

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
2020 HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BUDGET
August 22, 2019

Human Services Board Members Present: Baumann, Burke, Cavanaugh, Geimer, Henrickson, Nasep, Ruggirello, Williams.

Board Members Absent: None.

Board Members Excused: Agnew.

Staff Present: Dodge, Fure, Joas, Randolph, Ziegelbauer.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing for input into the 2020 Human Services Department Budget was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Human Services Board Chair Rick Henrickson. Chair Henrickson stated the Ground Rules for Testifying.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Henrickson introduced Nancy Slattery whose topic was Mental Health.

Ms. Slattery's testimony is as follows:

I'm Nancy Slattery and I live in Maribel. I'm speaking today as a member of R.U.T.H. which is an organization of ecumenical churches. What I wanted to bring to your attention is that we, in cooperation with the League of Women Voters and N.A.M.I. have invited Judge Donald Zuidmulder who is a Brown County Circuit Court judge to come to Manitowoc County to speak on a topic that we have been working with the alternative courts like we have drug court here, well in Green Bay they have conditional courts different than ours.

They have one called the Mental Health Court. I've been to their graduation ceremonies and I've been to a few of the regular weekly courts and basically what this has done for Brown County is taken the multitude of visits that police and citizens have interactions because of their lack of taking their meds, fighting with their families, upset with jobs and so on. You all have heard some version of this within your own experiences.

This puts them with an outside individual who is not family, it's not someone who is supporting them, it's not someone they have angered three or four times already, it's not someone who is supporting their children because they aren't, and their interaction with the judge can be really beneficial so they don't have interaction with the police every other week or three times per week.

When one of them graduated when I attended he said “The police are my best friends now rather than people who lock me up.” The judge is coming to town to speak at city hall in October and I have a draft flyer which means the one you see posted elsewhere may have different words but the date and time are correct.

Please encourage all of your contact throughout the county to attend because he has done a lot of this and has been the judge for at least ten years. He has solicited support for the court expenses from all of the Supervisors in the county and this year they asked him if he needed more money, not just do you want the same. They know how good it is and asked what could be done better. Thank you very much.

I know you work real hard and the job ahead of you for the year is hard to do with the money you do get because you know you could always use twice as much.

Chair Henrickson thanked Ms. Slattery.

Since there was no other public comment, Mike Williams moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Judy Riggirello. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laurie Burke, Secretary
Human Services Board

LB/pd