



4/14/15 Annual Town Meeting

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

PRODUCTIVE YEAR

- Last year was one of **transition**, this one could be termed **productive**.
- Thanks to our staff – Doris Quigley, Terry Harris and Tim Smith who all do an excellent job of providing customer service and keeping this building in operating shape.
- Rock Island Township has a history of progressive, innovative programs that will be continued into the future.

Let's take a look at what we've accomplished:

❖ GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- More than 200 applications distributed
- 92 were returned or about 46% of those handed out (down from 66% last year)
- 42 of the 92 (46%) were approved; 50 denied
- We have an average of 54 active clients per month.
- During the course of the year:
 - 21 clients found work
 - 9 moved out of the Township
 - 16 clients had either their disability or unemployment approved (which translated into deposits to the GA Fund)
 - 23 clients were dismissed for "cause" – meaning noncompliance with program rules, such as job search, improper use of vouchers, etc.
 - It cost about \$140,000 during the past fiscal year to provide services, including \$128,000 for food, shelter and utilities plus

\$1,400 for prescription expenses that dated back prior to Affordable Care Act implementation. We no longer provide medical or prescription assistance (although that may change in the future)

- There were \$50 holiday vouchers issued in November 2014 to 57 GA clients, costing \$2,850
- The Affordable Care Act was implemented and all clients have filed as required by the law

❖ **EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER GRANTS**

- Were announced in December 2013; funds were not released until April 2014. Five applications were approved; 1 denied; and 1 withdrew. \$1,780.73 spent, an average of \$356 per case
- The program provides up to \$450 in a one-time payment to individuals or families to eliminate rent or mortgage assistance problems
- 19 applications were in process but funding extension was denied despite demand for assistance

❖ **WORK READINESS**

- 50+ people per month benefitted from bus tickets to get to interviews or work at a cost of \$6,000. This is an increase compared to last fiscal year
- 51 people received vouchers for steel-toed boots, tools or other employment related items for a total cost of \$1,922, (\$38 average)

❖ **PROGRAMS / CONTRIBUTIONS – BENEFITTING SENIORS, YOUTH OR VETERANS**

- **Senior Cares:** 23 – 25 seniors per month receive a \$35 voucher to Save-A-Lot II for food
- **Christmas Lunch for Seniors**
 - 56 guests and 20 servers (including elected officials, Township, Safer Foundation and Delacerda House staff) enjoyed a delicious full course meal catered by the Montford's. Gift certificates, a visit from Santa Claus, a performance by the 2nd Baptist Men's Chorus plus good company resulted in a wonderful event
 - Total cost was about \$2,400 or \$31.58 per person for food, decorations, gifts, etc.
- **Flu shots**
 - 6 people, including 2 staff, received flu shots last year at a total cost of \$120
- **Blankets**
 - 120 surplus military blankets were distributed between October and February at no cost
- **Meal Site**
 - Lund Hall is the site of the St. Joseph's / St. Pius X Catholic Church's evening meal served Monday through Friday
 - There were 10,617 people served last year, or about 42 per night
 - Thanks to the Meal Site Board, cooks, servers and all the volunteers for this extraordinary effort. Special thanks to Trustee Rita Kirk for lining up the volunteer cooks / servers. And, thanks to site coordinators Chris Dunn, Tim Smith and Mike Clark.

- **Food Pantries**
 - Food Pantry grants of \$3,000 each to 2nd Baptist and Sacred Heart sites and \$1,000 to the Church of Peace
 - 2nd Baptist assisted about 16,000 over a 12 month period
 - Sacred Heart's Pantry is located in the Town Hall rent free
 - 13,350 people were assisted, about 53 per day, for this Monday through Friday operation. Thanks again to Mike Clark for his dedication and service and to all the other volunteers who make this possible!
- **Direct contributions** (\$12,100 approved; some payouts were in installments based on program demand)
 - \$3,000 to the King Center's A.C.T.I.V.E. Club
 - \$150 to King Center brochure celebrating its 40th anniversary
 - \$100 to NAACP brochure
 - \$200 co-sponsorship with South Rock Island Township for Metro Youth's Steppers at the annual Labor Day Parade
 - Up to \$1,500 to the Little League for fee scholarships
 - \$300 to sponsor a Little League team
 - \$1,000 to the Korean War Veterans Annual Convention at the Holiday Inn
 - \$1,500 to PaPa's Helping Vets – they provide furniture, kitchen items, bedding, etc. to veterans, families and individuals in need
 - \$1,000 to the Telecompioneers for its shoe program
 - \$1,500 to SAL's Open Door program to assist clients with emergency needs
 - \$500 to the KeyStone Neighborhood Association to make improvements to a porch on a visible street / avenue
 - Up to \$1,500 to RICAP (Rock Island County Area Project) for recreational and other program registration fees (partnership with RICAP, South Rock Island Township, Rock Island Park and Recreation Department, Public Library and MetroLink)

❖ **TOWN HALL BUILDING USE**

- Ethel Shurlock Giving Center continues to accept donations of clothing, books, miscellaneous items for those in need to take at no charge
- AARP offered its Income Tax service in February through April here in Lund Hall
- Greenbush Neighbors Association meets here monthly
- Lund Hall has been and will be a Cooling / Heating Center when there are temperature extremes.
- We also continue with three rent paying tenants:
 - Delacerda House
 - Safer Foundation
 - Roofer's Union
- Cooperation and communication continues between the G.A. Program and Safer Foundation and Delacerda House
- All three tenants continue to make use of the Town Hall for board meetings

❖ **BOARD INITIATIVES**

- Multiple policies approved / revised:
 - Credit Card (revised)
 - Travel (revised)
 - Concealed Carry
- (Another) Clean **Audit** for fiscal year 2013 – 2014
- **Budget** – Levy approved in December 2014 and the fiscal year 2015 – 2016 budget is close to being approved. Levy was reduced by 5%
 - Additional cost saving measures have been implemented (upgraded lights and motion detectors, programmable thermostats)
 - The Assessor's office bought a new copier that will save money over the long term as per copy costs are more than 50% less than copier it replaced
- **Snow removal contract** awarded to Master Design Landscape. Realized a cost savings of nearly \$1,400 compared to previous vendor
- **Logo** was developed with assistance of Stecker Graphics using Rock Island Lines theme
- Revised Township **brochure**, using new logo and color scheme, was produced
- **Website** was launched June 12, 2014 and is updated regularly. It includes announcements, contact information, agendas, minutes, important documents (audit, policies, etc.), program and services summaries, etc.
- **Newsletter** was produced and distributed in March 2015. 4-page issue with basic information about programs and services.
- **Building Improvements COMPLETED**
 - Bid was awarded to QCGeneral for variety of building improvements; most notably the roof, bathrooms, kitchen, parking lot, interior and exterior lighting. Final cost, including change orders, was \$138,203.

So, productive has been the key word. As I promised last year, 2014 – 15 was very busy, with significant progress towards facility enhancements, program delivery and educating the public about townships . . . especially Rock Island Township.

Questions?