

VILLAGE OF HODGKINS

HEALTH and HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 5, 2019

Meeting called to order: 10:00 a.m.

Those present: Vicky Moxley, Chairman
Larry Rice, Member
Paul Struve, Member
Lida Mills, Member

Also Present: Dominic Misasi, Trustee
Tim Kovel, Trustee
Melody Salerno, Comptroller
Dennis Folkerts, Public Works Foreman

Discussion regarding the Handicapped Assistance Program

Mrs. Moxley discussed the details of the Handicapped Assistance Program, which was decided in the past. Each eligible candidate would receive up to \$5,000.00 in assistance for a lift or ramp, and we would spend a total of \$25,000.00 per year. We have purchased used lifts in the past to help with costs.

The first lift was placed in 2016. The type of project and completed project costs were discussed for all the projects.

One of the equipment recipients had trouble with their equipment this year and contacted Mr. DePeoli directly, instead of calling the Village. Mr. DePeoli charged the Village \$185.00. The residents receiving equipment are informed to call the village directly for any issues.

Mr. Folkerts questioned if we should have a service contract with Mr. DePeoli to come check the lifts yearly. Mrs. Salerno confirmed that Mr. DePeoli did an annual maintenance of 4 units and charged \$125.00 per unit.

Mr. Misasi asked if patio blocks could be installed and then an aluminum plate could be used to save money on concrete. Mr. Folkerts does not think this option will work and provide the support needed for the lift.

We are currently receiving 2 new lifts. A regular lift at \$4595.00 and an extra tall lift for \$6589.00. The total line item budget for the entire year is \$25,000.00 per year.

A recent applicant is now on hospice, so there was discussion as to if a ramp can be added quickly to help this resident out, instead of a lift. Mrs. Moxley discussed that the fire department will help take people in and out of their homes for free. Mrs. Moxley explained how the Fire Department transport works. If insurance allows this and there is a medical need to get from one place to another and will be billed under Medicare. If you do not qualify for this, you can use a Med-car that will transport via wheelchair, but you have to be able to get down the stairs. This is paid for by the individual. The Fire Department will get you in and out of your home for free. There is a large cost to installing the lifts and ramps.

There has to be a note from the physician stating the person is permanently handicapped or they have to have a handicapped placard showing they are handicapped.

Mrs. Moxley explained her envision of the program as helping getting individuals out of their home whom are still mobile and functional. A person can be on hospice up to 2 years, but has to requalify every 6 months.

The Village is not paying for the deck and extra work that needs to be done on the resident who needs the extra tall lift.

Recap: \$25,000 per year budget, \$5,000 per person cap. The base cost of a used lift at \$2500.00 per unit, leaving \$2500.00 for labor and supplies. Maintenance/repairs is coming out of line item budget also. With the cost being spent so far this year, we will be at budget for the year, and any new applicants will need to wait until next year.

Mrs. Moxley is going to look into the requirements from VA and see if we may need to adjust our requirements on the required doctor's letter.

Mr. Folkerts is going to check one of the resident's locations and see if a ramp or lift would work for this their location.

Mrs. Moxley would like the resident that applied first be installed first and then the other 2 will worked on next. Another resident will need to get a letter from the doctor.

There was discussion about adding a counter to the units to make sure they are being used, and remove the units if not being used.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Meeting Resumed at 11:05 a.m. - John O'Connell- Village Attorney now present

Mrs. Moxley clarified that hospice does not mean immobility. The Fire Department also helps provide assistance in getting people out of the home.

Mr. O'Connell does not think there are any legal ramifications for not being able to install a lift of ramp. There was public reaction when this sensitive topic was brought up before. Mr. O'Connell feels we should continue forward.

If a ramp is too short or steep, and does not meet handicapped guidelines then a waiver needs to be signed by the homeowner. Mr. O'Connell explained as long as there is not purposeful negligence by the Village and a waiver is signed the Village is not liable for any injuries. If the ramp is not ADA compliant and it is spelled out in the waiver why it is not compliant, and that the homeowner is aware of the non ADA compliance then the Village is not liable for any injuries.

Mrs. Moxley wants to find a company that installs ramps and see what they do if the ramp does not meet ADA qualifications.

Mrs. Moxley asked a resident that is on the list for a lift to be informed of the Non-Emergency Fire Department number in case he needs to get out of the house.

Mrs. Moxley would like the usage counter added to the next lifts that will be installed. Mrs. Salerno explained the cost of installation for each lift is approximately \$1500.00.

Mrs. Moxley is going to work on the more detailed letter from the doctors.
Mr. Folkerts is going to work on the usage counters and electric.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:29 a.m.


Stephanie Gardner, Village Clerk