

Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board

Minutes

Meeting Monday February 24, 2025

Mike Jungers, Vice-Chairman, called a meeting of the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board to order on February 24 at 9:00 am. Self-Intros made for recording purposes. Meeting held at the Historic Courthouse Room 309, 940 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri.

Board Members Present: Denny Pilant, Joyce Munden, Mike Jungers, Robert Thurman, Stephen Short and Mary Ellison.

Board Members Absent: Chuck Marinec (Excused)

Others Present: Debbie Allen, Rene Frazier (OATS), Becca Fields and Liz McClelland (SeniorAge)

Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2025. Motion to approve with corrections made by Joyce Munden. Seconded by Robert Thurman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for January 2025 presented by Denny Pilant. Cash Balance as of the end of January is \$1,488,999.34. Property Tax Revenue is \$2,479,390.93, Bank/Investment \$56,786.98, Refunds & Reimbursements \$0.00, Other Revenue \$0.00 with a Total Revenue of \$2,536,177.91, the YTD Revenue is \$2,536,177.91. Total Expenditures \$0.00 the YTD Expenditures are \$0.00. Checks issued: No Expenditures for the month of January. Total Ending Balance of \$4,025,177.25. Total Investments Principal \$1,365,963 at longer term investment and that should yield Approximate Annual Interest \$52,010.74.

Cindy sent out an e-mail along with the January financial report stating that Property revenue collections and interest is up from January of 2024. There were no expenditures for the month. Investments remain the same, although the Treasurer purchased another short-term instrument in February for \$500,000.00.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Stephen Sort. Seconded by Joyce Munden. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Presentation: OATS – Rene Frazier

Amount Requested \$600,000.00 – which is the same amount that was requested last year. A signed budget request did not accompany the application. At which point a motion to table was requested. Denny asked Rene if it would be possible to supply numbers for the outlining areas.

Motion to Table made by Mike Jungers. Seconded by Stephen Short. Motion Tabled carried.

Motion to remove from Table made by Stephen Short. Seconded by Denny Pilant. Motion to remove from table was carried.

Revised Amount Requested \$614,238.15. The revised amount consists of NE Greene Co/Strafford and Fair Grove area increased from four (4) days to five (5) days. The difference in the original request and the revised request is a total of \$14,238.00.

OATS Transit will provide up to thirteen (13) vehicles operating a total of approximately 14,956.20 hours per year for transportation of Greene County's citizens. Funding for rural areas of Greene County may be subsidized by Federal funds which requires a 50% match.

The project's primary goal is to provide additional transportation opportunities to Senior Citizens in Greene County. The expected outcome is a greater flexibility in service and increased availability.

The Board felt that it was in the best interest of the Seniors to approve the addition of an extra day for Strafford and Fair Grove.

Motion to Approve Revised amount of \$614,238.15 made by Stephen Short. Seconded by Denny Pilant. Motion carried.

Communication:

Presentation: Becca Fields and Liz McClelland, SeniorAge on appropriations and policies for the coming year

SeniorAge was made aware on January 7th that there was a looming budget crisis that would affect the Area Agencies on Aging:

- While their normal federal budget funds (Older Americans Act) are available, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHS) projects that it will exhaust its **spending authority** for these funds by March 2025.
- So, while no Area Agency has exceeded its budget there is insufficient authority in the budget line item for the Older Americans Act.
- A 3-4 month disruption in their core funding is **substantial**, but they have worked diligently to establish as much of a contingency as possible in order to navigate this type of difficulty.
 - Knowing that the regular budget reductions were necessary this year, we've been working towards cost savings since the beginning of this fiscal year, July 2024. Some of these measures have included staff attrition, combining of staff roles, and the implementation of waitlists. So, we have been headed in the right path, even though we didn't know this particular crisis was out there.
 - We've also been very frugal in spending our Senior Services Growth and Development Funds this year. While these funds were never intended to supplant our regular budget, it does look like we will need to use them in a way to help us weather this particular storm.
 - The particular funding stream that is in jeopardy makes up about 31.5% of our operating budget. We have been working diligently over the last several years to diversify our funding.

January 28th is when Governor Kehoe released his recommendations for the State Fiscal Year 2025 (current year) supplemental and State Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

- The supplemental (FY25) includes the requested addition in Older American Act (OAA) federal fund authority.
- While the Governor's proposed budget is just the first step in getting this passed through the legislature, the fact that we are at such a good starting point is really helpful. We are advocating for the supplemental budget passed as quickly as possible.
- If it can get passed towards the end of March, then we should be able to access funding again by mid-April.

We will also focus on a very needed increase in the Medicaid Meal reimbursement rate. The rate study has suggested a nearly \$4.00 increase is needed in this reimbursement rate. The rate has not changed since 2018, while raw food and labor costs have risen sharply.

We continue to watch the federal side of things very closely as well. The Older Americans Act is a grant that is generated from the Federal government, so we need that one working hand in hand with our state budget. So far, we have not experienced any disruption in access to these funds on the federal level. We are continuing to watch this closely in order to prepare for any possible impacts.

10:00 A.M. Denny Pilant moved to adjourn. Seconded by Joyce Munden. Motion Carried.

Next meeting March 25, 2025 – 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