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Vernon County Unit on Aging

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Vernon County Unit on Aging Committee met on 1-17-2011 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Erlandson Office Building.

Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. Those present included Sherman Erlandson and Kevin Larson, Pat Peterson, Director; and Nancy O'Connor, Secretary/Bookkeeper. Karen Dahl joined the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Cade Cary and Leo Verbsky were absent.

Affirmation of public notice was given.

Motion by Sherman Erlandson: seconded by: Kevin Larson, to approve the December 13, 2010 minutes as written. Motion carried.

Pat gave the financial report. She gave an overview of the voucher summary and reviewed the 2010 budget report-to-date. She requested approval to go to the Finance Committee with line item changes and a request to balance the 32. Account for the minibus by using \$1,845 from the restricted account and balance the 30. Account for administrative costs by using \$1,400 from the fund balance. Additionally, the lease with VARC, Inc for the accessible bus expires in April 2011. Pat is seeking to purchase a similar bus with DOT's help for approximately \$10,000 and wants to gain approval from the Finance Committee to use the restricted account for that, too. Motion by Karen Dahl: seconded by: Sherman Erlandson, to take requests to the Finance Committee. Motion by Sherman Erlandson: seconded by: Karen Dahl to approve the payment of the December vouchers. Motion carried.

In Nutrition Pat shared with the committee the monthly report on attendance and donations at our mealsites.

The Mini Bus report shows that use of the accessible minibus and the van are used about equally. Weather conditions have affected days of service and the bus did not run four days in December. Our volunteer driver program is seeing new clients, some who are using volunteer drivers to connect with trains and planes for holiday travel. The 33 Express will continue service in 2011. New riders include some Amish riders. More marketing is planned.

Pat gave the Elderly Benefit Specialist Report, sharing with the committee the numbers of customers seeking Medicare Part D assistance.

There were no Public Comments.

In New Business: The Committee approved seeking to purchase an accessible bus.

The Viroqua Mealsite Manager's position receives WRS and needs Committee approval to fill. Motion by Karen Dahl, second by Sherman Erlandson to fill the position internally. Motion carried.

All were reminded that AARP Volunteer Tax Aides will be assisting Vernon County residents of any age with simple State, Federal & Homestead Tax credit filing. Priority is given to those with low incomes and the elderly. They will be at WTC in Viroqua on Thursdays, February 24 through March 24. The Unit on Aging manages the scheduling of appointments.

In Old Business: The Personnel Committee chose to require annual reviews for all staff instead of the proposed every three years for employees with five or more years of service.

In Advocacy Karen Dahl shared that the "Hello Neighbor" radio program on WVRQ has named Saturdays at 6:50 am as "Senior Saturdays" and she has guests speaking on issues of interest to senior citizens. Pat Peterson has been speaking the last few weeks on the preventive health services available for those receiving Medicare that are part of the new health care reform.

The next Unit on Aging Committee Meeting will be February 14 at 12:30 p.m. at the Erlandson County Office 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Motion by: Sherman Erlandson, seconded by Karen Dahl, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Pat Peterson, Director

Leo Verbsky, President

PP/LV/no