

DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

October 25, 2010

Approved

Board Members Present: Cynthia Luxton, Jane Dargatz, Ken Ritchie, Donna Schoenfeld,
Gary Lothson, Eileen Dubin

Board Members -Excused Absence: John Rogalin, Thomas Kirts

Board Members - Absent:

Other Persons Present: Chuck Rose

Office Staff Present: Mark Parrish, Kathy Ostdick

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ms. Luxton, at 6:00 p.m.

2. AGENDA

Ms. Schoenfeld moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Dubin. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. MINUTES

Tabled to the next meeting.

4. TAX LEVY

Ms. Luxton stated that the board had made and approved a motion at the last board meeting to allow Ms. Luxton and Mr. Parrish to move forward with the attorney, Frank Gosser. Contact was made with Frank Gosser and his recommendations are presented in this meeting.

Mr. Parrish talked to Bob Lesser, Financial Director of the McHenry County 708 Board, who is well versed on the Community Mental Health Act. It was his suggestion that we contact their attorney, Frank Gosser, who is also extremely knowledgeable on the CMHA, who could help us with this issue. Mr. Parrish was unavailable the next day, so Ms. Ostdick was asked to contact Frank Gosser.

Ms. Ostdick reported that she had talked to Frank Gosser. He stated that once our budget has been approved by our board and submitted to the county, they cannot change it. The county can hold our tax dollars, but they cannot redirect them to other departments. His advice was to try an informal approach first. If that did not resolve the situation, he suggested that we retain a local attorney as the main counsel and that he could act as special counsel. Frank was familiar with Chuck Rose and asked if he were still on the board. He then suggested that since Chuck is familiar with the county, county board members, and the levy situation, that he would be a good choice for us.

Ms. Luxton, upon hearing these recommendations, called Gary Hanson, Deputy Administrator for the County, told him what she knew and explained the board's position. Mr. Hanson had no problem with what she was presenting him with, but indicated that we needed to get legal counsel and something in writing stating our position. Ms. Luxton also said that time was short and that we needed to get something in to the County Board Finance Committee the first week of November.

Ms. Luxton then contacted Chuck Rose and asked if he would be interested in working on this situation with the board. Since it was more than was granted to Ms. Luxton and Mr. Parrish, a new motion to hire counsel would be needed.

Ms. Luxton also said that the board should seek some informal way to talk with county board members. Calling county board members in the districts in which our board members live would seem to be the appropriate thing to do. Ms. Luxton said that she would contact the chair of the Finance Committee.

Ms. Dubin asked Mr. Rose to explain what we had done in a similar situation in 2008. Mr. Rose stated that he had researched the Community Mental Health Act, consulted with the State's Attorney, and then had set up a meeting with Ray Bockman, County Administrator, Gary Hanson, Deputy County Administrator, Ms. Luxton, and himself. After speaking to Mr. Bockman and Mr. Hanson, the redirection of dollars in 2008 was withdrawn. He also stated that he would be doing something similar but more expanded this time.

Ms. Dubin said that this time it's different, that people's jobs are in jeopardy. Ms. Luxton said that she had understood that the Mental Health Board dollars do not impact the total county dollars. Ms. Luxton went on to say that in 2007 we had made a request to the county to be a separate limiting rate, in essence taking our dollars out of the general tax cap dollars and listing them separately.

5. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Lothson moved to go into Closed session at 6:17 p.m.; seconded by Rev. Ritchie. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Schoenfeld moved to return to Open session at 6:32 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Dubin. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Lothson moved to retain Charles G. Rose to represent the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board in regards to the issues set forth in a 10/25/10 memo and that we compensate Mr. Rose at the rate of \$175 per hour; seconded by Rev. Ritchie. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Rose asked if everyone was OK with this strategy. Mr. Rose said that he would do two things right away; one is to get some talking points out to the board members for their calls to the county board members, and two is to get a letter together immediately to the County Board.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Luxton, President

Kathy Ostdick, Recording Secretary