't do that it isn't terribly effective from a financial standpoint. When we are not seeing as many patients or making as many visits our revenue drops off but our expenses don't. But if we were using them to provide some Public Health services that can be taken from Public Health portion of the budget.

Beth's hope is to start providing more services within the next six months.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE
11:10 AM**

Also present: Bob Kleppang

Bob handed out handouts and stated he would like to focus on three things, what's new, what challenges they are facing and the budget.

Starting with challenges Bob reviewed the cuts made to the State budget and how they maintain their services. Since November 2009 they have had a 5.5% reduction in revenue from the State.

Bob has been hearing that potentially they could be looking at a 7-10% cut across the board. Bob reported that as they see reduction in State revenue; they just spend no more than they have to spend to bring in the State revenue. When the State revenue is decreased so is the County share.

Bill asked how many more years can he keep doing this. Bob stated that he didn't know. Bill stated that we are going to have to find a way to start preparing people for the outcome that they are going to experience.

Bob stated it would be particularly hard for his department because when they have developed programs and they have focused themselves on those programs in spending that money we are actually saving money. For example the CCIS; the funding may look great, we get together and talk about issues, but what is that really doing for us. Well we do know we are seeing fewer kids being placed out of homes; because of that we are having a significant savings, not having to pay central facilities for these kids.

They also have a new program called Respite. Respite is something that can help stabilize a family. This program will also help keep someone home and not entering Berkshire Farms which will cost a lot more money.

Bill stated that he agrees with Bob, but soon he will be faced with, yes do this program but pay for it differently, it is going to be taken out of everybody's hands. That is what the property tax cap means in conjunction with the 7-10% cuts. It means those things that you are not mandated to provide, even if they are cost savings, may well disappear.

Bob stated that on the handouts he had put commitment fees; something he usually doesn't talk with them about. A couple of years ago our commitment fees were about 400% of what he budgeted for. Generally they not only affect Community Services but also the Sheriff's Department. These are situations where someone is in jail and has been determined to need placement in a forensic psychiatric facility. Also the judge can order someone into placement involuntarily which we are responsible for the costs.

What they are hearing out of Albany is just cutting. There is serious discussion about merging departments, which he feels is a great idea, but he feels it will have a negative impact in the short term.

The CSB update is the committees are now meeting quarterly instead of monthly. The feed back is positive, but membership remains a problem. Inlet and Long Lake are a struggle; we need representation from those areas.

Bob spoke more on the new Respite program.

Bob reported that they are trying to get a new program called Social Support off the ground. The cause has to do with transportation issues and they will continue to push for this.

The web-site will be live in February and he feels this will be a great tool to help them with outreach.

Bob reported that overall he feels they are doing pretty well county-wide.

For chemical dependency treatment we still contract with NorthStar as well as gambling treatment. It has been four years since the start and we have as of yet to treat anyone with a gambling addiction. But there are people that have bought lottery tickets to the extent that they can not pay their mortgage. He feels there are people out there that need treatment but no one has come forward.

Brian asked if this is a situation that someone has to come to you. Bob stated that it is to an extent. Bob stated the exception to that might be a situation in which because of that activity, for example a kid that borrows mom & dad's credit card, goes on-line and blows a lot of money, it can become a criminal issue. Bill explained this is for treatment through NorthStar, not the gambling prevention grant.

Discussion continued on many different levels of addiction.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

11:55 AM

Also present: William Zullo

Bill gave the committee an update on what's been going on. The Town of Benson has its 150th Anniversary and were planning on doing something. Bill put together a display but it was put off due to remodeling. They did fill the vacancy of Town Historian and appointed John Stortecky.

Bill reported that he went to see Randy Begeal and he showed him around what was once called the Tannery.

The Town of Hope - appointed Ray Edwardsen as historian.

Town of Wells - historian is Helen Buyce.

Morehouse - They had lots of meetings over the winter and on their celebration it was great weather. Carole Ford and all of the people did a great job putting on a great weekend.

Inlet – Has a strong historical society and they just received space over the post-office for their youths. Bill attended what they called a Share Inlet History Day and Mrs. Rudd accepted an offer by Bill to be videotaped. Bill gave a quick history on this woman.

Raquette Lake – He is talking about a hike to a military road where there is a grave on the East side of Raquette Lake for next year.

Bill continued to review similar activities he has done in each town.