

LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Thursday, December 3, 2020
Tentative Minutes.

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video) and are not the official record of the meeting; the formally approved/accepted written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Committee Chairman Carolyn Rentenbach. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Committee Chairman Rentenbach dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the moment of silence, as both were done at the prior meeting.

Roll Call:	District #3	William J. Bunek	PRESENT
	#5	Patricia Soutas-Little	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#6	Carolyn Rentenbach	PRESENT (via Zoom)

County Administrator Chet Janik, Senior Services Director April Missias, and Chief Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Zywicki were present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2020:

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020, AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 3 (Soutas-Little, Bunek, Rentenbach)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

Chairman Rentenbach asked if there were any additions or deletions, there being none:

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY BUNEK.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 3 (Soutas-Little, Bunek, Rentenbach)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Committee Chairman Carolyn Rentenbach announced the telephone number 231-256-8109 for anyone wishing to call in for comment. No calls received and no public present.

Action Items –

2020 Budget Review:

Director Missias reviewed the budget for Senior Services and also the activities from 2020. Missias responded to questions from Commissioners. Discussion of the impact of COVID on Seniors, the delivery of services, and the comfort level of the seniors with individuals coming into their homes. The 2020 budget is not reflective of normal activities for the Department and there could be a pent up need next year when things improve. It is clear looking at the data that there is a downward

trend for in-home services. A lot of normal activities / offerings have not been allowed due to COVID.

Potential Retired Vehicle Acquisition:

Missias had requested at the November Executive Board meeting to purchase a vehicle that was being retired from the Sheriff's Office. The employees have had a lot of wear and tear on their personal vehicles delivering food and other items. The question was raised is this just a one-time occurrence or will it continue? The pandemic has brought to the surface that there is a greater need than they were aware of regarding food and items to keep people in their homes. It has been good for people to be able to come forward and voice that they have a need. People seem to be more willing now to come forward. She continued with comments and overview regarding the travel needs. At least one or two staff from the Department are out in the community attending to needs daily.

Administrator Janik gave an overview and there are three options: continue to do what is being done and submit mileage vouchers; purchase one of the retired vehicles and assign to their department; or have the vehicle available to the staff and make it available to other departments that can be checked out – have one or two vehicles assigned that can be checked out and track the mileage.

Zywicki reviewed expenditures for 2016-2020 for the Senior Services and compared those costs to maintaining a vehicle or two on staff. She explained each column and line of the report. The recommendation would be to maintain two vehicles in a pool.

Discussion on the options and the advantages of holding the fleet vehicles, the associated costs, and savings. Missias said she thinks that this would work with a fleet vehicle. Discussion ensued.

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO TRY A MOTOR POOL CONCEPT BY RESERVING THE TWO VEHICLES WITH ONE BEING FIRST PRIORITY TO SENIOR SERVICES UNLESS NOT NEEDED. SECONDED BY RENTENBACH.

Discussion – Commissioner Bunek said he would like to wait one year to see if this is going to be trend. He understands the wear and tear for the employees on their own vehicles. If this is just a COVID issue, we could be back to where we were pre-COVID. He would like to see how this all works out.

Commissioner Rentenbach said that the problem is not going to go away overnight. Rentenbach outlined the use of miles that have been used and thinks that this makes more sense economically.

Commissioner Soutas-Little said if we try it and don't like it, the vehicles can be sold; it is very true based on data she has seen – Seniors who are really food insecure are coming out and feeling more comfortable asking for services. Soutas-Little said she would like to try it for a year.

AYES – 2 (Soutas-Little, Rentenbach)

NO – 1 (Bunek)

RECOMMENDATION CARRIES.

Board Member Comments:

- Commissioner Bunek stated that he thought it was a very thorough discussion and glad the Committee had it.

Public Comment:

Committee Chairman Rentenbach called for Public Comment.
No comment received.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned by Committee Chairman Rentenbach at 11:12 a.m.

William J. Bunek, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk
Clerk – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners