MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011

Members Present: Chair. Martin, Ald. Stellato, Monken, Carrignan, Payleitner, Turner, Rogina, Krieger, Bessner, and Lewis

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Chris Aiston, Peggy Forster, Chief Mullen, Kathy Livernois and Chief Lamkin

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair. Martin at 7:15 p.m.

2. Omnibus Vote

None.

3. Presentation of St. Charles Mental Health Board agencies and recommendation to approve funding for:

a. Association for Individual Development,
b. Easter Seals DuPage and Fox River Valley,
c. Fox Valley Hospice, and
d. Lazarus House.

(This is Part 1 of a two-part presentation. The second part will be held on July 18.)

Julie Herr: The City levies a 4 cent property tax to support the Mental Health Board and their agencies that provide services to the City of St. Charles. The Mental Health Board has requested funding for FY11/12 in the amount of $634,000. Tonight there will be a presentation from four of the agencies that are requesting over $25K in funding through the Mental Health Board. Additional presentations will be made on July 18.

John Rabchuk, 914 Ash Street, Chrmn. Mental Health Board. Its been my pleasure to be the Chair of the Mental Health Board for several years now. Tonight we have four agencies here that we have recommended funding in excess of $25K and they are here tonight to make a presentation to you as well as to answer any questions you may have on the services they provide to the residents of St. Charles.

Association of Individual Development – Lynn O'Shea – I am here tonight to talk about the kinds of services we offer to the St. Charles community. Not too long ago you were kind enough to give us a resolution honoring our 50th anniversary. AID has been serving St. Charles and the greater Fox Valley area for more than 50 years now. And our services range from children in-home therapy care for our youngsters with developmental delays and

physical disabilities, through respite care for young families with children still in school that need a break. But the preponderance of our services are for young adults who have left special education and need support in getting a job, living more independently, recreating with others, and to live a fuller life with assistance and support. I'm sure you see many of our graduates at the local business establishments; in particular Jewel has been very outstanding in employing people with disabilities as has Meijers, WalMart and many of the other local businesses. This past year more than 161 individuals received services through AID programs and we are very pleased to say that we have been able to continue services to the very mast majority of folks who came through our door despite some revenue reductions. Service calls to support people in St. Charles for AID exceeded $1.3M last year. Much of that support was in group homes like the 7th Street group home here in St. Charles which the City was very helpful in getting it up and operating and is continuing to operate smoothly. I would be happy to answer any questions of the services we provide and let me say one more time how thankful we are for the financial support that the City of St. Charles provides to us and the wonderful work that the St. Charles Mental Health Board does.

Ald. Carrignan: Thank you for your services you provide. It is something really critical to this community and thank you for a job well done.

Easter Seals DuPage and Fox River Valley – Sara Cohen. Thank you all for the support you have given to Easter Seals DuPage and Fox River Valley region over quite a few years. Last year we provided services to 55 children from St. Charles and those 55 kids got over 1,000 hours of service. This is critically important to these kids because for the kids that we provide the services to are either not insured or under insured and otherwise would not be able to afford our services. We provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition therapy, speech and language therapy for kids from birth to 21. This year we are putting on a national level emphasis on the first five years and many of the kids we do treat are in the 0 to 5 year age range. It makes a huge difference. One example is a child was born which seemed like a normal delivery, parents started to notice in a few months that the child was not reaching certain milestones. Brought the baby in and found out it had a stroke while in utero and took the child to a pediatric neurologist and was told their child would never walk or talk. That child found its way to Easter Seals and is now 2 years old and seems almost like a normal 2 year old child – walking, talking, and playing and behaving like a normal kid. Still a few small issues with feeding and swallowing, but she is coming along great. So this early intervention/treatment is such a fantastic investment because it saves money down the road and really enhances the quality of life for the children and the families.

Aldermen: Great job.

Fox Valley Hospice – Kathy Melone. Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice is a very unique organization. We have two very specialized components of what we do. First, is our traditional hospice where we take people in who have life threatening illnesses and we assign them a volunteer who provides them with emotional support, spiritual support, physical support or whatever their needs are. Obviously these people are going through a very trying time and I have heard so many stories of the impact we have had on their lives

and allowing them to live life to their fullest until the very end. But its our bereavement services which the Mental Health Board plays a very big part. They have supported us for so many years and played such a significant role in the development of our bereavement services. We have a very strong youth and adult bereavement program where we take in people who have lost someone very significant to them. We provide them with one on one counseling, provide them with support groups very specific to their lost, and really help them through a very difficult time. We are still going through some really significant economic times and all of our services are completely free of charge. A St. Charles family that has really benefitted from our services is a family whose older daughter attended STC-East. Their younger daughter is 12 years old and their older daughter committed suicide. The STC school counselor was extremely supportive and immediately gave the mom the Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice card. The family has attended counseling and one on one for the younger daughter who needed support on the loss of her older sister, mom and dad who were struggling to explain what had happened and why, and were going through a difficult time themselves. They have gone to our individual counseling and our group counseling. The daughter ended up writing a book that the family has self-published about how children can get through grief, what the 12-year old daughter learned and has now been giving this out to other school groups. It really came from her experiences in the support groups meeting other kids who had gone through similar circumstances and have dealt with things and in the process of what she has gone through it has also really helped the parents to heal. They also have just signed up for "Grief Takes a Hike" trip which is also free of charge by the generosity of our community to go on a camp this summer where their family could further bond and meet other families who gone through similar things and have moved on. This truly would not be possible without the support of the Mental Health Board who has supported us for so long as well as the volunteers of St. Charles. The number of volunteers that we have in our organization that are from the St. Charles community is a very large percentage. It's a lot of seniors who have retired, stay at home moms who want to give back, people who have experienced losses. We also are so proud to have the financial support of our community. Last year we serve 171 individuals from St. Charles and this year we served 190. I am not saying this is an increase. I am saying it is very stable. Our organization continues to serve every single person here who needs it and can't afford to obtain other services. Thank you very much for everything.

Lazarus House – Carol Cryster. Thank you to all the Council Members and the City of St. Charles who has been so supportive of Lazarus House and we wouldn't be able to be here if it wasn't for the support of everyone especially the 708 Board. We are an emergency shelter, transitional housing, and outreach to the community. Because of the funding that is provided through the mental health board, we have been able to help people have a better life. Sometimes they have just bounce in and out of hospitals or they have been on the streets because they have never been diagnosed with the mental illness they have been struggling with. It's just been one problem after another and we have been able to get the mental health care that people need through the funding. We've been able to help moms with children. They been able to handle them in a way they haven't been able to before because of the mental illness in their life. We've been able to help people get a job because they are able think more clearly. Sometimes their thinking is just so twisted and are not able

to focus; so we have been able help people get employment that they otherwise have not been able to hold employment. There is just a myriad of ways that people's lives have been improved and continue to be improved because of the funding that we have through the 708 Mental Health Board. Again thank you.

Chrmn. Martin: And to all four of the agencies that presented tonight, you are all a valuable asset to St. Charles and really appreciate your services to our community and our citizens. Thank you very much.

Ald. Turner: I would like to say thank you too for adding the Community Crisis Center. That is something that is needed at this time and I'm glad you did.

Chrmn. Rabchuk: We were glad that the money was available. We arranged things a little bit, but they are certainly an agency that helped our community a lot.

Ald. Lewis: I want to thank John Rabchuk for being chairman of the board. I have had the privledge of being on the 708 Mental Health Board for about 9 years and John is an outstanding chairman of that committee and we are lucky to have you.

Chrmn. Martin: Thank you too. Every word she said is true.

4. Presentation of the St. Charles Arts Council.

Sue McDowell & Elizabeth Bellaver. This is a good time for us to come before you and review what we do, answer any questions, let you know where we are at this point since we are infants in our progress, but we are doing a really good job in making some ground.

Both Sue and Elizabeth read through the view graphs that were given in the agenda packet.

- Mission Statement
- Vision
- Why… an Arts Council, and why now?
  We believe what we have right now is a strategic window of opportunity. What you have seen if you read through the documentation is a lot of information and we are not the only people who possess this information or have seen these studies, who have read this and believe in the values of arts intrinsically, but also the values of arts to the community. What we are suggesting "why now" is because if we wait too long we will just be an also/and; another community just trying to make this happen and we believe we need to develop this as a bedrock economic engine, cultural machine for the City of St. Charles as an identity and purpose and a way to enhance the revitalization of our city. And thanks to our community we already have a head start. We already have a lot of wonderful organizations in our town, working very hard, many of them very successfully, but it's a struggle with every business. And, again, with timing being what it is and we pull it altogether we really have a potential as a community to make it strong.

- Arts Organizations Typical Funding
  We want you to note that government is not where the Arts Council gets their funding. I know that has been a question from people. And that is not where we plan to get it. Our plan is to get it from event based programming and cultural tourists into the City of St. Charles.
- Some key points in some of the slides are that the studies show a strong arts and culture sector brings a creator work force. These are critical factors today in attracting and keeping businesses.
- Arts = More Valuable Workers for Business
  Strong arts and arts education presence in the community will develop the kind of workers business leaders need to compete in the 21st century. A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive.
- Arts and Economic Prosperity
  This is a study of The Americans for the Arts and there is a lot of data in there about cultural tourism and about arts driving economies. That last survey was done in 2007 and they are working on the fourth one right now. The results of many other studies that have been done subsequently about how people want to live and work where there is strong arts and cultural programming. You are going to find that is what drives people to cities like St. Charles both to be a tourist there, but to live and work there and especially these high valued, high skilled workers.
- Cultural Tourism
  Cultural tourists spend about 30% more or $1,000 more when they extend their stay by one more night, 65% include a cultural, arts, or heritage activity while on a trip of 50 miles or more from their home, and 1/3 of cultural travelers add extra time to their trip because of said activities.
- Immediate Objectives of the St. Charles Arts Council…
  We think we can be of significant values to the arts programming that is already here and exists by trying to put people together with people, arts based businesses with arts based businesses, or from people who call looking for arts. Also being a clearing house in assisting marketing and coordination, and creating a comprehensive calendar of art events and much more. We are also 100% volunteer run until we get an operating fund that will allow us to do otherwise.
- SCAC Current Projects are logo design, website development, developing volunteer database and workforce and database of arts businesses, organizations, artists and arts advocates. Also have had several activities to fund what SCAC does and have future ones scheduled such as the Pop Up Gallery and the 1st annual St. Charles Summer Theatre Fest.
- St. Charles Arts Council Board & Steering Committee (list of names)
- The Community…
  We have met with many members of the community, community organization and City departments. Included a partial list of those contacts.

- Resources and Research
  List various examples of states, regions, and communities with Arts Councils, Commissions and/or Arts Centers. Made special reference to Knight Soul of the Community Study 2010.

Lastly thank you very much for the office space that we are using under this roof which is a huge help to us in getting us started.

Ald. Rogina: The third to last slide you pointed out the role models of other communities which I was very impressed with, but I was wondering whether or not if there were any communities you looked at to the north, west or south suburbs that might fit this list.

Elizabeth: We've had a lot or recent conversations with Batavia and have study a good bit of what is happening in Aurora and Elgin. Those Fox River communities are the ones we focused on more.

Sue: I recently found out that Hinsdale has a pretty well developed Arts Commission. I have not met with them yet.

5. Monthly update regarding City's financial results for April.

Julie Herr: Enclosed in your packet is the financial summary for the 12-month period ending April 30 which is the end of our fiscal year, but it's the beginning of us putting our financial results together for our audited financial statements. The results that you see for April are just preliminary results. We are in the process of compiling our accruals and adjustments that are necessary for us to comply with generally accepted accounting principles. So once you see the final audited year end numbers they will be different as presented today.

As usual we've focused our attention on the four main funds of the City. For the General Fund the project deficit going in to 10/11 is approximately $5K and at the end of April what we were projecting (again not final) there will be a surplus of $589K. This increase to the positive from the deficit of the surplus is mainly due to the management of our expenditures. We are currently 9% below budget for this fiscal year – looking at expenditures.

On the revenue side there is some good and some bad news. Good news is we did end up 3.7% higher than the previous year's results but we still ended about 2-1/2% below what we anticipated budget wise.

For the Electric fund we are still showing a surplus for the fiscal year. Again the electric, water and sewer funds will have various adjustments that will impact the bottom line. The revenues were higher than originally anticipated because of the warm summer we had last year.

The Water fund operating results are much the same as they have been the past few months. Although revenues came in below budget, this shortfall was made up by lower than anticipated expenditures for the year.

As the way results stand now for the Waste Water Fund, we will end up with a smaller deficit than originally budgeted. This is due to expenditures being approximately below budget and again before the accrual and adjustments have been made.

Revenues increased over prior year levels but below budgeted expenditures.

Ald. Carrignan: Your surplus on the general fund showed the FEMA money coming in from the blizzard or is that still out and do we know the amount of FEMA money we are expecting?

Julie: That is still out and we are expecting somewhere between $75K and $85K. We've finished the process on are our end so we are just waiting for it to go through to the State.

Gene Kalley: How are we doing on the General fund to date for this Year?

Julie: For May we are doing pretty well. We haven't looked too closely because we are still in the process of finishing up 10/11. I am actually in the process of doing May's financial results which you will get in the next couple of weeks.

6. Additional Items

None.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Carrignan second by Stellato to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays: None. Chair. Martin did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

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