

Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board

Minutes

Meeting Monday July 28, 2025

Chuck Marinec, Chairman, called a meeting of the Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund Board to order on July 28, 2025 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: Chuck Marinec, Mike Jungers, Robert Thurman, Stephen Short and Mary Ellison.

Board Members Absent: Denny Pilant -- Excused

Others Present: Deborah Allen, Tery O'Shell & Jennifer Cotner-Jones (Springfield Symphony)

Meeting Minutes: June 23, 2025. Motion to approve made by Mike Jungers. Seconded by Mary Ellison. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for June 2025 presented by Stephen Short. Cash Balance as of the end of June is \$1,488,999.34. Property Tax Revenue is \$16,776.86, Bank/Investment \$2,621.69, Refunds & Reimbursements \$0.00, Other Revenue \$0.00 with a Total Revenue of \$19,398.55, the YTD Revenue is \$3,573,088.44, Total Expenditures \$871,442.32 the YTD Expenditures are \$1,941,883.96. Checks issued: Debbie Allen, Arc of the Ozarks, Council of Churches the Ozarks, Fair Grove Senior Center, Gillioz Theater, Legal Services Southern Mo, Chuck Marinec, OATS, Ozark Area Community Action, Republic Senior Center, Springfield City Health Dept, Springfield Southside Seniors, Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Strafford Senior Center and United Way. Total Ending Balance of \$3,120,203.82. Total Investments Principal \$2,912,191.20 at longer term investment and that should yield Approximate Annual Interest \$77,215.27.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Robert Thurman. Seconded Mary Ellison. Motion carried.

Old Business:

New Business

Presentation: Rogersville Area Senior Center

Amount Requested \$5,000.00 – Food Enhancement. The organization's main purpose, goals and objectives are to provide a good hot meal for the local seniors in the area to enjoy as well as being a source of information and activities. They strive to help everyone feel at home and comfortable. The need for funding in Rogersville is impacted by the addition of over 55 housing developments. SeniorAge pays for the meals, but they only offer milk with lunches. The Center adds tea, lemonade and coffee. They try to buy the best quality of meats at the local grocery store, which also allows a quantity discount. When the center is closed for holidays – they open and serve a nice meal or barbeque for free. The main goal is to keep Seniors fed and happy in the Rogersville area.

Motion to approve was made by Robert Thurman conditional on supplying a current Certificate of Insurance. Seconded by Mike Jungers. Motion carried.

Presentation: Springfield Symphony Orchestra – Tery O'Shell and Jennifer Cotner-Jones

Amount Requested \$26,530.00 additional funding. Robert Thurman recused himself from this presentation and stepped out. The requested amount is to cover the cost of concert tickets for Greene County Senior Citizens incurred and anticipated during the remaining calendar FY2025 year. The Springfield Symphony is the only provider of reduced tickets and provided transportation to the Symphony concerts for seniors of Greene County – no other entity offers this opportunity. The transportation provided currently, is through Fisk Transportation, they are currently in communications with OATS Transit to possibly expand to the outer areas of Springfield.

As research has discovered, music has often been described as having healing powers and can help to protect against cognitive decline. Due to the pandemic, our aging population were some of the most affected by the lockdowns consequently suffering from isolation and depression. As an organization, we know that hundreds of our older patrons were unable to attend the Springfield Symphony due to facility restrictions and caution. It has been found that music often finds itself tied to unique memories. This is no different for seniors; music can have a huge impact on mental health. Classical music is great for stress alleviation, it's a definite source of positive emotions, and a concert is also a brilliant communication and socialization field for seniors.

Demand and enthusiasm for this program has exceeded the Symphony's expectations, consequently resulting in needing additional financial support to subsidize the additional costs and growth.

Motion to approve made by Mike Jungers. Seconded by Stephen Short. Motion carried.

Communications:

State Levy Board Transition Meeting: Presented by Mike Jungers and Stephen Short

Mike Jungers reported on the first Missouri Council on Aging (MCoA) Transition Team Committee Meeting which was held virtually on June 13, 2025. Two staff members and individuals representing senior levy boards throughout the state were present.

The purpose of the Transition Committee is to plan a smooth and effective transition from MoALSO, which is dissolving, to the MCoA. In the future, MCoA will refer to Senior Fund Boards rather than Senior Levy Boards. The explanation to use the phrase would be inclusive of all county mechanisms for funding the umbrella of senior services. MCoA has issued an RFP to support establishing a new county senior fund from among the rural counties. MCoA will not be financing the county initiative but will through the grant provide polling, data collection and other activities in support of the county initiative.

Mike encouraged Board members to locate the MCoA website where you can learn about the staff, members of the Board of Directors and activities that are available. The organization exists to assist Missouri area agencies on the aging, current and future funding boards and encourage the sharing of information that will benefit seniors. Among the present activities are monthly Zoom calls (2nd Thursday of each month, registration will be required to attend) and a monthly on-line newsletter. The upcoming annual conference marks a transition from planning by MoALSO members to coordination by the MCoA. This conference will be held in Columbia, Missouri on Monday, September 8, 2025.

Stephen Short reported that changing funding environments is placing increasing responsibilities on local systems to respond. It was suggested that we attend legislative committee hearings sharing real world impacts and provide constructive solutions. We need to highlight the value of local funding and effectiveness of targeted,

community-based investments. Amy suggested local levy boards coordinate locally with like organizations, tune into web broadcast Missouri Joint Committee on Tax Policy, attend and participate in legislative property tax committee public hearing (Lebanon, July 30, 2025) and connect with statewide associations such as MCoA and MoBudget.

Public Hearing on Property Taxes for Senior Services: Presented by Stephen Short

Stephen attended the Public Hearing in Lebanon on July 30, 2025. He made it clear that he was representing Steve Short as a taxpayer and not an official. Nearly all folks who represented organizations did so. It was noted that this is a hot button issue. Representative Darin Chappell is 110% in favor of comprehensive sales tax. The Springfield/Greene County Library Director estimated the sales tax in Greene County would be about 15% and someone else estimated one district in Springfield would be approximately 17%. As expected, many Libraries, Fire, EMS and School Districts voice concerns. Several Districts commented on SB3, who were 0 and 5% property tax increase counties. Consensus was Supreme Court will nullify.

10:00 A.M. Mike Jungers moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mary Ellison. Motion Carried.

Next meeting August 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